

FILM TESTIMONIAL

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I give my unqualified endorsement of the film "The Profanity Pack: Set Up and Sold Out" and various messages and interpretations of the contributors therein. Before I explain my reasons for endorsement I need to briefly present my professional qualifications, teaching and research experience that I hope will make my comments and endorsement more credible.

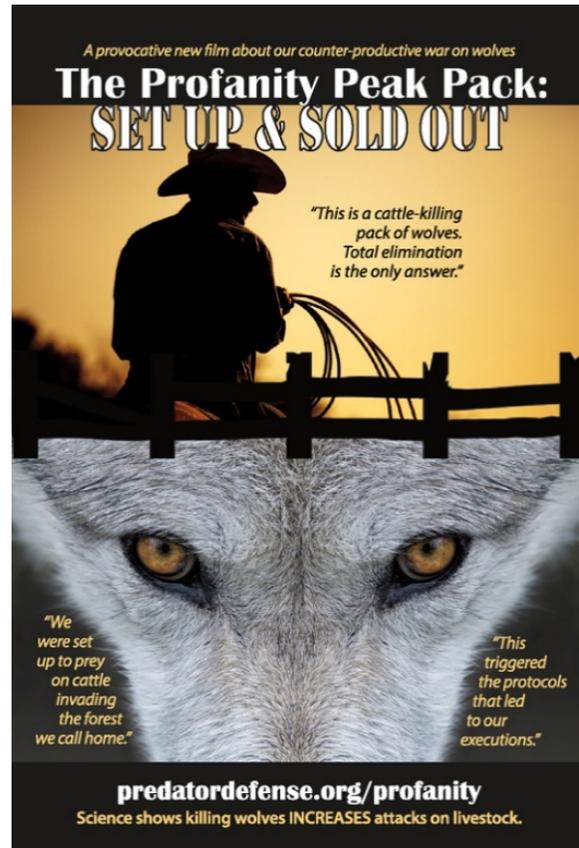
Most of my career as an agency biologist, and later university faculty member, has been spent defining human-wildlife problems and attempting to find solutions for conflicts—especially, but not limited to, canids and ursids. One of my first positions when employed in Edmonton by Alberta Agriculture was as director of vertebrate "problem wildlife" research and management. In this role I served on a provincial inter-agency committee (Agriculture and Fish and Wildlife). Since Alberta permitted open range grazing in the forested foothills bordering the Rocky Mountains, an area of Crown land harboring healthy populations of wolves, I am familiar with the resulting conflicts and science-based management that is appropriate and socially acceptable.

In my teaching and research I relied on peer-reviewed scientific literature, personal experience and consultation with professional colleagues. Through this I am familiar with the negative effects of human disruption of carnivore social systems by lethal control and the resulting boomerang effects that have been documented. That is to say, the killing of dominant members of a populations of bears, wolves, cougars or coyotes, for example, has been observed to be followed by increases in predation on domestic animals by the subsequent unstable social milieu of the carnivore in question. This effect has been established since about 1972, as I recollect, with much verification since in a variety of carnivores.

Also in my teaching I have pointed out to students that good science does not convince everyone because the private, special interests represented by grazer associations or wealthy politically connected ranchers can often lobby the assistance of powerful politicians to destroy wild carnivores even when the losses are small or could be avoided with some effort and expense by the rancher or wool-grower. This seems to be the case with the unprofessional government response to the Profanity Pack's predation which appears to have been provoked by bad decisions for cattle release in wild country.

I have never seen a situation in which the destruction of a wolf pack could be construed as a professional wildlife management decision following wolf predation on a public land cattle allotment without range riders and other protective actions, not to speak of the release of cattle on a known wolf pack home range. The decisions by the rancher/owner of the cattle and the state wildlife agency are irresponsible, bordering on the outrageous in terms of common sense, as the film points out. The pack was lured by placement of cattle, which displaced the elk food base of the wolves, so the wolves, victimized once, are then destroyed, becoming victims a second time.

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Watch this provocative film about Washington State's unjust, unnecessary, and ongoing wolf slaughter at www.predatordefense.org/profanity.