



moving forward  
for wildlife

with science &  
the majority

Fall 2016

Dear Friend of Predator Defense,

If you don't follow us on Facebook or Twitter, you may not have heard much from us recently. Rest assured, we're alive and kicking!



*Does this look like a cow pasture? We think not! But this is where the Profanity Peak Pack wolves live(d)...on public land in pristine Colville National Forest (see pgs. 2-3).*

### Protesting Appalling Wolf Slaughter in Washington State

In recent months we found ourselves immersed in protesting the slaughter of the Profanity Peak wolf pack in pristine Colville National Forest in NE Washington state. Washington has long been thought of as a progressive state when it comes to wolf management. Not any more. The killings are an outrage for a myriad of reasons and public outcry has been intense (see pgs. 2-3).

### Anti-Trapping Legislation We Worked on Introduced in Congress

We're thrilled to announce that legislation we've been working on to stop the barbaric, indiscriminate, and inhumane practice of trapping was introduced in Congress in September by U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer (OR-3). This bill would ban almost all trapping on public lands, and by public officials and their agents.

Countless pets and wild animals fall victim to traps each year. Humans are also at risk. Rep. Blumenauer reached out to us to develop this legislation and we've been working with his staff on details. Getting anti-trapping legislation passed into law has been part of our mission since 1990.

"We've seen too many concerning examples of wild animals suffering and pets falling victim to body-gripping traps. It's disgusting such inhumane traps are so widely used," said Rep. Blumenauer. "With many effective non-lethal methods that can be used in place of these cruel traps, the federal government should not and cannot continue to endorse their use."

Rep. Blumenauer has a reputation as one of the foremost advocates of



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Helping people and wildlife coexist since 1990

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WASHINGTON STATE  
AT A GLANCE

90  
# of wolves confirmed in  
Dec. 2015 (current count  
likely a fraction higher)

Over  
1,000,000  
"sacred" cows

100%  
Justification for killing  
wolves on our public lands,  
on our dime...to protect  
cows raised for profit  
and slaughter

SOURCES: Wolves (Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife), Cows ([www.cattlenetwork.com](http://www.cattlenetwork.com))

# The Wolf Wars Reach Washington

The slaughter of the Profanity Peak wolf pack, living on public land in pristine Colville National Forest, is an outrage. We've spoken out loudly—in the news, on social media, at the Governor's office, at a rally, and behind the scenes. We've gotten some serious attention. And we're not done yet.

OUR OP-ED: FEATURED IN "THE SEATTLE TIMES," Aug. 26, 2016

## More Wolves Killed Because of the Sacred Cow at the Public Trough

by Brooks Fahy, Special to *The Seattle Times*, August 26, 2016

If you've heard about the wolf killing underway in northeastern Washington, you've most likely been led to think that progress is being made, simply because groups as disparate as ranchers, wildlife officials and environmentalists have agreed on something.

But what's going on is an outrage. And it can only be understood if the common assumptions about ranching and wolves are exposed for what they are—a travesty for wildlife, public lands, and the taxpayer.

What's happened is a family of wolves known as the Profanity Peak Pack has been targeted for death by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Their "crime" was killing livestock grazing on public lands in remote and rugged parts of the Colville National Forest after ranchers had allegedly used nonlethal deterrents. The first two wolves were gunned down by helicopter on August 5; the rest are now slated for death—this in a state that has barely over 90 wolves.

WDFW's reaction—killing wolves at the behest of ranchers—is a loss for Washingtonians and the American public. Here's why:

- It's cruel, anti-science, and fiscally unfair.
- Nonlethal deterrents work when used appropriately.
- Ranching is destroying our public lands.

- Wildlife should live in peace on public lands.

First, the cruelty. Science increasingly shows that animals experience pain and loss. Wolves are pack animals with a social hierarchy similar to our own families. Imagine what they experience when they see family members killed and maimed. With aerial gunning, wolves are chased by helicopters and often run to exhaustion before being blasted by a shotgun as the helicopter hovers. They experience sheer terror. The actual act is something government agencies don't want the public to see. Isn't it odd that we see news coverage from war zones, but not the war on our wildlife?

Next, the financial reality. The iconic image of cowboys on horseback tending their herds was deeply ingrained into our psyches by old Western movies. No one is stopping ranchers from tending livestock this way now, but they don't. Livestock on public land tends to be scattered far and wide, and most ranchers don't want to spend time and money guarding it. Why should they? They know the government will come in and kill predators on the taxpayers' dime. They also know they'll be compensated for their losses, and many ranchers now consider these handouts a right, not a privilege. No other industry has been more adept at externalizing their costs. This is not a fair or sustainable business model.

Nonlethal ways to protect livestock abound, but the best is effective human presence. With the Profanity Peak Pack, the terrain is not suitable for grazing; it is pristine forest where only an army of range riders could effectively deter wolves. Equally troubling, ranchers have been known to put cattle in the middle of wolf rendezvous areas in hopes of encouraging predation. We've heard reports that may have happened in this case.

Livestock causes enormous environmental damage. They remove forage and cover other animals need to survive. Cattle trample and denude riparian areas and pollute streams with waste. Heated up streams can no longer support dozens of species, including fish. Thousands of miles of fencing fragment habitat, causing deadly obstacles for fast-running species like pronghorn antelope, and so on. So we pay for ranchers to destroy our land, and wildlife's habitat!

Surely we want the word "wild" to remain part of wildlife. Wolves and other predators shouldn't have to suffer a mortal fate for doing what they are born to do, and what balanced ecosystems require.

It all points to bigger questions, but I will close with just one: What is the appropriate use of public lands?

Public lands are our lands. They don't belong to ranchers. They are inappropriate places for livestock. It's high time the public and politicians say: "Enough! Get your livestock off of our lands!"

**HUGE PUBLIC RESPONSE & NEXT STEPS:** Thankfully, *The Seattle Times* put the killing of the Profanity Peak wolf pack in the spotlight. On Aug 25, 2016, their front page cover story read "Profanity Peak wolf pack in state's gun sights after rancher turns out cattle on den." The next day our op-ed (above) was the top feature in their Opinion section. The *Times'* environmental writer, Lynda Mapes, said these two pieces received more attention than anything she had worked on in 20 years, and that 99% of the comments were against the slaughter. Her investigation will continue. Next we're making a film to memorialize the wolves of the Profanity Peak Pack and raise awareness of how wrong Washington's wolf policy is. You can help by supporting the film with a donation at [www.predatordefense.org](http://www.predatordefense.org) and by speaking out (see pg. 3).



## Celebrating the Shift in Public Awareness

We've decided to continue what we started in our spring newsletter—sharing encouraging headlines we've seen that reflect a very positive cultural shift. Here is a new sampling:

### **"The Case for Mass Slaughter of Predators Just Got Weaker"**

- *NationalGeographic.com*, Sept. 1, 2016

### **"No Proof that Shooting Predators Saves Livestock"**

- *ScienceMag.org*, Sept. 7, 2016

### **"Testing on Non-human Primates in Neuroscience Research Is No Longer Justifiable"**

- *Independent.co.uk*, Sept. 7, 2016

### **"Blumenauer Introduces Legislation to Reduce Unsafe, Inhumane Trapping"**

- *PublicNow.com*, Sept. 8, 2016

### **"Non-Human Animals Show Empathy. What Happened To Ours?"**

- *HuffingtonPost.com*, Sept. 16, 2016

### **"Court Stops U.S. Fish & Wildlife from Killing Wild Red Wolves"**

- *EcoWatch.com*, Sept. 29, 2016

### **"Romania Bans Trophy Hunting of Brown Bears, Wolves, Lynx & Wild Cats"**

- *TheGuardian.com*, Oct. 5, 2016

### **"Groundbreaking Tenth Circuit Decision Rules that BLM Cannot Treat Public Land as Private Land"**

- *MeyerGlitz.com*, Oct. 14, 2016

### **"After a Century, 'Landmark Settlement' Puts Brakes on Federal Government's 'Rogue' Wildlife-Killing Program"**

- *EnviroNews.tv*, Oct. 17, 2016

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, *cont. from page 1*

animal welfare in Congress today. Please join us in thanking him for his great work by sending him a message at [blumenauerforms.house.gov/contact](http://blumenauerforms.house.gov/contact). Then ask your U.S. Representative to support the "Limiting Inhumane Federal Trapping (LIFT) for Public Safety Act." Find your Representative at [www.house.gov/representatives/find](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find).

## Nevada Bans Wildlife Killing on Six Million Acres of Wilderness

Awesome news from Nevada! It's also evidence that all our efforts could be starting to pan out. At the very least, it's a precedent for real change.

That utterly misnamed agency in the USDA called "Wildlife Services" you constantly hear us rail about has been ordered to stop operations on six million acres of Nevada wilderness—remote areas where no roads exist—until a new scientific analysis is completed. The order forces Wildlife Services to admit they are using outdated and disproven science. And they've used it to justify killing over 35 million animals in the last 10 years alone. They now have a chance to acknowledge what the best available science shows—that lethal control of native wildlife is ineffective and often counterproductive.

We've been speaking out against Wildlife Services since 1990. We've filed multiple lawsuits, requested Congressional oversight hearings, worked with Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Tom Knudson on his Sacramento Bee expose, produced a whistle-blowing film ("EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife"), and more. We can honestly say that no other organization has worked so hard for so long to bring about reform of this rogue agency.

## Films in Progress: Documentary, "The Killing Agencies," and Short Film to Honor the Profanity Peak Wolf Pack

We are almost done interviewing key scientists and activists for our upcoming feature documentary, "The Killing Agencies." This film will address key issues the public is still largely in the dark about—most importantly, how we treat wildlife, who's really running the show, and the myth that we need to kill predators and other wildlife to control their populations. The voices of the growing list of experts speaking out in this film will be hard to ignore.

We are also creating a short film on the tragic slaughter of the Profanity Peak wolf pack in Washington state (see pgs. 2-3). We do not want their deaths to be in vain. And we want to change the game by exposing the set up that prioritizes cows over wolves and gives them no wild place to live in peace. We greatly appreciate any support you can provide to keep these films moving forward.

## You Are Making a Difference

We are very grateful to have you with us in our burgeoning revolution for wildlife. With your support we know we can make wildlife "management" via killing a relic of the past. Thank you for all you are doing to help us reach critical mass.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy  
Executive Director



*KING-TV interviews Brooks Fahy during rally at WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife headquarters in protest of Profanity Peak wolf pack slaughter (see pgs. 2-3).*

## PREDATOR DEFENSE



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History shows we blame predators for problems humans have caused. Help us right this wrong. Support our work at [predatordefense.org](http://predatordefense.org).