



October 1, 2019

*Sent via email to
Pacific Wolf Coalition member organizations**

Predator Defense hereby resigns from the Pacific Wolf Coalition

Sadly, we can no longer allow ourselves to be aligned with the Pacific Wolf Coalition, a group whose tagline reads “Protecting Wolves in the Pacific West”...a group whose website greets visitors by saying “Join the Pacific Wolf Coalition in welcoming wolves home to the Pacific West!”

As you well know, wolves have been welcomed home to Washington State to be slaughtered. Yet year after year this wolf “coalition” has remained effectively silent about the senseless killing of wolves in its own back yard. It was also silent about the destruction of the career of one of North America’s preeminent carnivore ecologists, Robert Wielgus, Ph.D., whose years of research showed that wolf-livestock conflicts in NE Washington State were predictable and avoidable and that the wolves were set up for slaughter by the primary rancher involved.

The coalition’s silence about these atrocities long ago became unconscionable complicity. Its most recent silence—about the slaughter of the Old Profanity Territory wolves and kill orders for the “incremental removal” of the Togo and Grouse Flats wolves—was the last straw.

If the coalition as a whole was acknowledging the feelings of many of its member organizations—in addition to public sentiment, common sense, and the best available science—they would take a stand for wolves that reflects the following realities:

- the majority of the public is already against wolves being killed
- science shows killing wolves is counterproductive
- wolves are ecologically invaluable on our landscape
- cattle grazing should not receive priority over wolves on public lands
- there are places that cows simply do not belong
- wolves deserve places to live in peace

For the record, and in memoriam, we share a list of Washington wolves that have been killed to date while this coalition has been in existence:

26 wolves killed for Len McIrvine, Diamond M. Ranch

2012 – 7 Wedge Pack wolves
2016 – 7 Profanity Peak Pack wolves
2017 – 1 Sherman Pack wolf
2018 – 2 Old Profanity Territory Pack wolves
2018 - 1 Smackout Pack wolf
2019 – 8 Old Profanity Territory Pack wolves

4 wolves killed for other ranchers

2014 – 1 Huckleberry Pack wolf
2017 – 2 Smackout Pack wolves
2018 – 1 Togo Pack wolf

These repeated slaughters, as well as the pending killings, might have been stopped by a strong, unified coalition. But PWC has proven over time that it is incapable of filling that role. And the inability of any coalition member to speak out without fear of reprisal from other member organizations is unacceptable.

We cannot be part of such a coalition and hereby resign. We ask that you please remove Predator Defense from any member listings as soon as possible.

In closing we share some food for thought from a recent article by Gosia Bryja, Ph.D.:

“What remains hidden from all of us, living far away from the land of the wolf, is individual suffering to which, through our political indifference, we implicitly consent. What we do not see is paralyzing anguish, pain, and psychological trauma that comes in the aftermath of the shattered family structure. Death destroys even those who survive. After a killing spree is temporarily over, surviving wolves return to mourn a loss. They also face a world unknown to them. As [Marc Bekoff and Sadie Parr write](#), “those individuals that survive to make new wolf families must do so without access to the knowledge and culture held by their slain family members, something that takes generations to build. They become refugees on their own land.”

(The full article, “Wildlife Management: When Forest Wails and Mourns,” is available at <https://medium.com/@gbryja/wildlife-management-when-forest-wails-and-mourns-509df9dc766>.)

For all that is wild and free,



Brooks Fahy
Executive Director
Predator Defense

* LIST OF PACIFIC WOLF COALITION MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

CALIFORNIA

California Wolf Center
Environmental Protection Information
Center
Klamath Forest Alliance
Mountain Lion Foundation
Project Coyote
Sierra Club California

OREGON

Bark
Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
Forest Web of Cottage Grove
Greater Hells Canyon Council
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS
Wild)
Northeast Oregon Ecosystems
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club
Oregon Wild

WASHINGTON

Cascade Forest Conservancy
Conservation Northwest
Kettle Range Conservation Group
The Lands Council
Washington Chapter Sierra Club
Western Wildlife Outreach
Wolf Haven International

REGIONAL & NATIONAL

Cascadia Wildlands
Center for Biological Diversity
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Endangered Species Coalition
The Humane Society of the United States
Living With Wolves
National Parks Conservation Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Western Environmental Law Center
Western Watersheds Project
WildEarth Guardians
Wildlands Network

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Training Resources for the Environmental
Community
Wilburforce Foundation