

December 2013



# Predator Defense



NRDC's Trailblazing Film Shows Ranchers Coexisting with Carnivores (& we're featured!)

NRDC's award-winning new documentary "Wild Things," takes a fresh look at America's war on its native predators.

While vital to healthy ecosystems, these magnificent carnivores can also be seen as a threat to livestock. For decades, misunderstanding and misinformation on best practices for control has led the government to kill over 100,000 predators each year, often at the demand of the ranching industry. It is a costly, brutal, and ineffective war against nature that doesn't really need to be fought.

"Wild Things" introduces progressive ranchers learning to coexist with predators. It features our director, Brooks Fahy, along with scientists, conservationists, and even former USDA Wildlife Services trappers, who believe it is time for a major change in the way we treat our native carnivores.

Screenings are being scheduled around the country. Meet the cast, watch the trailer, and find a screening near you at [wildthingsmovie.org](http://wildthingsmovie.org).

## Breaking New Ground to Stop America's War on Wildlife

Dear Friend of Predator Defense,

It's truly hard to believe that 2013 is already coming to an end. For us, and likely for many of you, it's been one of the fastest, most challenging years ever. We are so very grateful for your support, which is key to our being able to share the following positive signs of progress and hope:

- We got the first major national media coverage on the attack on America's wolves, starting with CNN Headline News featuring our film, "The Imperiled American Wolf."
- We estimate over 100,000 people have now registered public comments with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, calling for protection of America's re-endangered wolves.
- We are closing in on our goals of forcing Congressional hearings and reform on the USDA's rogue Wildlife Services program.
- CBS "Inside Edition" featured deadly wildlife traps set in public areas and near homes.
- FOXNews.com published a two-part exposé on Wildlife Services' brutality, waste and illegal activity.
- We just released a whistleblowing documentary film exposing the government's war on wildlife through Wildlife Services (see teaser below and feature on pg. 2)
- CNN Headline News featured a teaser of this film and is planning a special segment.

We are now kicking into even higher gear. We want our movement to reform Wildlife Services and create enlightened wildlife policies in America to reach critical mass at last. Your help is imperative. Please make the donation that makes the difference today.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy, Executive Director

Help us fund nationwide screenings of

# "EXPOSED"

Our newest film features former federal agents and a Congressman taking on the USDA and exposing the government's war on wildlife.



Meet the Congressman & the Whistle-blowers on pg. 2

Ensure our success.  
Become a monthly supporter today.

[predatordefense.org](http://predatordefense.org)

Helping people and wildlife coexist since 1990

# Meet the Congressman & the Whistle-blowers

These are the brave souls featured in our new film, "EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife"

As you likely know by now, Wildlife Services, a misnamed agency within the USDA, has been having their way for almost a century—killing, maiming, poisoning, and brutalizing over 100,000 wild animals a year, and harming humans and pets in the process. They apparently think they are going to continue getting away with it.

But in our new documentary, "EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife," whistle-blowers go on the record showing Wildlife Services for what it really is—an unaccountable, out-of-control, wildlife killing machine that subsidizes corporate agriculture.

Our call for reforming this rogue agency is getting serious attention. A teaser of "EXPOSED" was just featured on CNN Headline News and is slated for an upcoming special segment. We're also working to get a CBS "60 Minutes" exposé.

In January 2014 we'll kick off a nationwide film screening tour. Whistleblower Rex Shaddox will attend some of our screenings, including one planned for members of Congress at the Capital building in D.C. We hope to have other speakers tour with us if we can raise enough funds.

Please join us in our work to expose this rogue agency and its unconscionable waste of taxpayer dollars. Together, we can reform Wildlife Services and stop America's war on wildlife.



## GARY STRADER

*Former police officer & Wildlife Services trapper*

"Government employees shouldn't be breaking the law [on the job]. And the federal government should not be in the business of predator control on taxpayer dollars."



## DOUG MCKENNA

*Former special agent for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement*

"It always seemed the words 'eagles, coyotes, and wolves' led us to poisons, and led us to Wildlife Services."



## REX SHADDOX

*Former Wildlife Services trapper & special investigator for Wyoming Sting operation*

"Poisons banned since the 1970s, that the official record said didn't exist, were being bought from the Wyoming Dept. of Ag. to sell to ranchers and predator boards."



## REP. PETER DEFAZIO

*Senior U.S. Congressman (D-OR)*

"Wildlife Services is one of the most opaque and least accountable agencies I know of. It is not capable of reforming itself. They need a mandate for reform...it's going to have to be imposed on them."

"Wildlife Services' horrific, intentional and secret slaughter of millions of animals in the name of 'coexistence' is appalling. They could easily be called 'Murder, Inc.' They need to be put out of business."

*- Marc Bekoff, Professor Emeritus, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder*

# EXPOSED

## USDA'S SECRET WAR ON WILDLIFE

Watch "EXPOSED" and support our national film screening tour at [predatordefense.org](http://predatordefense.org).

## Leaked Docs Reveal Cover-up of Federal Animal Abuse Investigation

You may recall in November 2012 we made the painful discovery of a USDA Wildlife Services trapper, who allegedly set his dogs loose on live coyotes already caught in traps. The trapper, Jamie Olson, had posted graphic photos of his activities on Facebook and Twitter, along with other apparent acts of animal cruelty he committed. His actions sparked public outrage and media coverage.

This year we learned that—despite a specific request in November 2012 by Congressmen Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and John Campbell (R-CA) for the results of the investigation into allegations of animal cruelty by Olson—officials at Wildlife Services withheld their “final” Report of Investigation on this case from the public and Congress. In fact, they told the Congressmen that the report did not exist.

In addition, internal documents leaked to Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Tom Knudson of the *Sacramento Bee* show that Wildlife Services said they completed their investigation in December 2012, exonerating Olson. Yet after that date wildlife officials started asking questions internally about the case, mentioning findings that directly conflicted with their “final” report. Specifically, they found that Olson had violated internal guidelines: he let his dog attack trapped coyotes and was not checking his traps as required. A Wildlife Services spokesperson said their investigation of the Olson case is ongoing, but they have yet to produce any documents or reports confirming this statement.

Read more about this case, Wildlife Services’ barbaric methods of lethal predator control, and our work to get Congressional oversight hearings and agency reform on our website at [predatordefense.org](http://predatordefense.org).

"I don't think in 20 years I've ever run into an agency that's so secretive, so difficult to get information out of. Mammalogists have been railing about [it] for decades. It continues to function, largely below the radar, in part because there's so little known about it."

- Tom Knudson  
Journalist, "Sacramento Bee"  
Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner

## A Special Thanks to Our Long-Time Ally in Congress



Representative Peter DeFazio, D-OR (left); Brooks Fahy, Executive Director, Predator Defense (right)

We've been working for over 20 years with Representative Peter DeFazio, D-OR, to get a Congressional investigation and oversight hearings on Wildlife Services.

This year DeFazio cosigned a letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform renewing the call, citing the program's waste of federal dollars, harm to ecosystems, and secrecy regarding practices and spending. Thank you, Congressman DeFazio!

## A Successful Fight for Cougars in Oregon

Predator Defense fought hard and successfully to keep anti-cougar bills from passing during the 2013 Oregon legislative session. Largely because of our efforts, Oregon has reinstated a required five-year, peer-reviewed report on the state's bear and cougar plans.

A budget note requires Wildlife Services to specifically report wildlife they kill, including the cost. ODFW's attempt to remove any backstop on their ability to hire hound hunters and trappers to indiscriminately kill cougars from the Cougar Management Plan did not pass without a required sunset and review. Hearings on bills provided us with a forum to educate legislators on the scientific criticisms of Oregon's cougar plan.



## Journalist Tom Knudson Wins 2013 Knight-Risser Prize for Exposé on Wildlife Services

A key player in the exposé of Wildlife Services, Tom Knudson of the *Sacramento Bee*, just won the 2013 Knight-Risser Prize for Western Environmental Journalism.

We've been working with Knudson for years to expose this little-known, rogue agency. He received the award for the series we worked with him on titled "The killing agency: Wildlife Services' brutal methods leave a trail of animal death."

Knudson's excellent environmental reporting exemplifies a regional paper doing something really ambitious. "I don't think in 20 years I've ever run into an agency that's so secretive, so difficult to get information out of," said Knudson, who is also a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner.

His series clearly shows how Wildlife Services' strategy for controlling wildlife puts the public and pets at risk and has killed millions of predators and other species across the West, often in ways that are inhumane, excessive and at odds with science.

Read Knudson's full series on Wildlife Services on our website at [predatordefense.org/USDA.htm](http://predatordefense.org/USDA.htm).

If you've been watching us for long, you know that we've building momentum since 1990 in our campaign to reform Wildlife Services, stop America's war on wildlife, and create more enlightened and sustainable wildlife policies.

Please help us win this war. Make a tax-deductible donation today at [predatordefense.org](http://predatordefense.org).



## Expanding Yellowstone Wolf Billboard Campaign in Spring

If you traveled to Yellowstone National Park this summer you may have seen one of our billboards. We installed five of them on highways approaching the park via Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. They greeted tourists coming from all over the world to experience nature's beauty and see wolves and other animals.

Next spring we're planning on installing billboards again. We're also planning to place interns at strategic locations around the park to hand visitors alerts on the slaughter. Your support will ensure we can expand this campaign.

## Have You Spoken Out to Protect Wolves?

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is now accepting comments on their premature and ill-advised proposal to "delist" gray wolves through December 17, 2013. Please be sure to tell them that protections for wolves need to remain intact. Learn more about wolves and making public comments at [predatordefense.org/wolves.htm](http://predatordefense.org/wolves.htm).

## Who We Are

Predator Defense is a national nonprofit working to protect native predators and create alternatives for people to coexist with wildlife. Our efforts take us into the field, onto America's public lands, to Congress, and into courtrooms.

### PREDATOR DEFENSE

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[www.predatordefense.org](http://www.predatordefense.org)

*Predator Defense is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax-deductible per IRS guidelines.*

# The Wolf Wars Continue...

- About 2,000 gray wolves have been slaughtered in just 5 states since endangered species protections were removed in 2011
- Only 5,000 wolves are believed to remain in the Lower 48
- Contrary to government statements, healthy wolf populations have not been successfully restored
- Nation's top biologists are against wolf delisting, citing it as premature and ill-advised

America's wolf slaughter has kicked into high gear for the third year in a row with the 2013 wolf hunting/trapping season now well underway. As we went to press, 257 wolves had already been killed in the Northern Rockies and 293 wolves had been slaughtered in the Midwest. Wisconsin hunters have killed 84 percent of their quota in just one month of their 4.5 month season.

The killing is inhumane—most wolves are caught in traps and left to suffer for days on end. The killing is also ill-advised, as healthy wolf populations are vital to healthy ecosystem. Contrary to what the government says, wolf populations have not been restored and the packs remaining are being increasingly fractured. Just as bad, the killing allows supposed "sportsmen" to get their thrills by hunting and trapping, which in turn funds state wildlife agencies. It's one vicious cycle!



American gray wolves were rescued from the brink of extinction over 35 years ago when they gained federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Since April 2011, when gray wolves were removed from the endangered species list and management in several states was turned over to state wildlife agencies, over 2,000 wolves have been slaughtered by sport hunters and trappers in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota and Wisconsin. This "kill tally" does not include the scores of wolves slaughtered by federal and state predator control programs.

This year wolves' predicament became dire, as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced its plan to remove protections for wolves across the Lower 48 states. This will be disastrous for gray wolf recovery, as it will allow state wildlife agencies to have what they want—increasingly large wolf hunts. The small number of remaining wolves will be so socially and ecologically fractured they may as well be extinct.

We are maintaining pressure on decisionmakers to restore protection for wolves and step back from the ill-advised decision by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to delist them as endangered. But we need your help, and that of your friends and connections.

This war being waged against wolves is senseless and tragic. Please submit your comment (details at left) and make a donation today at [predatordefense.org](http://predatordefense.org) to help us stop the madness and restore protections. You can also call in your payment information or mail a check. Any amount helps and is greatly appreciated. Wolves need ALL the help they can get. Thank you!

Support America's wildlife today at [predatordefense.org](http://predatordefense.org).

Stay connected with us on:

