

December 2014

Predator Defense



Meet Our Newest Addition

Growing up in eastern Montana, where rattlesnakes, hawks and coyotes are essential elements of life on the prairie, our new Outreach and Development Director, Carol Rodrick, developed a deep appreciation for wildlife.

Carol began serving on her first nonprofit board more than 20 years ago and has continued helping nonprofits in a variety of capacities ever since. She also helps injured animals as a volunteer for the Rowena Wildlife Clinic in Oregon.

Because she particularly likes working with donors who care about animals, Carol is thrilled that her work with Predator Defense is making a difference for all native predators, both now and in the future.

One of Carol's primary goals is building a sustainable future for Predator Defense through legacy giving. See sidebar on pg. 4.



While volunteering at a wildlife rehabilitation hospital, our new Outreach & Development Director, Carol Rodrick, works with Ruffy, a Rough-legged Hawk injured during migration.

Our Vision: A World Where Wildlife is Treasured as Part of an Intact Ecosystem

Dear Friend of Predator Defense,

In our 21st century world of overpopulation, conflict and environmental degradation, my heart is increasingly called to the wild for respite and renewal. This year at Predator Defense we have expanded our vision to focus on recreating a world where wildlife is treasured as part of an intact ecosystem.

The impetus for this expansion arose two years ago when I traveled to Vermont to visit a close friend. On one cold afternoon we were snowshoeing a section of the Long Trail, which runs the length of the state. It is the oldest long-distance trail in the United States. The sun was going down in the west over the Adirondack Mountains. The clear sky and fresh deep snow were breathtakingly beautiful. The sights made me reflect on similar adventures I'd had hiking in the West, appreciating the solitude and beauty of nature. But I felt something was missing.

At first I couldn't put it into words. And then it dawned on me: There were no large predators on the landscape! There were the remarkable Eastern coyotes, as well as bears and bobcats, but there weren't any wolves or cougars.

As I've continued to visit the Northeast over the past two years, it has struck me as remarkable how the region's forests have grown back, yet species like wolves and cougars haven't returned on their own. New York's Adirondacks Park alone is three times the size of Yellowstone, yet it is an incomplete ecosystem.

To this end, we joined the Northeast Wolf Coalition, an alliance of some of the nation's best and brightest scientists and regional conservation organizations, who are working to restore these species to their ancestral home. In November we participated in the Coalition's conference to explore the vision of and potential for wolf recovery. Inspired by the lands, literature and legacy of the quintessential American author, philosopher, and naturalist, Henry David Thoreau, the conference was held at Walden Woods. Rewilding the Northeast is a long-term project that shows much promise. We recently released a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to generate interest in rewilding and hope to follow the PSA up with a film. You can watch the PSA at predatordefense.org.

In 2014 we also continued working on long-term projects you have heard about

— cont. on page 4

"EXPOSED" WINS AWARD! pg. 3



Spotlight on Wolves: Predators as Prey

For almost four years, we been sharing painful statistics on the number of wolves being slaughtered in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Minnesota and Wisconsin since wolves there were delisted from the federal Endangered Species Act. The total slaughter has now exceeded 3,200 wolves. This is heartbreaking, as it looks like America brought wolves back from their endangered status just so they could be slaughtered all over again.

At Predator Defense we believe individual animals matter, that the ripping apart of family social structures is unconscionable, and that the vital services predators provide for the ecosystem are being degraded. We are not alone in all our thinking. In February 2014, an independent peer review panel rejected the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's delisting proposal, saying it is not supported by the best available science and would be premature. That said, the special interest groups involved—state wildlife agencies, ranchers and hunters—appear to be about to get their way, meaning delisting across the Lower 48 appears imminent.

So, what are we doing about this distressing situation? Since we refuse to give up, we have continued working to stop delisting with our long-time ally, Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), one of the top leaders in Congress. We are taking the government to task for their flawed and biased plan, and the fact that—contrary to their statements—healthy wolf populations have not been successfully restored. We are simultaneously continuing to work to change Americans' hearts and minds on this issue. In fact, we have a new film in the works that will call for a paradigm shift in the way we manage wildlife in this country (see pg. 4).

Idaho Billboard Greeted Yellowstone Tourists This Summer

We only received enough funding to put up one billboard in 2014, as compared with the five we placed in 2013 in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. It is worth noting that we weren't allowed to place billboards in Montana and Wyoming this season because most of the 2013 billboards were shot at repeatedly and the billboard company received threats. So we placed this year's billboard (pictured above) in Idaho near the highest volume entrance to Yellowstone National Park on US Highway 20, where it greeted tourists coming to see wolves throughout the summer.

This spot was prime, as Idaho is the biggest wolf killing state in the nation. Their wolf population has declined by almost 25 percent since the state took over "management." Tragically, current estimates indicate Idaho has less than 700 wolves left. And Idaho's war on wolves has only just begun! In 2014 they green-lighted \$400,000 in taxpayer money to reduce their wolf population to 150. So, we continue our work to raise awareness.



Wolf Kill Tallies

For the most recent kill counts by state, visit our website at predatordefense.org.

Little Bits of Good News

WYOMING is no longer hunting wolves... for the moment anyway. Thanks to a lawsuit, wolves are now back under endangered species protection after a federal judge ruled that the state's wolf management plan was inadequate and unenforceable. Pro-hunting groups and the state wildlife department fought the decision. They lost. And wolves won...for now.

MICHIGAN'S wolf season is on hold, hopefully for the entire 2014-15 season, but at the very least until after the November election when Michigoans will have chance to vote on a referendum overturning wolf hunting.

MINNESOTA provided a little bit of holiday season cheer this year. They called for a three-day break in wolf killing over the Thanksgiving holiday, i.e., between the early and late killing seasons.

An Unexpected, Partial Victory for Bears in Oregon

We have both good news and not for bears in 2014. The good news—which is quite unusual—is that a 250-tag spring bear hunt proposed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife was voted down by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. This Commission recently became a more thoughtful group and its new vice-chair, Michael Finley, objected to the hunt. We were

part of a group of organizations who opposed the hunt, which was to be held in the Siskiyou.

Locals who spoke out and submitted comments made it clear the community did not want the hunt and that there was no convincing biological reason to add another 250 bear tags to the over 8,000 tags being issued statewide. Their biggest objections were that the hunt was incom-

patible with spring wildflower and herb collection and that it would be unethical and cruel to orphan cubs. Many cubs are orphaned because hunters can't determine the sex of bears or if bears have cubs in a den. Historically, 30 percent of bears killed in hunts are females.

But, as we said above, 8,000 bears may still be slaughtered statewide. This is not OK.

“EXPOSED” Garners Critical Acclaim

Read Raves We Received from Environmental Movers and Shakers

"EXPOSED delivers an urgent message about a brutal and secretive war against America's wildlife, shining a rare light on a little-known federal agency that prides itself in keeping our public lands safe for untended livestock grazing on the open range. Utterly lacking in transparency, oversight and accountability, the USDA's Wildlife Services uses our tax dollars to kill millions of innocent animals. This film clearly exposes an entrenched culture of brutality and indiscriminate wildlife slaughter, revealed through accounts delivered by courageous whistleblowers detailing poisonings, deliberate animal torture, collateral damage and corresponding cover-ups—all leaving a trail of mutilated and then concealed pets, eagles, and other 'non-target' animals in its wake."

JIM & JAMIE DUTCHER

Emmy Award-winning documentarians, authors and founders of the national nonprofit organization, Living with Wolves

"What *The Cove* has done for dolphins and *Blackfish* is doing for large cetaceans, *EXPOSED* will do for predators—pull back the veil that conceals the outrageous and heartbreaking corruption and horrors experienced by other species who are the victims of human politics. A heartbreaking expose on institutionalized corruption and painful practices of those in whom we've placed the public trust and tax dollars. This film should be required viewing of politicians and citizens across the nation."

DEBRA MERKIN, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, School of Journalism & Communication, Univ. of Oregon

"EXPOSED is one of the most disturbing videos I have ever seen. Wildlife Services could easily be called 'Murder, Inc.' Their horrific, intentional and secret slaughter of millions of animals in the name of 'coexistence' is appalling. They need to be put out of business."



MARC BEKOFF

Professor Emeritus, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, one of the world's pioneering cognitive ethologists, co-founder with Jane Goodall of Ethologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

"USDA's Wildlife Services is among the most unaccountable and clandestine of taxpayer-supported programs in America. Their mission is to kill native predators, as secretly as possible, with zeal unparalleled

in brutality and cruelty. Thus, this is a story best told from the inside. *EXPOSED*...has cracked Wildlife Services' impenetrability by interviewing three highly articulate former federal agents who tell their inside stories with a clarity I've quite never seen before. We need to understand how this agency works so we can shut it down. The courage of these three former agents and an outspoken congressman make this goal a tangible possibility."

DOUG PEACOCK

Vietnam veteran, naturalist, outdoorsman, author, and real-life model for Edward Abbey's George Washington Hayduke in "The Monkey Wrench Gang"

It's a Winner!

In our award-winning film, "EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife," three former federal agents and a Congressman blow the whistle on the USDA's barbaric and wasteful Wildlife Services program and expose the government's secret war on the taxpayers' dime.



Award Winner for Best Wildlife Activism Film Category

“EXPOSED” Wins Best Wildlife Activism Award

We're thrilled to announce that *EXPOSED* won the award for Best Wildlife Activism at the premier wildlife film festival in North America, the 2014 New York Wildlife Conservation Film Festival. It was featured in the festival on October 19.

Named in Top 10 Films That Will Change the Way You See Animals

We are also proud to announce that *EXPOSED* has been listed with *Blackfish* and *The Cove* on the Care2 petition website as one of the "10 Films That Will Change the Way You See Animals." This places us in great company among hard-hitting films that do not turn away from or dumb down the reality of animal abuse.

EXPOSED

USDA'S SECRET WAR ON WILDLIFE

Watch "EXPOSED" and support our work to wake America up at predatordefense.org/exposed.

celebrating
25
years

Details coming in January 2015

How Will You Make Your Mark?

Together, we've stood shoulder to shoulder against those who target predators with cruel traps, inhumane poisons, and helicopter sharpshooters. And while it feels good to know that you are making a difference today, you've probably also wished that you could continue to help wildlife far into the future.

You can, and it's easy to do, by designating a charitable gift to Predator Defense in your will. Because charitable bequests are exempt from both estate and income tax, 100 percent of your hard-earned assets will be used to help native predators.

To learn more about leaving a legacy gift to Predator Defense, fill out and mail the no-obligation insert or contact carol@predatordefense.org, (541) 490-1513.

Make a lasting difference.
Become a legacy
donor today.



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

P.O. Box 5446
Eugene, OR 97405
(541) 937-4261



www.predatordefense.org

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

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

frequently. We are pleased to announce:

- We added a talented and vital new staff member, Carol Rodrick, who is heading up Outreach & Development (see pg. 1).
- We helped stop a spring bear hunt in Oregon (see pg. 2).
- Our whistleblowing documentary film, *EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife*, won the award for Best Wildlife Activism at the premier wildlife film festival in North America (see pg. 3). As if that wasn't enough, Jane Goodall watched the film and was deeply moved by it!
- We were featured in *USA Today* for exposing a wolf-hater in Montana named Toby Bridges, who claimed he intentionally ran down wolves with his vehicle. We also demanded a full investigation by Montana wildlife authorities.
- We are part of a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to stop thousands of barred owls from being killed or trapped in the Pacific Northwest under the guise of protecting spotted owls.
- We are about to celebrate our 25-year anniversary! You'll start hearing much more about this in January 2015.

Looking Ahead: A New Film for A Paradigm Shift

We are currently in the planning stages for a ground-breaking new documentary on America's war on wildlife that will start where "The Imperiled American Wolf" left off. It will be about all predators, not just wolves. And it will call for a paradigm shift in the way we manage wildlife in this country.

We plan to delve into why state wildlife management agencies are incapable of being responsible stewards of wildlife—how they basically represent just extractive interests. We'll also reveal why livestock should be removed from public lands in the American West if we are ever to succeed in having apex predator populations thrive naturally, without constant slaughter by federal, state and private hunters. We'll dispel the myth that we need to kill predators to control their numbers. And we'll interview highly respected conservation biologists and activists, politicians, and former wildlife agency personnel.

This film will also pull back the curtain on subjects some of the larger mainstream conservation groups are afraid to talk about—including how some of them have actually been part of the problem, due to their continual compromising, and the fact that they are making hundreds of millions of dollars in the process. We hope this film will alter perceptions and motivate change.

Please Donate Today to Help Us Move America Forward

As you can see, we are more determined than ever to create enlightened wildlife policies in our country and restore predators to their rightful place. But we can do nothing without your ongoing support. Please make a donation today and help us move America forward.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy
Executive Director

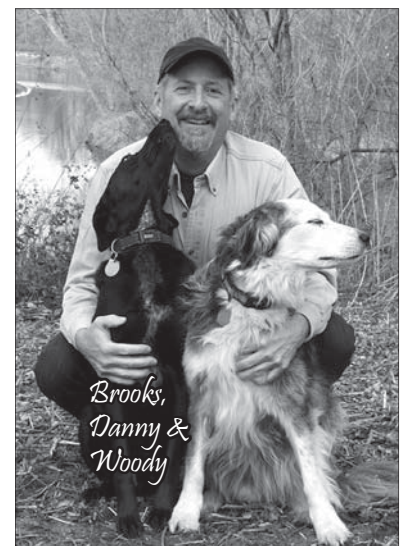


Photo by Gioia Kuss

Support America's wildlife today at predatordefense.org.

Stay connected with us on:

