

We Did It!

Together we banned M-44 cyanide bombs on 245 million acres of public lands, a tenth of America's land mass!



A win in honor of all cyanide bomb victims

Many of the M-44 cyanide bomb victims we've helped since 1990 have experienced tragedy on BLM lands. This victory has special meaning for people like Utah resident Sharyn Aguiar (pictured), who lost her devoted German shepherd Max in 2006 to a horrifying death at a community rock quarry.

A WIN FOR PEOPLE, PETS & WILDLIFE



THE TIPPING POINT: A 2017 poisoning case on BLM land in Pocatello, ID garnered sustained worldwide media attention. Canyon Mansfield was 14 years old when he took a customary walk with his dog Kasey on a hill behind his home. Seeing what he thought was a sprinkler head, he bent down to touch it, inadvertently triggering a cyanide bomb illegally set by a government trapper. The orange poison cloud it emitted killed Kasey and injured Canyon, who was believed to have been spared death due to wind direction. The Mansfields became staunch allies in our work to enact a comprehensive ban.

"This win is for you, Kasey Mansfield, and for all other living creatures that have lost their lives to an M-44."

- Theresa Mansfield, Canyon's mother

DECEMBER 2023

Dear Friends Old and New,

We're writing with immense gratitude to thank you for your role in helping us achieve a wonderful victory for people, pets and wildlife. We are thrilled to report that the U.S. Department of the Interior has banned M-44 cyanide bomb use on all public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This means countless wild animals, including endangered species, will no longer be indiscriminately slaughtered on 245 million acres of the American landscape, a tenth of America's land mass. It also means people and pets can recreate on BLM lands—our lands—without fear of death and poisoning.

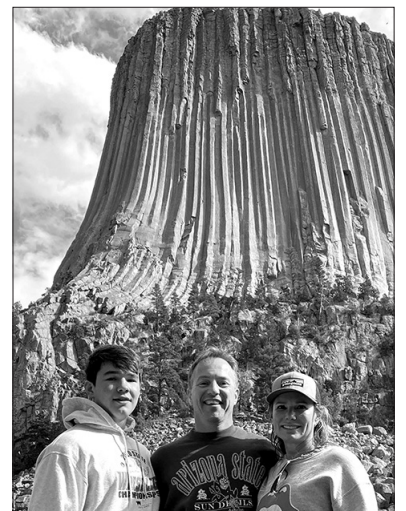
HOW THIS HISTORIC VICTORY HAPPENED

This historic victory was made possible, in large part, thanks to so many of you working with us over time, speaking out to leaders and applying pressure via social media. In concert with your donations and words of encouragement, you have kept us going as we pushed for a ban.

If you're curious what happened behind the scenes to push things over the top, in mid-2022, while testifying to a Congressional subcommittee chaired by Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA), we discovered that the Interior Department had submitted written testimony saying they were open to banning M-44s on BLM lands they administer. We were shocked and elated. We seized that moment by asking Rep. Huffman and former Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) to have key members of Congress send a formal letter to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland requesting that BLM immediately ban M-44s to prevent further tragedies. That October 2022 letter appeared to languish, so Rep. Huffman followed up on it after receiving status queries from us. Finally, in November 2023, the Interior Department

"We celebrate this critical move forward—ridding BLM lands of cyanide bombs. But there is more to do. Congress must enact Canyon's Law as a final act to ban M-44s on all public lands in America."

- Dr. Mark Mansfield, Canyon's father, pictured with Canyon (l) & wife Theresa (r)



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SHOULD OUR GREAT OUTDOORS REALLY BE LACED WITH LAND MINES?



“Families should be able to enjoy the outdoors without the fear of accidentally detonating [M-44] devices. They have no business being on our public lands, especially when there are far safer, proven methods to protect livestock. Our bill will bring an end to their use.”

**- Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA),
key sponsor of Canyon’s Law to ban M-44s
on all public lands—federal, state and local**

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

formalized their decision, enacting a BLM ban. Getting this result means a lot to us, as so many victims we’ve helped since 1990 were injured or lost a dog on BLM lands. And we have been thrilled to see major media coverage of this victory, thanks to a piece in The Guardian and extensive redistribution of a key Associated Press article.

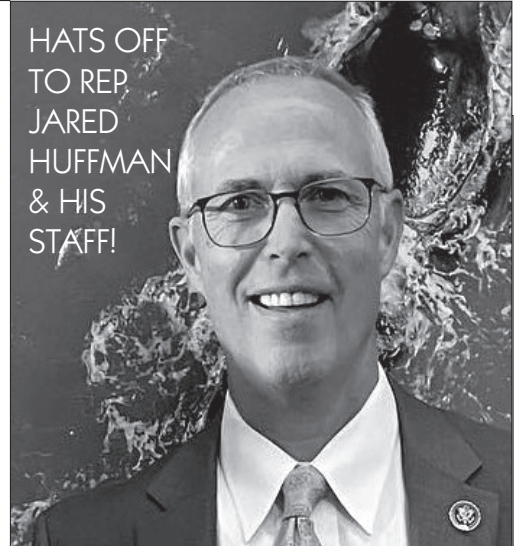
NEXT UP: HOW YOU CAN HELP FULLY BAN CYANIDE BOMBS

We hope this news bolsters your belief that good things can happen regardless of political dysfunction. This win provides momentum for ultimately banning cyanide bombs everywhere, so next up will be a full-court press for a full ban. M-44s are still being used by federal agents on non-BLM lands in 10 states—Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming. They are used by state agencies in South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico and Texas. We will be exerting pressure on the USDA to ban M-44s on all Forest Service lands, while also working for federal legislation to ban them on all public lands—federal, state and local. And we’ll continue to push to end M-44 use by USDA Wildlife Services agents on private lands at the behest of ranchers.

You can help turbocharge the next phase of our work by making a donation today and by supporting Canyon’s Law, two bills to ban M-44s on public lands that were introduced in both houses of Congress in June (see sidebar). Canyon’s Law actually stands a chance. Many legislators are feeling the pressure, looking to do something (anything) that is good, and M-44s are a public safety issue. They must be banned before a child is killed.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your support. None of our work would be possible without you, and we simply cannot thank you enough for caring about wildlife, for trusting in science, and for sticking with us. All our best wishes to you this holiday season.

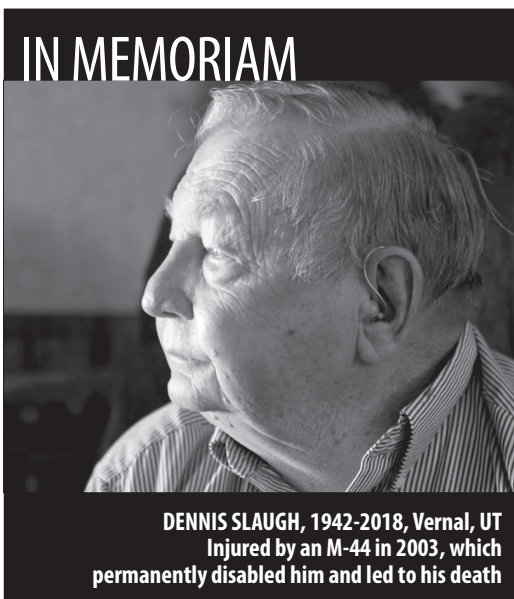
HATS OFF
TO REP.
JARED
HUFFMAN
& HIS
STAFF!



LET’S BAN M-44S ON ALL PUBLIC LANDS: SUPPORT CANYON’S LAW TODAY

One of the best ways you can help ban M-44 “cyanide bombs” on all public lands—federal, state and local—is to send a short message urging your U.S. Senator and Representative to support Canyon’s Law. So nicknamed in honor of 2017 Pocatello victim, Canyon Mansfield (see pg. 1), this legislation includes two bills, H.B. 4068 and S. 1940. Congressional contact details, links and sample message wording are available on our website at predatordefense.org/m44s.htm.

We also encourage you to share this newsletter and to spread the word to everyone you know who cares about pets, kids, wildlife, and safety in the great outdoors. Kids and animals can’t read warning signs. We must protect them by banning all cyanide bomb use.



IN MEMORIAM

DENNIS SLAUGH, 1942-2018, Vernal, UT
Injured by an M-44 in 2003, which permanently disabled him and led to his death

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy
Executive Director

PREDATOR DEFENSE



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