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## **Compound 1080 Suspected as Cause of Beloved Dog's Frantic Death During Raft Trip on Utah's White River**

**Eugene, OR, June 4, 2008** — At camp, following a day of rafting down the White River in northern Utah, Brooke and Cliff Everest became alarmed when their dog Bea, a robust, young American Brittany, started behaving in bizarre and uncharacteristic ways. Within half an hour Bea was dead. A few hours earlier while Brooke and Cliff hiked up Southam Canyon, their dog had inspected a sheep carcass that was apparently laced with the poison Compound 1080. Bea died a frantic, horrible death leaving her owners bewildered until they began to investigate her symptoms on the Internet. All of the signs she showed in camp were symptomatic of Compound 1080 poisoning.

Carcasses laced with Compound 1080 are sometimes used as baits to kill animals that some ranchers perceive as threats to their livestock on open range. Brooks Fahy, Executive Director of Oregon-based Predator Defense, receives dozens of calls each year from people who have lost their dogs on public land under suspicious circumstances. This case, he said referring to Bea's death, has all the signs of the poison Compound 1080. Banned in 1972 under the Nixon administration, the poison was brought back again under the Regan administration—but only to be used in special collars designed to protect sheep from predators. Amazingly, stockpiles of the poison are littered across the west. Fahy says "Any yahoo out there can possess this poison, considered one of the most toxic substances on earth, and they are not violating any law until they use it. Illegal use of Compound 1080 by ranchers and people opposed to special protection for endangered species is nothing new."

"Bea's death is not an isolated incident," according to Fahy. He asserts that the BLM remains quiet about these deaths for fear of incurring the outrage of residents. In 2003, while recreating on public land administered by the BLM near Vernal, Utah, Dennis Slaugh was poisoned by sodium cyanide from an M-44 device. Mr. Slaugh notified the BLM of the poisoning and received a lackluster response. No warning was issued to the public and no warning signs were placed in the area where he was poisoned. "Another person could have gone out there a week after Dennis was poisoned and never have known they might be at risk. The BLM didn't do anything for Dennis Slaugh and they're not doing anything for these people. They just don't seem to care," says Fahy.

A few years ago several wolves and unknown numbers of dogs were killed in Idaho by baited hot dogs put out by anti-wolf zealots. In that case, U.S. Wildlife Services law enforcement notified the media by issuing a press release warning the public of the extreme danger of this poison and advising people to use extreme caution while recreating with pets or children. Such a show of concern and responsibility is

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missing from the experiences of the Everest's and Slaugh's. Unable to reach the BLM ranger investigating this case, Fahy left numerous voice mail messages asking whether the BLM had notified the public of potential danger such as issuing a press release, posting signs at trailheads and river access points, and contacting outfitters. After receiving no response from BLM law enforcement five days following his initial call, Fahy accuses the BLM of negligence in this case. This type of non-response, he asserts, is not new.

This latest poisoning case has come to light as Fahy is in Washington, D.C., with Dennis Slaugh and his wife Dorothy to garner additional support for a bill that would ban Compound 1080 and the M-44 sodium cyanide ejector. The Compound 1080 and M-44 Elimination Act (HR 4775) was spearheaded by Predator Defense, introduced by Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and now has approximately 30 co-sponsors.

There is no antidote to Compound 1080 and death by 1080 is prolonged and gruesome. Badgers, coyotes, eagles, ravens, and other wildlife are killed when they feed from the original baited animal and thereby become toxic bait themselves. "Compound 1080 is notorious for going through the food chain," according to Fahy. Carcasses often remain poisonous for months. "I tell my friends not to take their dogs off-leash when they recreate on public lands," says Fahy.

Predator Defense, a national non-profit wildlife advocacy group, has been helping victims of poisonings, such as Brooke and Cliff Everest and Dennis and Dorothy Slaugh, for the last 18 years by providing information, assisting with legal support and paying for toxicological testing.

To read Brooke and Cliff Everest's first-hand account of their dog's poisoning, go to the Compound 1080 page on [www.predatordefense.org/1080.htm](http://www.predatordefense.org/1080.htm). To read about Dennis Slaugh's appalling encounter with an M-44, go to the Ban M-44s page at [www.predatordefense.org/m44s.htm](http://www.predatordefense.org/m44s.htm). Information on the Compound 1080 and M-44 Elimination Act is available at [www.predatordefense.org/hr4775.htm](http://www.predatordefense.org/hr4775.htm).

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**NOTE:** As of June 4, 2008, Brooks Fahy is in Washington, D.C. to gain additional support for the Compound 1080 and M-44 Elimination Act (HR 4775) and can only be reached by cell phone: 541.520.6003.