

Celebrating 25 years

Highlights from our work to protect people and animals, stop America's ill-advised and tragic war on wildlife, and create enlightened wildlife management policies



1996
Stopped aerial gunning of coyotes at Hart Mountain & lethal control at Portland International Airport



2001

Made emergency request to Office of Homeland Security to ban Compound 1080, citing potential use as chemical weapon.

2002

Provided legal support for families who lost pets to wildlife traps and poisons.

2006-present

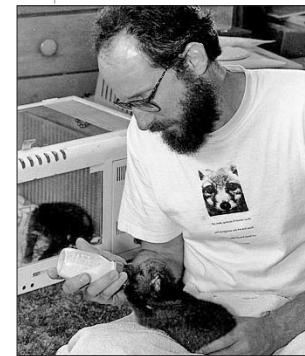
Increased presence in Washington, D.C., educating Congress about documented accidental M-44 poisonings by Wildlife Services throughout the West.



2013-14

Placed billboards near entrances to Yellowstone National Park to alert tourists to wolf slaughter underway.

1990



1990-1995

Initially called Cascade Wildlife Rescue, Brooks Fahy began the organization in 1990 as a hospital and care center for injured and orphaned native predators, including bears, bobcats, cougars, coyotes, and foxes. In 1992, Cheri Briggs joined him. Together, they filled a critical need for predator rehabilitation and were an active voice for species protection.

But finding suitable release sites for rehabilitated animals became increasingly difficult. Wildlife management policies were failing to protect predators and their habitat. Rampant use of predator control methods like leg-hold traps, poisons, snares, aerial gunning, bounties, and hunting were profoundly impacting existing populations and undermining second chances for rehabilitated animals. A change of course was imperative.

1994-present

Successfully advocated in Oregon to prevent cougars and bears from being hunted with dogs and black bears from being baited.



1994

Helped woman whose dog was killed by M-44 sodium cyanide device set on family farm near Harrisburg, Oregon. This woman also suffered secondary poisoning while trying to resuscitate her dog.

1995



1995

Embarked on new path, focused on protecting predator species more broadly.

2000



1998

Stopped livestock protection collars made with wildlife poison Compound 1080 from being introduced in Oregon.

Stopped proposed coyote sport hunting at Hart Mountain.

2003

Convened town meetings and media blitz in Oxford, Alabama, home of Tull Chemical, the only company in the world that produces Compound 1080.

2005

2004

Placed 2,000 "Tip Line" posters at remote trailheads in Idaho, letting people know poison baits had been put out, ostensibly to kill wolves, but dogs and other non-target animals suffered. Shortly thereafter, the poisoning stopped.



2005

Driving force behind bill to outlaw Compound 1080, introduced by Congressman Peter Defazio.

2007 & 2010

Spearheaded bill to eliminate both Compound 1080 and M-44s, introduced by Congressman Peter Defazio.

2010



2011-13

Wildlife traps and poisons featured on CNN, CBS, FOX News, and other media.

2015

2012

Primary source for in-depth expose by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Tom Knusdon published in *Sacramento Bee*; leads to call for Congressional investigation of USDA Wildlife Services' out-of-control "predator control" program.



2014-15

Released whistle-blowing, award-winning film, "EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife."

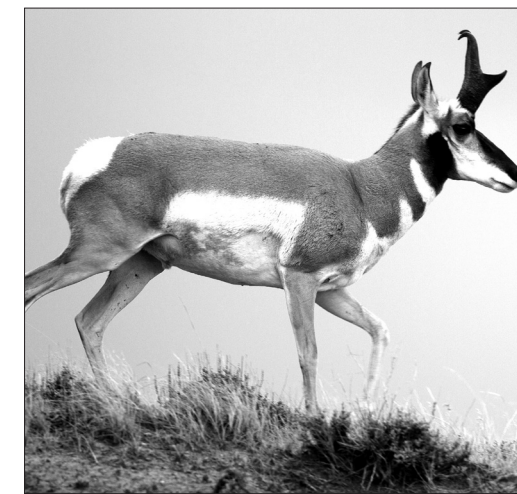
Why We're Different

- We've been in the trenches since 1990, dealing with the most brutal and shocking wildlife atrocities.
- We're proactive. No other organization has done what we've done to expose America's secret war on wildlife.
- We're not one of the corporate pack.
- We don't sell our membership list.
- We don't spend money on marketing gimmicks.
- We produce hard-hitting, award-winning documentaries.
- We're changing hearts and minds to make a better world for all wildlife.

What We Believe

- The idea that we need to kill predators to control their population is a myth.
- Predators should not be hunted or trapped.
- Individual animals matter. No animal should suffer.
- Family values matter. It is not OK to rip family units apart.
- Predators cause insignificant livestock losses for ranchers. Most losses are caused by poor animal husbandry.
- Private ranching should not be allowed on public lands.
- Government agencies manage wildlife cruelly, to maximize sport-killing opportunities, and to support "Big Ag." They do not manage wildlife for the sake of biodiversity.
- Wildlife agencies desperately need reform, starting with USDA Wildlife Services' lethal predator control program.

Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge: A Big Experiment that Stands the Test of Time



Pronghorn antelope are the fastest land mammal in North America at sustained distances. They can run over 50 miles an hour, leaving pursuing coyotes and wolves in the dust. They are extremely vulnerable to fencing and habitat degradation.

A 278,000 acre refuge in Oregon became a natural living laboratory that shows how a high desert ecosystem can recover from a century of cattle grazing. Thanks to our efforts from 1995-present, it also became one of the few sizeable places in the American west where predators and prey thrive, even though no lethal predator controls have been used there since the late 1960s.

For close to a century Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge (HMNAR) was severely impacted by open-range cattle grazing. It is the nation's only refuge for pronghorn antelope, which are extremely vulnerable to fencing and the habitat degradation caused by ranching. So after cattle were removed from the refuge in the early 1990s, hundreds of miles of fences were also removed.

But in spring 1995 pronghorn fawn survival fell to about zero, due to severe weather. The refuge responded by writing an environmental assessment that called for aerial gunning of coyotes for three years. They claimed that, without such actions, the pronghorn were in jeopardy. Knowing that fluctuations in prey populations are normal—that weather and habitat conditions, not predators, are the primary cause for declines—we challenged the refuge. We contacted Jim Yoakum, a former HMNAR biologist and one of the nation's leading experts on pronghorns. He supplied historical data showing the refuge's claims were unfounded. We then challenged the refuge in court and prevailed. And over the next three years pronghorn survival rates increased each spring and reached the highest population in recorded history.

From 1995-2001, HMNAR pressed to allow aerial gunning and sport hunting of coyotes. We challenged all attempts, and won. We continue to monitor them to this day. Places like Hart Mountain, with unexploited predator populations, are extremely rare. Killing coyotes there would have destroyed over 50 years of research and the refuge would have been able to say, "See, lethal control works." Instead, we get to say, "See, nature works!"

History shows we blame predators for problems humans have caused. Help right this wrong. Support our work at predatordefense.org.