

DEMOCRACY IS ESSENTIAL FOR NATIVE PREDATORS

“The majority of Americans believe in the right of wolves, cougars and other native predators to exist without persecution and to provide their essential ecosystem services.

“But without all citizens having the right to vote and without all votes being counted, the voice of the majority will not be heard, and an anti-science, anti-environmental regulation, pro-killing minority will finish off our hopes for ending America’s war on wildlife.”

- BROOKS FAHY
Executive Director
Predator Defense



THIS BOBCAT KITTEN NEEDS YOUR VOTE AT THE LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL LEVELS



Our predators need your VOTE

July 2022

Democracy Reality Check: A Call to Action for Our Shared Future

Dear Friends Old and New,

This newsletter will be unlike any you’ve ever received from us. It has to be. The times we live in are unprecedented, and absolutely everything that matters to most of us is on the line.

If you’ve followed our work for any length of time, you’ll know we have never been partisan. We have called out Democrats and Republicans, as applicable, from our inception. We especially castigated Democratic Senator John Tester of Montana for selling out wolves in 2011, when he added a delisting rider on a federal budget bill that removed wolves’ Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections and enabled the nightmare of states being given the right to “manage” them. Management meant slaughter. It continues to this day and has led to wolves’ functional extinction in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

Our work has always been to protect native predators with science, sanity and heart. But we see no way we can continue much longer if Democrats don’t hold the U.S. House and achieve a filibuster-proof majority in the U.S. Senate this November. They must also take and hold power in local and state elections, where intense voter suppression and election subversion efforts are being waged.

We make these statements because the fight for the future is no longer between liberals and conservatives. It’s currently a battle between truth vs. lies and democracy vs. fascism.

What America’s Current Reality Means for Wildlife Advocacy

The GOP has been overtaken by those who have no use for science, no respect for individual rights, no respect for nature, and no plans to safeguard our planet for future generations. It goes without saying they have no respect for wildlife, other than as a commodity they can “harvest.” The contingent that has consumed the GOP ultimately wants unfettered access to slaughtering vital native predators like vermin, opening up national parks and public lands to hunting/mining/development, and removing all possible environmental regulations that safeguard our water and land. The current Supreme Court—illegitimately stocked with far-right justices who lied about settled law to win confirmation—will rule against our work to protect wildlife at every turn via anti-environment and states’ rights decisions. This GOP and their SCOTUS represent a tyranny of the minority. To restore credibility it must be correctively rebalanced to reflect America and to return to Constitutional principles.

Please note we are not saying the Democratic party is without flaws. In fact, we still wait for Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to stand up to the special interests that have, so far, prevented a halt to the ongoing wolf slaughter in the Northern Rockies. We are also waiting for a no-kill buffer zone around Yellowstone National Park to protect wolves in one of the greatest natural wolf ecosystems and research sites in the country. But there continue to be reasons for hope for a good outcome with Sec. Haaland and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after their 12-month ESA relisting review. And there remains hope at many state and local levels for improving wildlife policies and practices.

But given the stakes—our entire democratic system on the brink of collapse—what we are saying is: (1) we will continue to work as long as we can on behalf of native predators, but (2) we feel it imperative to urge you to take immediate action to ensure a Blue Wave in November at the federal, state and local levels. At present, a Democratic majority is the only way America will be able to:

— cont. on page 2



HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT & ONGOING WORK

Our work for native predators continues unabated. Here are some highlights from work efforts in progress:

WOLVES - Temporarily relieved by protections a federal judge granted in February for wolves in certain parts of the West (where killing is minimal) and in the Great Lakes Region. Outraged by ongoing slaughter in N. Rockies (Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and parts of Eastern Washington/Oregon). Continuing to push hard, both publicly and behind the scenes, for emergency ESA relisting in N. Rockies and no-kill buffer zone around Yellowstone National Park. To this end we continue to work behind the scenes with U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio's (D-Oreg.) office to convince the administration to do the right thing.

We are also working in several states to stop wolf poaching. In Washington, we pledged \$5,000 toward a \$30,000 reward offered for info on illegal wolf poisonings. In Oregon, we pledged \$10,000 in reward money—\$5,000 toward poisoning of eight wolves in 2021, and another \$5,000 toward individual cases of wolves being shot. The perpetrators must be brought to justice.

BEARS - We have long responded to wildlife calls from the public. These primarily involve bears, cougars, coyotes and bobcats. This spring brought a record number of bear sighting questions, e.g., bears coming up to bird feeders. Callers don't want to alert state officials, due to valid concerns of bears being killed, and we're able to allay their safety concerns and provide advice. We'll never know the number of bears saved, but believe it to be significant.

WILDLIFE POISONS/M-44s - Ongoing work to build support for "Canyon's Law," the federal bill to ban M-44 "cyanide bombs" on public lands. Currently working with staff from Rep. DeFazio's office regarding a hearing to move the bill forward.



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

- Restore democratic principles and ensure voting rights
- Codify laws to protect natural places and restore ecosystems
- Protect native predators by giving them their rightful place as essential species
- Create a clean energy future to save the planet from the worst effects of global warming, and thus provide a livable earth for wildlife and future generations

Action is the Antidote to Despair: Engage Now!

Again, no meaningful change at the federal level will be possible in America unless Democrats hold the House and get 52+ Senate seats. This will allow bypassing Senators Sinema and Manchin and the filibuster to pass substantive gun safety measures, voter protection laws, and more. On the plus side, we who value democracy and environmental sanity remain the majority. And given that 80,000,000 eligible citizens didn't vote in the 2020 election, it'll only take a fraction of them joining us in key Senate races to save our country. We must win six of the key races in Georgia, Arizona, New Hampshire, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida and North Carolina.

Plenty of great groups are hard at work on getting out the vote and safeguarding democracy. Perhaps you are already working with one or more of them. If not, here is a sampling of groups offering effective ways to engage:

- I Will Vote - www.iwillvote.com
- Indivisible - www.indivisible.org
- Fair Fight - www.fairfight.com
- Rock the Vote - www.rockthevote.org
- Swing Left - www.swingleft.org
- Vote Forward - www.votefwd.org
- League of Women Voters - www.lwv.org
- Vote Save America - www.votesaveamerica.com
- Vote Riders - www.voteriders.org
- Postcards to Swing States - www.turnoutpac.org/postcards
- Democracy Docket - www.democracymarket.com

Let's Work Together to Give Both Democracy and Wildlife a Future

We'd like to reemphasize that we are in good company. The majority of Americans believe in democracy and in the right of wolves, cougars and other native predators to exist without persecution and to provide their essential ecosystem services. But without all citizens having the right to vote and without all votes being counted, the voice of the majority will not be heard, and an anti-science, anti-environmental regulation, pro-killing minority will finish off our longstanding hopes for ending America's war on wildlife.

We encourage you to pull out all the stops to protect democracy and get out the vote. We also encourage you to continue to support our ongoing work for the rights and wellbeing of all native predators (see highlights above left). Please accept our heartfelt thanks for all you do.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy, Executive Director

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PREDATORS FOR PROBLEMS
HUMANS HAVE CAUSED

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