

**Subject:** HSUS position on the slaughter of the Profanity Peak wolf pack

**From:** Marc Bekoff

**Date:** 9/6/16, 3:01 PM

**To:** Wayne Pacelle

**CC:** Brooks Fahy

Hi Wayne,

As we're writing this we've been told there is an active hunt on for the one surviving adult wolf and four young pups of the Profanity Peak pack in Washington state. Whether or not the hunt is still underway, we believe it's about time organizations like HSUS take a formal stand on the killing of these wolves -- either they're for it or against it.

We've received numerous inquiries about why HSUS signed onto the Joint Conservation Wolf Advisory Group Statement that allowed for the "authorized removal" of the wolves. Many people have also asked why HSUS hasn't made a clear public statement openly opposing the killing. We know it's a complex issue, and perhaps there is a formal public statement about why you do support the killing, but we haven't seen it.

This slaughter was scientifically unsupported and politically driven. Just as bad, it was actually invited by incredibly myopic, if not disingenuous, management by USFS and WDFW. As stated on the record by WDFW Wolf Policy Lead Donny Martorello, salt licks for the cattle were placed right on the wolves' den site, literally drawing cattle into the wolves' den. He is also quoted as saying of the Profanity Peak Pack: "Is that really the wolf population we want to repopulate the state? Wolves that have demonstrated that behavior and see livestock as prey items." In other words, wolves being wolves (after being baited, mind you!) and doing the job nature gave them--to be apex predators essential to balance in our ecosystems--should not be themselves. Really?

The area in which this slaughter is taking place, Colville National Forest, is pristine, rugged land, and some of the best wolf habitat in the continental U.S. It's also public land that belongs to us all. So we have to ask, if wolves can't exist there, where can they exist?

We have both collaborated and worked to further HSUS's goals and campaigns in the past. You all do so much good for nonhumans in so many different venues, so our honest and frank opinion is that supporting the killing is thoroughly inconsistent with your stated values and there are a lot of people who are perplexed and very upset. We're reminded of that old bumper sticker that went

something like, "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

Even though HSUS appeared to support the Profanity Peak Pack slaughter by not speaking out against it previously, we hope you will publicly oppose it now and all other future killings. These slaughters are not only inhumane, unnecessary, and ethically repugnant, they also don't work. Supporting them sets a bad precedent for the future.

Here's what the HSUS website says about its position on wolves:

*"With their numbers still recovering, state management of wolves could be disastrous. That's why we're fighting to restore federal protections for gray wolves, as well as advocating in state legislatures to ensure that wolves are not unnecessarily persecuted."*

Please restore your position by speaking out now.

All the best, -

Brooks Fahy, [Predator Defense](#)  
Marc Bekoff, University of Colorado

P. S. It should also be noted that prominent wildlife scientist, Dr. Rob Wielgus, who spoke at the HSUS conference last October, has had the courage to speak out against this slaughter. Now Washington State University is trying to destroy his career and discredit him for a poor choice of words. He put it all on the line to try to save these wolves. The stakes are high on this one all the way around.