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Provocative New Film Exposes America's Ongoing Sellout of Wolves

Prominent scientists call wolf slaughter to protect livestock counter-productive and unjustified

MOSCOW, ID — A provocative new documentary coming to Moscow and Spokane next week has outraged viewers across the country. "The Profanity Peak Pack: Set Up & Sold Out" shows how an irresponsible rancher in Washington State set up a pack of wolves living on public land in a remote forest to attack his cattle. His actions caused state wildlife officials to kill the pack, and major conservation organizations were party to the decision.

Noted scientists and environmentalists have excoriated the players involved, saying their actions are a prime example of what's happening to wolves across the West. They call America's overall approach to wolves unjust, counterproductive and cruel. Over 5,000 wolves have been killed by hunters and trappers alone in seven states since wolves lost endangered species protection in 2011 and management was turned over to individual states. But state wildlife managers are appeasing agricultural interests at the expense of wolves.

In regards to the slaughter of Washington's Profanity Peak Pack, "The decisions by the rancher/owner of the cattle and the state wildlife agency were irresponsible, bordering on the outrageous in terms of common sense," said Barrie Gilbert, Ph.D., Senior Scientist Emeritus for the Department of Wildland Resources at Utah State University. "The pack was lured by placement of cattle, which displaced the elk food-base of the wolves, so the wolves, victimized once, are then destroyed, becoming victims a second time."

"Why should one person, the rancher in this case, have more say over what happens on public land—land owned by all of us—than the other 300 million people in the U.S.?" said John Laundré, Ph.D., predator ecologist and author of landmark study, *The Landscape of Fear*. "Why should we run whole ecosystems for one person or one industry? It is a crime ecologically and it does not even make sense economically!"

"The film reveals the wider political and scientific malpractice of lethal wolf management....the blatant immorality of victimizing wolves for the benefit of corporate agriculture," said William Lynn, Ph.D.,* ethicist & social scientist. "It also exposes the moral shame that lies at the heart of traditional conservation—the often blind reliance on killing wildlife." [*LEGAL DISCLAIMER: Mr. Lynn's views are his own, and do not represent those of other individuals or institutions.]

Neither Oregon nor Washington have recovered wolf populations and both states had remained fairly safe havens for wolves until 2016, when the Profanity Peak Pack was slaughtered. In 2017, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife began killing wolves which also lived in territory not suitable for unsupervised, free-roaming cattle. Trail cameras show cows literally using the same trails as the wolves' known territory. Both states have over a million cows and barely 100 wolves, yet they are using management tactics from Idaho and Montana, which have larger wolf populations and have slaughtered thousands.

FREE SCREENINGS

Screenings of the 30-minute film, "The Profanity Peak Pack: Set Up & Sold Out" will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker, along with the scientist whose ground-breaking wolf research was suppressed by WSU and "Big Ag"

MOSCOW, ID

Monday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
1912 Center, Great Room

SPOKANE, WA

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Gonzaga Univ. School of Law, Moot Courtroom

The Profanity Peak Pack film has been brushed off by four conservation organizations involved, who do not want people to know about their role in setting wolves up for the slaughter. The groups include Defenders of Wildlife, The Humane Society of the United States, Conservation Northwest, and Wolf Haven International. They are all members of Washington's Wolf Advisory Group (WAG), a body comprised of ranching interests, state wildlife officials, and environmental/conservation organizations. WAG is driven by consensus and requires all members to be bound by the majority decision.

"In Washington State the top wolf managers apparently didn't understand or value the basic nature of wolves as apex predators, performing their vital role in our ecosystems," said filmmaker Brooks Fahy, who serves as executive director of the wildlife advocacy group Predator Defense. "Killing wolves disrupts the social order of the pack and often has serious unintended consequences. It can remove the wisdom of elder pack members and drive younger, less experienced wolves to make unwise decisions, thus increasing attacks on livestock."

Research increasingly shows that killing wolves increases attacks on livestock. A key researcher who questioned killing wolves due to such findings and helped expose the coverup in the Profanity Peak Pack case was Washington State University (WSU) professor Robert Wielgus, Ph.D. Wielgus is specialist in large carnivore/human conflicts with 35 published scientific papers and 35 years of experience in large carnivore research. WSU accused him of scientific misconduct, stripped his summer research grant funding, and forbade him to talk to the media in his professional role. Wielgus was subsequently cleared of misconduct and is being represented by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), a national nonprofit specializing in government scientist whistleblower protection. PEER filed a 12-page complaint against WSU officials in April 2017, alleging the university punished and silenced Wielgus to placate ranchers and state legislators who objected to his research.

Wielgus, who calls the Profanity Peak Pack film "truthful, thoughtful, and poignant," will attend both screenings and participate in the Q&A session afterward. "Wolves are caught between a rock and a hard place on public lands," said Wielgus. "Rugged wilderness, multiple use, U.S. Forest Service public lands favor domestic livestock (without proper husbandry practices) over native wildlife. If wolves cannot live here without being persecuted, then where?"

"The bottom line is that these cows are raised only to be slaughtered for profit," said Fahy, "and there are some places where it is absolutely inappropriate to have livestock. It is outrageous that ranchers are allowed to destroy public lands with livestock grazing while taxpayers help them externalize their business costs and fund the killing of wolves and other native predators. Wolves should have priority over cows on public lands. They need a place to live in peace."

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Scientists & environmentalists are applauding a provocative short film about our unjust, counter-productive war on wolves

The Profanity Peak Pack: SET UP & SOLD OUT



"This is a cattle-killing pack of wolves. Total elimination is the only answer."



"We were set up to prey on cattle invading the forest we call home."

"This triggered the protocols that led to our executions."

Special Film Screening

America's treatment of wolves is outrageous. They need our help. And they need places to live in peace. Learn more at free screening of new 30-minute film by Predator Defense:

MON, JAN 22, 7 p.m. - Moscow, ID, 1912 Center, Great Room
TUES, JAN 23, 6:30 p.m. - Spokane, WA, Gonzaga U School of Law, Moot Courtroom

Screenings followed by Q&A with fearless truth-tellers in the wolf protection movement:

Professor **ROBERT WIELGUS, Ph.D.**, wolf researcher & specialist in large carnivore/human conflicts
Filmmaker **BROOKS FAHY**, Exec. Dir., national wildlife advocacy group, Predator Defense
Activist **TIM COLEMAN**, Exec. Dir., Kettle Range Conservation Group

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