

FILM TESTIMONIAL

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Viewing Predator Defense's latest film, "The Profanity Peak Pack: Set Up & Sold Out" is a gut-wrenching experience.

At one level, the film reveals the wider political and scientific malpractice of lethal wolf management. Animated by the blatant immorality of victimizing wolves for the benefit of corporate agriculture, it has obvious resonance for the ongoing slaughter of wolves in North America and the world.

At another level, this documentary also exposes the moral shame that lies at the heart of traditional conservation—the often blind reliance on killing wildlife. Lethal "management" is no substitute for developing a just and sustainable way of human life that respects the lives of other animals.

The ideology that drives our troubled relationship with wolves and other animals is "human exceptionalism." The term has many synonyms and variations, chief of which are the beliefs that the earth is ours to use as we see fit (dominionism), only human beings have moral value (anthropocentrism), and we are not ethically accountable for our treatment of other creatures (speciesism). It is for these reasons that traditional conservation views the lethal management of wolves and other wildlife as morally unproblematic.

Both science and ethics have debunked human exceptionalism. Yet like the invidious "isms" that wrack human society — racism, sexism, ethnocentrism, etc. — this ideology is deeply engrained in the social dimensions of wolf recovery. We see it in the over-reliance on ineffective lethal controls by wildlife agencies. We see it in the refusal by some ranchers to use best practices to mitigate predation on livestock. We see it in hunters who believe wolves take "their" deer. And we see it throughout almost two decades of political betrayal by republican and democratic administrations alike.

This film provides an opportunity to see not only the mendacity of what we do to wolves, but the twisted values that justify that maliciousness. Contesting those values is indispensable to ending this travesty. So too is articulating new values for coexisting with wolves and the wild world. In sharing this documentary, Predator Defense is helping us do both.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: Mr. Lynn's views are his own, and do not represent those of other individuals or institutions.

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Watch this provocative film about Washington State's unjust, unnecessary, and ongoing wolf slaughter at www.predatordefense.org/profanity.