



moving forward  
for wildlife

with science &  
the majority

## Will It Take a Child's Death to Ban M-44s?



**RECENT VICTIM:** *Kasey, a Pocatello boy's best friend*

We've already lost way too many dogs, endangered species, and other wildlife. Children remain at grave risk.

M-44s  
are  
lethal

Cyanide ejection devices set in the great outdoors for predator control. Their poison causes a horrifying death by asphyxiation.

indiscriminate

M-44s don't just kill targets. They kill endangered species, wildlife & pets.

unnecessary

No ethical or scientific justification exists for the use of M-44s.

See M-44 feature inside...



predatordefense.org

Helping people and wildlife coexist since 1990

June 2017

Dear Friend of Predator Defense,

First, an apology for not communicating through this medium in a while. We have been incredibly busy, and more than a little overextended.

We want to say right up front: If you have made a donation by check via mail since late November and haven't heard from us, we hereby extend an extra special thank you and beg your forgiveness. THANK YOU! We appreciate your support more than you can ever know. It enabled us to maintain vital functions these past six months while—due to medical emergencies and major moves affecting key members of our team—we have not been able to keep up with certain administrative tasks like thank you letters (other than those required by the IRS for 2016 donations of \$250 or more). If you need a receipt for a donation amount under that threshold, please let us know by emailing [info@predatordefense.org](mailto:info@predatordefense.org) or calling (541) 937-4261.

So, regardless of this hiccup—and thanks to your support—we have continued to focus on the work you value to end America's war on wildlife. Here's what we have been up to:

- Generated major media coverage on M-44 "cyanide bombs," thanks to our intensive work with families in Wyoming and Idaho who suffered devastating losses (see pgs. 2-3).
- Legislation we helped develop to ban wildlife poisons, including both M-44s and Compound 1080, was introduced in Congress as H.R. 1817 on March 30, 2017 by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Oreg).
  - Joined groups asking Wildlife Services to immediately ban M-44s in Idaho and remove all existing devices. They agreed, temporarily. We are working on a similar ban in Wyoming.
  - Joined a lawsuit to stop federal killing of wildlife in Idaho.
  - About to release our short film, "The Profanity Peak Pack: Set Up & Sold Out," which reveals how wolves in NE Washington State were set up and sold out by environmental groups and wildlife managers, caving to an



**We will be introducing the Idaho family devastated by an M-44 "cyanide bomb" to members of Congress in June, as we promote our newly introduced bill to ban lethal wildlife poisons. Read the family's story on pgs. 2-3.**

— cont. on page 4

# What will it take to ban M-44s? The death of a child?



*Meet the Mansfield family of Pocatello, Idaho. They lost their beloved lab, Kasey, to an unmarked M-44 "cyanide bomb" in March. They almost lost their 14-year-old son, Canyon, as well. Canyon accidentally set off the device while taking a walk with Kasey on a hill behind their house. Canyon was knocked on his back and covered in cyanide. But he was upwind and his dog was not. Canyon watched Kasey die an agonizing death. In addition to the trauma, he has suffered serious poisoning side effects. The family is now headed to D.C. with us to urge Congress to ban M-44s.*

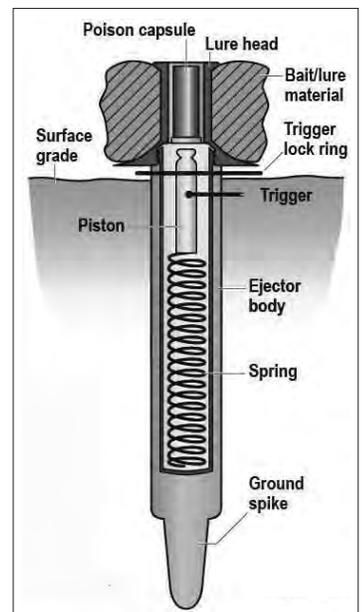
## Renewing Push to Ban Lethal Wildlife Poisons Nationwide after Wolf and Three Dogs Killed by M-44 "Cyanide Bomb" and Kids Exposed

Things really came to a head this year in terms of M-44 "cyanide bomb" atrocities. On February 26 a 100-pound male named OR-48 from the Shamrock Pack in NE Oregon died after triggering an M-44 set for coyotes. This event violated an agreement state wildlife officials thought they had with USDA Wildlife Services not to use M-44s in Oregon areas frequented by wolves.

Next, M-44s killed several pets, and we found ourselves immersed yet again in assisting families with severe poisoning trauma and its aftermath. A family in Wyoming had gone out on March 11 for a beautiful pre-spring walk on the prairie, one they'd taken many times before, and lost two dogs in a horrifying sequence of events to M-44s. An 8-year-old child was present (pictured on pg. 3) and put at grave risk of poisoning. The family was utterly devastated.

Just five days later another tragedy occurred in Pocatello, Idaho, which led us to begin working with the Mansfield family (pictured above) whose 14-year-old son, Canyon, accidentally set off an M-44 on a hill behind his back yard, a place he played with his dog, Kasey. He then watched helplessly as Kasey died an excruciating death (see pg. 3). Canyon and his family are devastated and outraged. Canyon had to be hospitalized and is being closely monitored. He has suffered excruciating migraine headaches ever since the poisoning. We helped the Mansfield family deal with the trauma, the media barrage, the stonewalling wildlife agencies, and the politics. We are amazed, but grateful, to find their pain has compelled them to take further action to prevent others from suffering such agony.

The Mansfields are traveling to Washington, D.C. with us in June to visit members of Congress and help generate support for HR. 1817, the bill we helped write that will ban M-44s and Compound 1080. These are lethal poisons used by USDA Wildlife Services agents and local wildlife agencies for unnecessary and unscientific "predator control." The bill is technically called "The Chemical Poisons Reduction Act of 2017," but the Mansfield's have nicknamed it "Canyon's Law, in honor of their son. We've been the driving force behind this legislation since 1990, and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Oreg.) introduced the new bill on March 30. What we need now is your help to get this legislation passed into law. It is a common-sense, tax-saving, non-partisan bill. It should be supported without resistance as an essential public safety measure by all elected officials.



Help us generate overwhelming & bipartisan support for H.R. 1817, the bill to ban M-44s nationwide. Learn more and donate at [www.predatordefense.org](http://www.predatordefense.org).

# 14-Year-Old Boy Accidentally Triggers M-44 That Kills His Best Friend



*Canyon Mansfield and best friend Kasey play in spot behind his yard where an M-44 killed Kasey.*

## Excerpts from Canyon's Account of His Dog's Death by an M-44

"It was March 16, 2017 and I, Canyon Mansfield, was home sick for the second day with a common cold. Around noon I yearned to go outside and hike the hill behind my home. This is not an unusual endeavor for me or anyone else as the hill is a common hiking and biking location. **There should have been no risk associated with a 14-year-old boy taking a stroll near his home.** I took my dog, Kasey, with me to keep me company.

We walked up the hill as Kasey and I played ball, completely unaware of the traps lurking around us. We reached the top of the hill. I admired the beautiful landscape around us that I have seen many times before. I sat down and began to pray in the spirit of the nature around me. I then got up to explore the hill out of curiosity. After throwing Kasey's toy, I spotted a metal tube sticking out between two rocks. The tube closely resembled a sprinkler head. While my dog ran around I bent down and touched the strange tube. A metal spring triggered and the device popped. Orange gas spewed around me and I found myself lying on the ground. My left arm and calf were covered with orange powder. My left eye burned. I hurried to the nearest patch of snow and irrigated my eye and washed my clothes with the snow.

I heard a mumbling sound which I assumed was Kasey chewing and shaking his toy. I was surprised to see the toy sitting a few yards next to him. I felt my stomach clench into a knot because I knew instantly that something was wrong. I then called him next to me. No response came from him except mumbling...He started to seizure. I panicked and kept yelling his name in disbelief. I examined him thinking he might have gotten shot by the strange outburst of the metal tube, because **I saw blood on the snow. The blood was coming from his mouth. His eyes were turning glassy and he was twitching with fear...I got my parents to come help, but it was too late...the dog who I played outside with just that day lay still and quiet.**

No one in our neighborhood knew these weapons existed until this incident occurred. No phone call or letter in the mail to tell people of the traps that will sooner or later kill someone or something. USDA Wildlife Services agents are very lazy placing these traps on BLM property and saying it was someone else's, not checking for close inhabitants, not having legible signs placed around the bomb, not warning neighbors of the bombs they placed, and not creating a better way of protecting livestock a long time ago, because this has happened many times before. They also continue to say that coyote cyanide bombs are ethical. How are these things ethical? They are using chemical warfare within neighborhoods...near houses. Not a very intelligent way of protecting livestock.

I miss my dog very much. He was my best adventuring buddy in the entire world. No amount of money or any sincere apology can replace my friend. **However, my family will not be victims in this event. We will fight to make these bombs illegal because they are morally wrong.** I thank you for reading my story and I hope you were affected by it. Please help me to [make] these illegal because no boy should watch his dog die in his arms. Save someone else from the pain my family has suffered.

I love you, Kasey."

- Canyon Mansfield, Pocatello, Idaho

Read Canyon's full account of the poisoning of his lab Kasey, and Roxy Marie's family's tragic loss of two dogs at [www.predatordefense.org/m44s.htm](http://www.predatordefense.org/m44s.htm).



*Canyon holds Kasey's collar in location where he died.*



*Roxy Marie, an 8-year old Wyoming girl, holds a photo of Abby, her dearly beloved dog. Abby and another dog were killed March 11, 2017 by an M-44 "cyanide bomb" while her family was taking a customary walk on the prairie. In her shock and grief, Roxy Marie repeatedly kissed her deceased dog, exposing herself to poisoning.*

## Curbs Sought on Rancher Who Wiped out 15% of WA Wolves

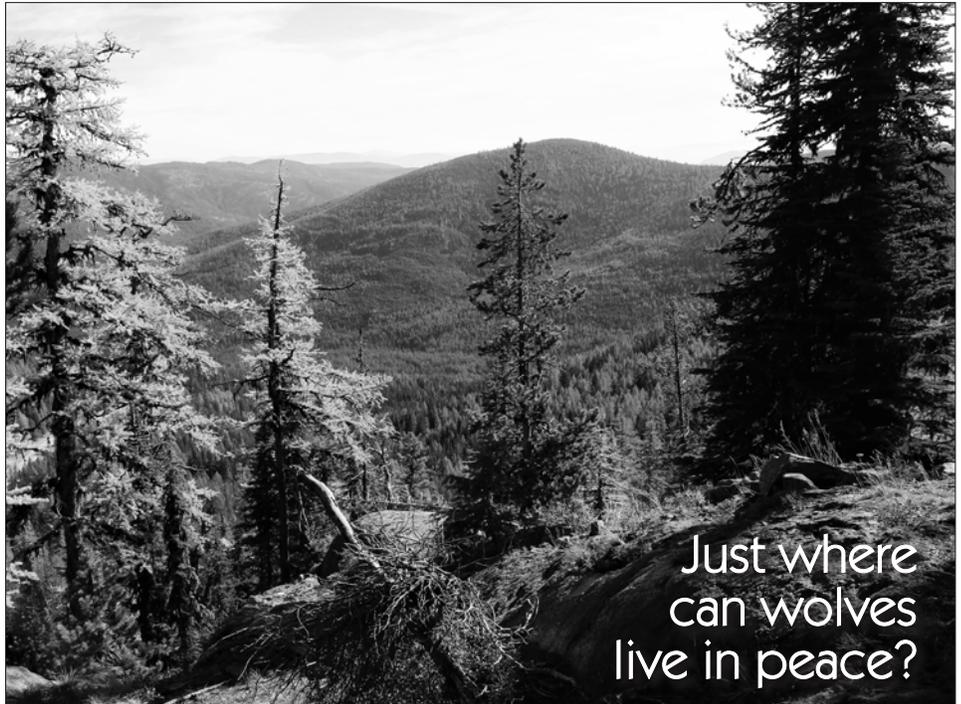
Some of the most heartening news we've seen lately was a May 18, 2017 announcement by the national alliance called PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility). PEER has filed a complaint to rescind or restrict grazing permits on public land within Colville National Forest in NE Washington State to reduce wildlife losses.

PEER's complaint shows how Washington's largest cattle rancher has been wreaking havoc on gray wolves in violation of his U.S. Forest Service grazing permit and agency wildlife protection policies. The Diamond M Ranch's actions have resulted in the eradication of nearly 15% of all gray wolves in the state. With over 1,000,000 cows and barely 100 gray wolves, Washington needs to dramatically strengthen wolf protections. If populations in eastern Washington are further destabilized, wolves will again need to be listed as "endangered."

But the McIrvine family, which operates the ranch, has refused to participate in a state-funded program that has shown consistent success in avoiding livestock-wolf conflicts. Instead, they have provoked predation by doing things like grazing cattle and placing salt block attractants near a known wolf den. Since wolves returned to Washington in 2008, Diamond M has single-handedly accounted for 2/3 of all state-sponsored lethal control events. They triggered the state's removal of two separate wolf packs, including the Profanity Peak pack last summer, a travesty we explore in depth in our new film (details at right).

It bears emphasizing that wolves cause less than 2/10 of a percent (<.02%) of all cattle deaths, and that science increasingly shows killing wolves to protect livestock doesn't work.

# "The Profanity Peak Pack: Set Up & Sold Out"



Just where  
can wolves  
live in peace?

*Does this look like wolf territory, or a cow pasture? This is where the Profanity Peak Pack wolves lived...on public land in pristine Colville National Forest in NE Washington State. Our newest film, out this summer, explores how the pack was set up and sold out by an irresponsible rancher, who knowingly failed to protect his cattle, and the WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, which failed to make him. It also looks at how four surprising wildlife advocacy groups appear to have been misled into being party to the decision to kill the pack. And it looks at the bigger picture—abuse of our public lands by the ranching industry and how wildlife is needlessly "managed." Help make these wolves' deaths count. Support our film at [www.predatordefense.org](http://www.predatordefense.org).*

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

irresponsible rancher and special interests. We aim to change the game by exposing the set up that prioritizes cows over wolves and gives them no place to live in peace.

- We continue to work on a new feature documentary, "The Killing Agencies," which will address key issues the public is still largely in the dark about—how we treat wildlife, who's really running the show, and the myth that we need to kill predators and other wildlife to control their populations. The growing list of experts will be hard to ignore. If you're not already following us on Facebook and Twitter, we strongly encourage you to do so. It's the most immediate and economical way for us to share everything we are working on. And it's the easiest way for you to keep up-to-date. You likely notice we don't hammer you with frequent fundraising mailings and emails, as we don't want to spend your money that way. But as we haven't been able to send out a mailing since last December, this newsletter comes with a special request to keep supporting our work to make wildlife "management" via killing a relic of the past. We need you more now than ever. We are so grateful for you and all you do.

For all that is wild and free,

*Brooks Fahy*

Brooks Fahy, Executive Director

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