



Our vital native predators need our SOLIDARITY.

Together we must
stand strong and
protect all that we
hold dear.

December 2024

Dear Friends Old and New,

Yet again we find ourselves writing this newsletter at a time of unprecedented political turmoil. As of December 4 we are still waiting to see if there might be unexpected revelations that could prevent a presidency hell-bent on removing protections for wildlife, wild lands, and far more. In such a climate it is hard to make concrete action plans. All we can do is affirm that we will continue our fight to protect our essential native predators and to protect all advances we have previously made. Our strategy is based on the knowledge that blocking ill-conceived legislation remains possible, and that most legal battles don't go to the Supreme Court. Stopping and/or slowing down bad actors is imperative, so here is what we currently plan to prioritize in the coming year.

Raising Awareness of Legislation That Would Strip Nonprofits of Tax-Exempt Status and Stifle Free Speech

Last month the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 9495, a bill that would allow the treasury secretary, a position appointed by the president, to designate nonprofits as supporters of terrorism and strip them of their tax-exempt status without legal recourse to prove the charges false. Nonprofit legal experts agree that such legislation would adversely impact effective activism and stifle free speech.

"This bill is called a nonprofit killer for a reason: It would empower an incoming administration with well-documented authoritarian tendencies to attack nonprofit organizations providing vital services to people and communities that don't align with the president's political ideology," said Erik Schlenker-Goodrich, executive director of the Western Environmental Law Center (WELC), a group we've worked with for over 30 years. "The abuse of counter-terrorism measures to attack domestic opponents is common in authoritarian regimes globally and this abuse is now knocking on our country's door, risking core American freedoms of speech, association, and dissent. This is not speculation. It is a clear and present danger."

There is a possible bright spot. Far fewer Democrats voted for the House bill over time, as pressure campaigns alerted them to the hazards within it. The ACLU said U.S. Representatives received over 100,000 messages from constituents urging them to oppose the House bill and only 15 Democrats voted for the newest version when it finally passed in November. The question remains whether it will pass the Senate in 2025 and become law. Meanwhile, it is worth noting that Section 501(p) of the Internal Revenue Code already prohibits knowingly providing material support to foreign terrorist organizations and allows the IRS to revoke nonprofits' tax-exempt status. We will alert you to the need to take action as soon as we hear of any Senate bill moving forward.

Continuing Legal Push to Protect Wolves in the Western U.S.

We have always believed that the war on wolves is unscientific and barbaric. Wolves belong in the wild and are critical to thriving, balanced ecosystems. Regardless of livestock producers' propaganda, only a fraction of one percent of livestock losses are caused by wolves. They need to acknowledge this reality. They also need to protect their livestock without killing wolves and without taxpayer subsidies compensating them for alleged

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losses. To counter these politically and culturally driven policy injustices, we continue to support ongoing legal battles to protect wolves by using the best-available science. We work with groups like WELC, who are leveraging the power of the law to restore and safeguard these iconic animals. Currently we are plaintiffs in WELC's lawsuit against the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's determination that the roughly 2,700 gray wolves in the western U.S.—which represents an effective population of roughly 243 in terms of genetic diversity—are not threatened by small population size, limited connectivity, high levels of human-caused mortality, a significant amount of lost historic range, and other cumulative threats. WELC has hired a geneticist from Princeton to help with the science and the case is moving forward. A briefing is expected this winter, with hopes for a hearing and decision later in 2025. We will keep you posted.

Working to Fully Ban M-44 Cyanide Bombs on Public Lands

As most of you know, our work together over time has made huge swaths of the American landscape far safer via the banning of the indiscriminate M-44 cyanide bombs used by government agents in misguided attempts at predator control. Not only have we achieved a West coast free of M-44s, in 2023 we got them banned on all 245 million acres of Bureau of Land Management lands, a tenth of America's land mass. This means countless wild animals have been saved from slaughter and people and pets can recreate in many more places without fear of death and poisoning.

When we continued the push this year, asking for a U.S. Forest Service ban to safeguard 193 million more acres of public lands, we learned that USDA Wildlife Services has allegedly not deployed M-44s on Forest Service lands since 2021 and is currently prohibited from any M-44 activity other than removing devices, including on private lands, via a 2024 appropriations bill. This was incredible (essentially hidden) news and the result of our nonstop pressure over time. But it is not a permanent ban and not all existing devices have been removed. So we continue to press for a full ban, while also building support for Canyon's Law, the bill in Congress to ban M-44s on all public lands—federal, state and local. We will do this regardless of who holds power in Congress. This remains a public safety issue, as even those who don't care about wildlife do care about their children and their dogs.

Wishing You Comfort and Solidarity in Community

We've been hearing many people talk of giving up on America, of leaving the country. While we choose to stand and fight, we know not everyone can. We fully acknowledge that it is exhausting and infuriating to have to defend what we know the majority value and hold dear—caring about wildlife, trusting in science, and so much more. In dark times like these we can only benefit from taking as many breaks as we need to restore ourselves and by expanding our alignment with like-minded souls to experience the solidarity of values in action. We can then take comfort in knowing that, while we are in the fight of our lives, we are in it together.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy, Executive Director

Honoring Chelsea

For 25 years of collaboration & inspiration

Brooks Fahy sits with Chelsea, a blue-eyed Seal Point Ragdoll rescued as a young, dumpster-diving stray. Chelsea was a riveting player in all Predator Defense campaigns for the past 25 years. She finally departed Nov. 1, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of beauty, independence and tenacity. She always demanded that her rights be respected and her existence revered. Chelsea was, to us, an emissary of her wild counterparts we work to protect, reaffirming that all beings matter and deserve respect.



Help us stand STRONG.

Donate today at predatordefense.org.

Why We're Different

- We've been in the trenches since 1990, dealing with the most brutal and shocking wildlife atrocities.
- We're proactive. No other organization has done what we've done to expose America's secret war on wildlife.
- We're not part of the corporate pack.
- We don't sell our membership list.
- We don't spend money on marketing gimmicks.
- We've produced a number of hard-hitting, award-winning documentaries.
- We're changing hearts and minds to make a better world for all wildlife.

What We Believe

- The notion predators must be killed to control their populations is a myth.
- Predators should not be hunted or trapped.
- Individual animals matter. No animal should suffer.
- Family values matter. It is not OK to rip family units apart.
- Predators cause insignificant livestock losses for ranchers. Most losses are caused by poor animal husbandry.
- Private ranching should not be allowed on public lands.
- Government agencies manage wildlife cruelly, to maximize sport-killing opportunities, and to support "Big Ag." They do not manage wildlife for the sake of biodiversity.
- Wildlife agencies desperately need reform.

PREDATOR DEFENSE

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