

Neither Wyoming, nor any Northern Rockies wildlife-slaughtering states, deserve our business...until they reform their policies

- See pg. 2



WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE



## A tribute to Danny, our most devoted defender

In all our years, we've never been blessed by a stronger guardian than Danny, a true testament to love and service. Primarily a mix of Doberman pinscher, Australian cattle dog and Border collie, Danny lived to age 15 in his invisible "duty tower," which traveled with him wherever he went. While he was secretly affectionate to his loved ones, we believe he missed his calling in the military (or as character on Game of Thrones), and are just incredibly grateful he was willing to serve with us.

Saying goodbye this spring was devastating, and leaves a permanent scar. We take comfort in believing he helped us find a new protector, who came from parts unknown as a stray.

Meet Arthur on pg. 2.

## A CALL TO ACTION!

Summer 2024

Dear Friends Old and New,

We're writing this newsletter after the Presidential debate and the assassination attempt. To say we're horrified at the current state of America and its politics would be quite the understatement. And the ramifications for wildlife couldn't be more problematic.

On one hand, the Democratic administration overall has hardly been a friend to wildlife, primarily choosing to compromise with special interests at the expense of wolves and the other animals we exist to protect. On the other hand, a Republican administration and its illegitimate "Supreme Court" is hell-bent on removing ALL protections, not only for wildlife but also for wild lands, which will render the American landscape and the planet uninhabitable for native predators and humans. There is ultimately no "freedom" in their approach.

So, what are environmental and conservation groups to do? We can't speak for anyone else, but we can say what we will do. We will continue speaking out for the rights of native predators, their importance to our ecosystems, their beauty, and the inherent value of each individual animal. And we will continue working both publicly and behind the scenes on creative ways to change the national paradigm. This also means, as individuals, we will stand against the fascism threatening America's undoing, as it is the most important way to fight for wildlife at this juncture. Americans not voting in the November election will be giving up and giving in, aka "obeying in advance." They need our help in persevering, as we simply must not give up. **WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO STAND WITH US TO THESE ENDS.**

Meanwhile, to counter the challenging state of our times, we must remind ourselves of just how far we've come in one arena, as evidenced by the incredible news below.

## No M-44 Cyanide Bombs Currently Being Set! [Yes, You Read That Right!]

Most of you are aware of the amazing success we can all take credit for together in terms of banning M-44 cyanide bombs from huge swaths of the American landscape. To date, countless wild animals have been saved from indiscriminate slaughter and people and pets can recreate without fear of death and poisoning in vastly more of our great outdoors. Not only have we achieved a West coast free of M-44s, we got them banned on all Bureau of Land Management lands, a tenth of America's land mass. 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 something surprising indeed.

This ask was made via a letter we facilitated Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) writing to USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack. The shocker was Vilsack replied saying Wildlife Services has not deployed M-44s on Forest Service lands since 2021 and is currently (via a 2024 appropriations bill) prohibited from any M-44 activity other than removing devices—including on private lands. While this is incredible news (that they have essentially hidden), we must emphasize they have not chosen to do this on their own. It is due to our nonstop, laser-focused pressure over time. It is also not a permanent ban and not all existing devices have been removed. So we continue to pressure them for a full, official 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.

— Letter cont. on page 2



## Former Congressman DeFazio Decries Wyoming Wolf Torture Case

We are pleased to share a statement on the Wyoming wolf atrocity (see sidebar) from former Congressman Peter DeFazio, the longest serving U.S. House member in Oregon's history. DeFazio remains an incredible ally for wolves and predator protections. He said:

*"After the 36 years I spent in Congress, I thought I'd heard and seen it all. I was wrong. The recent horrific act of torture to a young female wolf in Wyoming cannot just be punished with a \$250 fine. It needs to bring longstanding change in how America views wolves and other vital native predators. A wolf experiences just as much pain and terror as my dog would under the same circumstances and I find this Wyoming resident's behavior unconscionable. This is not about politics; it's about simple humaneness and decency. It's also critical that the American public understands the vast majority of these incidents of 'wolf whacking' are happening on public lands, their lands. At a bare minimum, whacking of animals with snowmobiles and other vehicles should be banned on public lands in every state. Ultimately, states like Wyoming, Idaho and Montana must end their unnecessary, unscientific war on predators. Their arguments about protecting livestock and game herds have never held up to scientific scrutiny. In reality, politics and special interest money from the trophy hunting and livestock industries have led to these poor animals being demonized by the very wildlife agencies responsible for "managing" them. Their barbaric policies have created the atmosphere for ongoing atrocities to occur. I applaud the efforts of Predator Defense and other conservation organizations working to bring this tragedy to light and pressing for lasting change."*

## In Gratitude and Solidarity as American Democracy Hangs by a Thread

We close with heartfelt thanks for your generosity, support, and words of encouragement. Many of you have been with us over 30 years! All of you have helped us expand public understanding of the essential nature of predators in our ecosystems and how to co-exist with wildlife. You've also enabled us to continue serving as a resource for the media, legislative staffers, environmental/conservation groups, scientists, activists, and the public. We cannot thank you enough for caring about wildlife, for trusting in science, and for sticking with us in such challenging times. We hope this finds you taking very good care, making sure to restore yourself at every opportunity as we close in on what we believe is the most important election in American history. The rights of all beings are at stake.

For all that is wild and free,



Brooks Fahy, Executive Director

## Hello from Arthur, the happy "herding/guard" dog



*Pictured: Brooks Fahy (director) with Hannah (left), a Pit Bull Terrier/Thai Ridgeback/German Shepherd mix, and our newest team member Arthur (right), a Pit Bull Terrier/Siberian Husky/Border Collie/Australian Cattle Dog mix*

## WYOMING & THE WILD WEST



## Sustained Outrage Over Wildlife Atrocities Meets States Determined To Do Nothing

You've likely heard that Wyoming grabbed international headlines in April, thanks to a resident named Cody Roberts, who ran down a wolf with his snowmobile and tortured her for hours before killing her. For his act of heinous cruelty, the only punishment the state administered was a fine of \$250 for the misdemeanor of possessing a live wolf. We won't share all details here, but you can read them at your own discretion, along with news coverage, at [predatordefense.org/wyoming](http://predatordefense.org/wyoming).

We immediately called for a boycott on Wyoming, asked for Roberts to be severely punished for animal cruelty, and for the state to reform their wildlife policies. Their governor seemed open to incremental change—banning the "whacking" of wolves by motorized vehicles—but as of July the state has taken no substantive action. In Wyoming all manner of killing and torturing native predators is allowed. Cody Roberts is only one of countless residents—along with hordes in neighboring Northern Rocky Mountain states like Idaho and Montana—who behave this way towards essential predators. Idaho continues to allow all types of torture and killing, and Montana allows everything but whacking.

Since money talks, we've continued to push Wyoming for a boycott and urge you to join us. Tell them you won't be visiting until they reform their wolf policies and ban torturing and intentionally running over wildlife. **Contact them today! Tourism Office:** 800-225-5996, [tourism@wyo.gov](mailto:tourism@wyo.gov), and [travelwyoming.com/contact-us](http://travelwyoming.com/contact-us). **Governor:** 307-777-7434, [governor.wyo.gov/contact/governor](http://governor.wyo.gov/contact/governor).

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*Predator Defense is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible per IRS guidelines.*

Help us persevere. Donate today at [predatordefense.org](http://predatordefense.org).