Dear Friend of Predator Defense,

We hold out hope this mailing finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirits, but know the likelihood is that you or someone you care about is experiencing grief, anxiety and economic uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have faced our own losses and setbacks in recent months, but want you to know that Predator Defense, as an organization, remains alive and kicking. And you—our allies in the fight to restore the rightful role of wolves, cougars, coyotes and other native predators and end the war on wildlife—remain in our thoughts.

While the challenges facing our world may seem overwhelming, they are not unsolvable...if we persist. We believe it is more vital than ever that we band together on the state and local level to press for positive change. And in recent months we’ve clearly seen the power of the states to effect progress, regardless of our federal government’s stonewalling and sabotage. In 2020 our key focuses for championing America’s vital native predators are:

Transforming State Wildlife Agencies from Killers to Conservers

Only four percent of Americans are hunters, yet the agencies responsible for our wildlife are primarily staffed by hunters. As a result they essentially serve as glorified hunting clubs, killing thousands of predators so deer and elk populations are maintained at artificially high levels. We, the other 96 percent, are the vast majority, so it should follow that our wildlife agencies would proportionally represent us.

To this end, we’re currently developing a blueprint for a state ballot initiative in Oregon that will leverage overwhelming public sentiment and scientific fact to force state wildlife agencies to actually protect wildlife. It would turn the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife from a killing agency into a conservation agency. This blueprint can then be modified for other state wildlife agencies nationwide.

Leveraging Our Big Win: If Idaho Can Change, Any State Can

Idaho has long been Ground Zero for wildlife killing, but the way this is changing is a testament to not giving up. We’re pleased to announce In March 2020 we

— cont. on page 4
HIGHLIGHTS

1990-1995
Initially called Cascade Wildlife Rescue, Brooks Fahy began the organization in 1990 as a hospital and care center for injured and orphaned native predators, including bears, bobcats, cougars, coyotes, and foxes. In 1992, Cher Briggs joined him. Together, they filed a critical need, helping rehabilitate hundreds of predators, and were an active voice for species protection.

1990
M-44 "cyanide bomb" outlawed.

1994
Helped woman whose dog was killed by M-44 sodium cyanide device set on family farm near Harrisburg, Oregon. This woman also suffered secondary poisoning while trying to help her dog.

1996
Stopped aerial gunning of coyotes at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and lethal control at Portland International Airport.

1998
Stopped livestock protection collars made with deadly wildlife poison Compound 1080 from being introduced in Oregon. Stopped proposed coyote sport hunting at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

2000
Made emergency request to Office of Homeland Security to ban Compound 1080, citing potential use as chemical weapon. Received extensive press coverage.

2001
Placed 2,000 "Tip Line" posters at remote trailheads in Idaho, letting people know poison baits had been put out, ostensibly to kill wolves, but dogs and other non-target animals suffered. Shortly thereafter, the poisoning stopped.

2003
Convened town meetings and media blitz in Oxford, AL, home of Full Chemical, the only company in the world that produces Compound 1080.

2004
Driving force behind bill to outlaw Compound 1080, introduced by Congressman Peter Defazio.

2005
Wildlife traps and poisons, like the M-44 "cyanide bomb" pictured above, featured on CNN, CBS, FOX News, and other major media.

2006-Present

2009-Present
Provided support for families who lost pets to wildlife traps and poisons.

2012

2013
Federal legislation to ban both passed with bipartisan support. Bill introduced by S.B. 380, the bill that banned them.

2015
Released whistle-blowing, award-winning documentary, “EXPOSED: USDA’s Secret War on Wildlife.”

2017-Present
Assisted the Mansfield family of Pocatello, ID, after their 14-year-old son, Canyon, out walking his dog on a hill behind their house, accidentally triggered an illegally set M-44. He watched his dog die an agonizing death, but was spared death himself due to wind direction, and has suffered long-term health issues. After their initial trauma, the Mansfields became activists, traveling to Washington, D.C., with us twice in support of the bill to ban M-44s nationwide and participating in the documentary “Lethal Control,” which features multiple victims we’ve helped.

2019
Got M-44 “cyanide bombs” banned in Oregon, creating a West Coast free of M-44s. Success due to exponentiating media coverage, public outcry, petitioning wildlife managers & elected officials, public hearings with victims & expert witnesses, followed by S.B. 560, the bill that banned them.

2020
Prevented in Idaho lawsuit against Wildlife Services, stopping wolf-killing in wilderness areas and other special places, halting use of snares to target wolves, and banning M-44 use statewide until a full EIS is completed.

WE'RE CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD

We're changing hearts and minds to make a better world.

We're not part of the corporate pack.

We don't spend money on marketing gimmicks.

We don't sell our membership list.

We're not a 501(c)3 charity.

We don't use a storefront address.

We don't have a website.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

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.
prevailed in our Idaho lawsuit against USDA Wildlife Services, stopping their wolf-killing in wilderness areas and other special places, halting the use of snares targeting wolves, and banning M-44 ‘cyanide bomb’ use statewide for several more years, until a full Environmental Impact Statement is completed. This suit was filed in 2016; a district judge dismissed it in 2018 and we appealed. In 2019, the circuit court overturned the federal court’s dismissal, setting the stage for negotiations, which resulted in the settlement agreement.

This is a tremendous step forward for protecting wolves in Idaho. And the extended ban on the use of M-44s is a big step forward in our national effort to compel Wildlife Services to stop manufacturing and using these indiscriminate devices.

Next we’re planning to expand this win for wildlife, pets and people to an even greater victory in Idaho. We are co-plaintiffs in a lawsuit accusing Wildlife Services of ignoring the best available science and unnecessarily killing thousands of coyotes and other wildlife each year without examining the implications and damage. In this lawsuit we are expertly represented by attorneys from Western Watersheds Project and Advocates for the West.

Help Us Celebrate Our 30th Year!

As you likely know, we’ve long been the tip of the spear in the war for sane wildlife policies, working to release our native predators from persecution and free them up to carry out their critical roles in nature. It is grueling and heartbreaking work, and I often can’t believe we’re still at it 30 years later.

I recently heard someone say, “I’d rather be an optimist proved wrong, than a pessimist proved right.” It made me think about how I choose to move forward in my daily life. While I’m frequently angry and often feel helpless about our world and the plight of predators, that choice regarding how I think and feel in my daily work is up to me. I’ve decided choosing to believe more progress is possible is an energizing and potentially contagious thought. And so, at Predator Defense we choose to believe we can continue to make the world better for top predators. We hope you join us in this choice, and that we can continue to count on your support as we move forward in this our 30th year.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy
Executive Director

Wildlife is not like ears of corn ripening for the harvest.

Intact families of native predators are necessary for intact ecosystems.

Wildlife and wild lands are also essential for the health of human beings.

Help us help wildlife. Support our work at predatordefense.org.