

TWO KILLERS THAT NEED TO GO

FACT SHEET

lethal

Poisons set in the great outdoors for “predator control” cause death in minutes to hours.

inhumane

Death is horrifying and often agonizingly painful.

indiscriminate

Poisons don't just kill targets. They also kill endangered species, wildlife and pets.

unscientific

Killing predators leads to chaos in their social structures, which often increases both predation and breeding.

unnecessary

Killing predators has proven ineffective in reducing livestock losses. Nonlethal deterrence methods work much better.

& a potential terror threat

THEY CANNOT BE USED SAFELY & MUST BE BANNED

A federal program within the USDA called Wildlife Services has been killing native species on behalf of the agricultural industry for decades. Two of the most dangerous poisons in the agency's arsenal are Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide. The latter is placed in spring loaded ejectors called M-44s. The EPA has rated both poisons at Category 1 toxicity, the highest degree of acute toxicity. But they are being placed in America's great outdoors where children and pets play, and the body count from unintentional deaths is piling up.

M-44s

- Spring-activated devices that eject a deadly dose of sodium cyanide. Triggered when touched or pulled by animals or people. Granules can spray up to five feet.
- Wildlife agents are required to carry an antidote, amyl nitrate. But people who stumble across M-44s, which are often unmarked, have no such protection. And children and dogs can't read the signs.
- Contain a lure to bait coyotes, but also attract non-target wildlife and dogs.
- M-44s account for 10-15,000 animal deaths a year per USDA Program Data, and untold numbers of domestic dogs. Whistle-blowers say agents rarely record pet deaths, are often told to lie, and discard the evidence (www.predatordefense.org/exposed).
- Sodium cyanide suffocates the body's cells. It causes dizziness, weakness, labored breathing, and nausea, followed by a weak/irregular heartbeat, unconsciousness, convulsions, and death. Victims exhibit intense anxiety. They can die within minutes or suffer for hours.

Compound 1080

- Sodium fluoroacetate, aka Compound 1080, is one of the deadliest poisons on earth. One teaspoon can kill up to 100 adults. There is no antidote.
- Water-soluble, odorless, colorless, tasteless.
- A potential terror weapon via water and food supplies.
- Poison injected into collars on domestic sheep and goats to kill coyotes.
- Absorbed through the stomach and intestines, open wounds, or breaks in the skin. Causes the breakdown of essential cellular processes resulting in cell death and gross organ failure.
- Victims' positions and conditions—including vomited lungs, distended veins, and evacuated bowels and bladders—show that animals poisoned by Compound 1080 die an agonizingly painful death. Deer who have accidentally ingested it have been observed trying to rip open their own bellies. Dogs appear to be driven insane by excruciating pain before they succumb to death.

THE TERRORISM RISK: The potential for bioterrorism from widespread distribution of Compound 1080 should not be underestimated. Due to its insidious and extremely dangerous nature, the FBI has acknowledged that it is a “highly toxic pesticide judged most likely to be used by terrorists or for malicious intent.” Both the FBI and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service list Compound 1080 as a substance that may be sought for use as a possible chemical warfare agent in public water supplies.

THE UNINTENDED TARGETS: Wildlife Services' own records show numerous mistakes made and risks taken with M-44 sodium cyanide. Once placed in the field, they are essentially uncontrolled. Countless animals are never found after an M-44 firing. Compound 1080 collars can be punctured or damaged by barb wire, thorny bushes, etc., spilling their poison onto surrounding lands.

THE INEFFECTIVENESS: The impact of Compound 1080 and M-44s on preventing livestock losses is minuscule and therefore not worth the profound risks and harm they cause to wildlife populations and ecosystems. These poisons comprise a tiny fraction of all lethal control methods used by Wildlife Services. Meanwhile, predation is one of the smallest causes of livestock loss (behind disease, birthing problems, weather, digestive issues...even poisoning!).

M-44s & Compound 1080 have already killed countless dogs, endangered species, and non-target wildlife. Children remain at grave risk. Please help us ban these poisons by supporting the Chemical Poisons Reduction Act, aka “Canyon's Law,” in honor of a 14-year-old Pocatello boy who accidentally triggered the M-44 that killed his dog (see back). It is vital, common-sense legislation that will improve public safety while saving tax dollars.

RECENT M-44 VICTIMS

This Idaho family lost their dog to poisons placed by government wildlife agents. They almost lost their child.

Meet the Mansfield family of Pocatello, Idaho. They lost their beloved lab, Kasey, to an unmarked M-44 "cyanide bomb" on March 16, 2017. 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 of losing his best friend, he had to be hospitalized and closely monitored and has suffered long-term health effects.

The family is headed to D.C. for a second time in April 2019 to urge Congress to prevent other families from suffering similar tragedies by passing legislation to ban M-44s. Learn more and meet other M-44 victims at www.predatordefense.org.



Will it take the death of a child to ban M-44 "cyanide bombs" nationwide?

Not if you help prevent further tragedies like these by supporting the Chemical Poisons Reduction Act, also known as "Canyon's Law," that will be introduced the week of April 8, 2019.

To cosponsor or get more information, please email Kris Pratt, Legislative Director for Congressman DeFazio, at kris.pratt@mail.house.gov.



Wyoming families mourn two dogs

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 their families were out for a beautiful pre-spring walk on the prairie, one they'd taken many times before. In her shock and grief, Roxy Marie repeatedly kissed her deceased dog, exposing herself to poisoning. The families were devastated.