The Outdoorsman

Bulletin Number 45 July-Aug 2011

F&G Vet Continues to Mislead Commission, Public about Both Reporting & Impact of Hydatid Disease

By George Dovel

Until recently when I provided facts to offset Idaho F&G statements promoting its destructive "Wildlands" ecosystem management agenda, agency officials promptly deleted those statements. This included firing a wolf biologist who told a Boise State reporter wolves managed wildlife better than humans did.

But each time I expose the Department's role in introducing hydatid disease into Idaho and then covering up what it did, IDFG Veterinarian Mark Drew responds with a mixture of facts and fiction that further confuses rather than clarifies what actually happened. Following my "F&G Perpetuates Ignorance with Misinformation" article in the June 2011 Outdoorsman, the material presented by Drew to the F&G Commission illustrates his tactic.

"Bull-Essays" and "Cow-Essays"

When I received and forwarded Drew's material via email to Dr. Valerius Geist for his comments on July 28, he responded with the following E-mail – published here with his permission:

From: Valerius Geist
To: George Dovel
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 6:31 PM

Any professor who has read innumerable essays by undergraduates is familiar with the classification of Bull-essays and Cow-essays. Bull equals opinion without basis; Cow is recitation of facts without understanding. What I am reading here about *Echinococcus granulosus* leans strongly towards Cow. The recitation of disjointed facts about hydatid disease in the referred literature is not the mark of professional excellence, although I do not doubt for an instant that the summaries were done in good faith and with the very best of intentions.

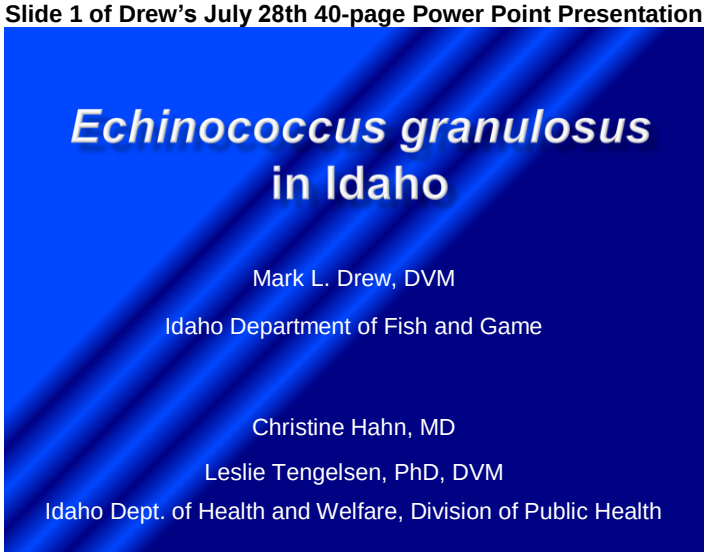
Missing is an answer to the questions: what happens when wolves deposit hydatid egg infested feces on lawns, driveways or school yards in hamlets and suburbia while trying to catch deer and elk between the houses? Or what happens to ranch families when their beloved pooch feeds on a gut pile of infected deer and elk left by hunters close to the ranch houses?

In the decades past, hydatid infections in humans were rare. But in those days tens of thousands of trappers, encouraged by bounties, killed every wolf they could, while predator control officers swiftly eliminated any pack that arrived in areas with agriculture, let alone the hundreds of thousands of hunters that were free to kill any wolf on sight during regular hunting seasons, or the aerial dropping of poisoned horse meat over wolf concentrations that went on all through the 50's and early 60's. This was going on in the heartland of wolf distribution.

Are our colleagues not aware of this? Why were there no incidents of wolves confronting humans, or killing livestock, or hydatid disease reports? Guess why hydatid diseases spread with the reclassification of wolves to "game animal." When you look at survivors of hydatid cyst infections only, what conclusions are natural? When the technique of chest X-rays misses cysts in the liver, when X-ray images of cysts are routinely mistaken for tuberculosis, what conclusions can you draw? Where oh where is professionalism?

In Sorrow,
Val Geist

Slide 1 of Drew's July 28th 40-page Power Point Presentation



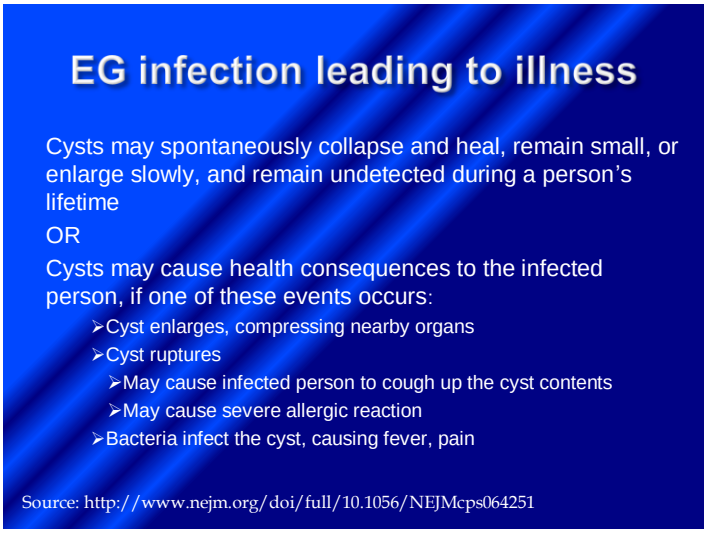
continued on page 2

F&G vet continues to mislead – *cont. from page 1*

H&W Co-Authorship Does Not Guarantee Truth

Co-authorship of the 40-page "*E. granulosus* in Idaho" presentation by ID Dept. of Health and Welfare State Epidemiologist Christine Hahn, M.D., and Deputy State Epidemiologist Leslie Tengelsen, D.V.M., may have been designed to add credibility to Drew's report. But despite the appearance of more transparency in the Power Point presentation, it even cites non-existent facts from one study which lead the viewer to an entirely different conclusion than the researchers published (see below).

Slide 17 of Drew's Power Point Presentation



In this slide and numerous others, Drew continues to promote his and the other worm counters' claim that hydatid disease spread by wolves almost never causes a problem in people. The 2007 New England Journal of Medicine article he cites as the source at the bottom of the slide does ***not*** say that undetected cysts do not cause problems, including death.

What the article ***does*** say is, "up to 75% of infected people may remain free of symptoms for more than 10 years." It does not tell you how many of the 75% will eventually experience severe illness or even death resulting from the disease that may never be diagnosed because autopsies to determine the cause of death are rarely performed.

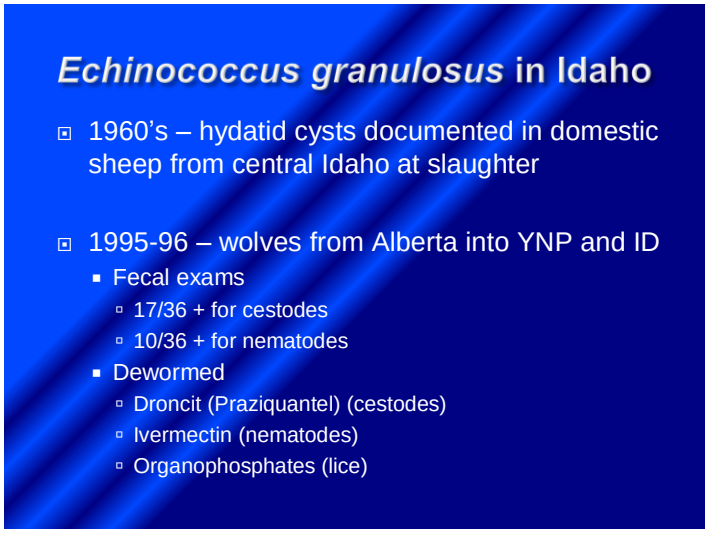
A growing number of studies that Drew fails to cite advise that the greatest problem with hydatid disease is not the percentage of the population that are infected but rather the number infected that are misdiagnosed. If Drew took the time to read the NEJM article titled, ***"A Growing Problem"*** that he cited, he would find that the misdiagnosis of hydatid disease is the "growing problem."

The Doctors and other specialists who treated the pregnant patient failed to consider hydatid disease – even when a chest X-Ray followed by a CT scan revealed the existence of a fluid-filled cyst 3-inches in diameter in her right lung. Although the patient had a persistent cough caused by the hydatid cyst in her right lobe, coughing up cyst contents did not exist and was not even mentioned in the article, despite its mention in Drew's slide.

Drew continues to repeat the disproved fifty-year-old "Eskimo" theory (see Pg 2 of June 2011 Outdoorsman) as an excuse to protect the wolves, their worms and diseases from control by humans. Although he finally admits that 17 of the 36 wolves captured in Alberta and sent to YNP and Idaho tested positive for cestodes* in their feces (see Slide 10), he reportedly continues to delay the results of tests to confirm the strain or strains of hydatid tapeworms infecting wolves and ungulates in Idaho.

(*Cyclophyllid cestodes [including E. granulosus tapeworms] have 4 suckers on their scolex [head], see Pg 5 of June 2011 Outdoorsman)

Slide 10 of Drew's Power Point Presentation



Since May 5, 2011, the five Lolo Zone wolves shot by Wildlife Services helicopter gunners plus one shot by an IDFG employee, and the wolf shot by Sheriff's Deputies plus four more trapped by WS and the Deputies at Elk City, are reportedly among dead wolves being tested to determine the Strain or Strains of Hydatid disease in Idaho.

According to Western Predator Control Assn. Director Clay Dethlefsen, serology lab tests, like the one Drew is referring to, require only about 6-10 days to get results. But when Drew was asked by F&G Commission Chairman McDermott when he would have the test results back on the carcasses they have recently collected, he responded that it would take at least six months.

The F&G "Salami Technique"

Long-term undisputed research in Alaska and Yukon Territory proved that wolves decimate moose and caribou populations unless wolf populations are strictly maintained at or below the maximum healthy wolf-to-prey ratio established for each prey species. Yet when IDFG helped FWS transplant the Canadian wolves into Idaho, it was already systematically destroying Idaho backcountry elk herds to prepare for what was to come.

If you have been reading The Outdoorsman for even 16 months and still doubt the truth of that statement, the "Salami Technique" used by the State biologists who still pretend to be managing our wildlife resource has worked on you. They feed you the bad news (truth) in small enough doses that it causes the average hunter to grumble with each dose – yet eventually accept what happened and go on until the next "slice" of bad news arrives.

When the Truth was finally Revealed, F&G Arranged an Elaborate "Dog and Pony Show" to Shift the Blame

In 1997 when Clearwater Region hunters read a memo from George Pauley to Jay Crenshaw warning of a radical decline in bull and calf elk, and learned they had lost 52% of Idaho's famous Lolo Zone elk herd from 1989-1997, with surviving calves declining from 2,890 to 433, they were understandably upset. IDFG biologists quickly formed Committees and Teams designed to falsely shift the blame from their over-killing the elk to "plant succession".

At that time, Virgil Moore, who is now the IDFG Director, convinced the Commission to sell increased hunting opportunity for both sexes rather than restore game – even in the decimated Lolo Zone. During the next five years, although citizens implemented minimum population criteria and an honest harvest report, IDFG biologists increased the Lolo Zone elk loss to 71% of the 1989 herd!

These same Biologists adopted incredibly complex elk seasons that give extra hunting opportunity to a privileged few for a price, and used the decimated elk population as their minimum population criteria. What was then only 29% of the 1989 Lolo elk herd is now down to only 10% since biologists have let wolves "manage" what was left of their prey.

But gullible leaders of hunting organizations are still trying to negotiate improved game management with their so-called wildlife "managers." Yet ***21 years ago*** in July 1990, the IDFG biologist who is now Deputy Director, Jim Unsworth, wrote the following in his 5-Year Elk Plan:

"The Department believes the greatest return to society from the wildlife resource occurs when the maximum variety of products is provided and that maximizing a single product (e.g., harvest) is not necessarily desirable. We will encourage and promote nonconsumptive use of elk."

If you read that carefully and still believe State game managers are really trying to restore depleted big game herds for hunters instead of pretending to "manage ecosystems," please continue reading the following documentation just as carefully:

Experts Told IDFG Wolves Would Destroy Idaho Elk

In January of 1999, I was present when Dr. Valerius Geist and Dr. Charles Kay spent several hours warning IDFG officials the wolves would decimate Idaho elk unless wolf numbers were strictly limited. In 2002, when the Lolo elk herd had declined by 71%, the most experienced researcher of the impact of wolves on wild ungulates in North America, Tom Bergerud, told the Idaho Fish and Game Commission wolves would cause a major decline in Idaho elk herds and would do the same thing to alternate prey once the elk were in a predator pit.

State Biologists Also Could Not Ignore the Evidence Just Across the Canadian Border

The same scenario that has occurred with wolves in Idaho played out in Southern Alberta about 15 years earlier when the northern wolves repopulated SW Alberta. Initially they found abundant prey, but Canadian researcher Mark Hebblewhite spent 10 years documenting the destruction of that big game by wolves in the Banff ecosystem (see Pg. 12 of Feb-April 2010 Outdoorsman).

Hebblewhite subscribes to the same so-called "ecosystem management" (NON-management of wildlife) philosophy as Idaho, Montana and other state wildlife biologists, and they embraced his 2007 published recommendation to let wolves, bears and lions drive their prey species into a predator pit. In 2008, IDFG hired him to analyze mule deer fawn survival.

The following are undisputed facts Hebblewhite published in the Banff study in 2007, with wolf densities comparable to those that exist in Idaho and Montana:

1. Wolves destroyed 90% of the elk population.
2. Improving forage made elk more vulnerable to wolf predation which reduced elk populations faster.
3. Wolves caused 56% of all moose fatalities and caused an 8% per year decline in moose numbers
4. Wolves drive woodland caribou to extinction.
5. Maintaining pre-wolf ungulate harvests in post-wolf landscapes is a fantasy and is incompatible with (so-called) "ecosystem management."

Despite Wolf Decimation of all Big Game Species, Hebblewhite and Idaho Game Biologists Continue to Advocate No Wolf Control to Restore Big Game

The "Abstract" of a "study" published in Wildlife Monographs Vol. 178, Issue 1, Pages 1-33, August 2011, substitutes the authors' agenda based on opinions – rather than on science-based facts. Lead IDFG study authors Mark Hurley, and Pete Zager, and former Canadian biologist (now MT Professor) Mark Hebblewhite, have all earned a reputation for repeatedly claiming that predator control is too expensive and is almost never an appropriate solution.

The Abstract speculates that in Hurley's 1997-2003 mule deer study, the only time coyote control increased mule deer fawn survival was when there was a shortage of rabbits, and mule deer temporarily became an alternate coyote prey. But several years into that study, Idaho F&G Commissioner Roy Moulton charged that Wildlife Services agents said they were not killing enough coyotes to make a noticeable impact on mule deer numbers.

continued on page 4

F&G vet continues to mislead – *cont. from page 3*

Moulton's charge was never refuted yet the predator preservationists resurrected the flawed study to promote their agenda (which includes not controlling predators) based on rhetoric rather than facts. At the same time that the new report was submitted to The Wildlife Society for publication late in 2009, Idaho biologists also admitted to the Idaho F&G Commission that the famous Lolo elk herd had declined by 57% in just the preceding four years, and said wolves were entirely to blame.

That was a complete reversal of their ongoing claim that wolves were not impacting the elk but it was time for another "slice" of bad news (truth). In a March 8, 2010 special news release, IDFG Director Groen promised: "Idaho Fish and Game is committed to saving the Lolo herd and keeping Idaho's other elk herds healthy."

Then Rachael Admits IDFG's Real Agenda

But in an April 7, 2010 ***Boise Weekly*** article titled "Predator and Prey," State Big Game Manager Jon Rachael said, "The reality is, we're a bit limited on what we can do to help that (Lolo) elk population. We could manage for a much larger number of deer and elk, but that would be a larger number of wolves to go with it."

Rachael continued, "We're so far removed from a natural human-unaffected landscape that's it's just not realistic. Eventually, yes, we would like to reach some sort of balance over time, but it's not likely to be the balance acceptable or desirable for those folks that, for the last 100 years, looked at deer and elk as a food source."

The "natural human-unaffected landscape" that Rachael describes is the same myth the radical biologists always use to promote their lie that nature will balance itself if only civilized humans will leave it alone. We have proof that humans have been manipulating the flora and fauna in North America for more than 10,000 years since the current wolves first arrived, but Rachael and his fellow ecosystem-worshippers ignore that and other facts.

IDFG Biologists, Director Groen and Commissioners Took No Action to Save Elk as Groen Promised.

The frank admission by Rachael that IDFG has no intention of controlling wolves to restore game for hunters to feed their family was emphasized by the fact that neither the biologists nor the Commission took any action to make Groen's promise come true when they had the chance.

Despite: 1) ideal snow conditions in the Lolo for the Wildlife Services helicopter crew to kill wolves for two months after Groen made his promise; 2) Commissioners' 2009 assurance that Wildlife Services could be called in if its ***minimum*** wolf quotas were not met; 3) the report from biologists to the Commission that the Lolo elk had declined to only 10 percent of historical numbers; and 4) only 13 Lolo wolves were killed in the 7-month season with about 150 wolves remaining; no Commissioner or biologist even publicly mentioned asking USDA WS experts to kill Lolo wolves - or any other wolves decimating Idaho elk herds!

Was Mark Drew's Role Preventing the Spread of Wildlife Disease – or Hiding It From the Public?

Idaho Code Sec. 36-106 (e) **Duties and Powers of Director**.

10. In order to monitor and evaluate the disease status of wildlife and to protect Idaho's livestock resources, any suspicion by fish and game personnel of a potential communicable disease process in wildlife shall be reported within twenty-four (24) hours to the department of agriculture. All samples collected for disease monitoring or disease evaluation of wildlife shall be submitted to the division of animal industries, department of agriculture.

On January 23, 2006, the lungs of a mountain goat carcass discovered in Elmore County, Idaho, contained two cysts which were removed and analyzed by IDFG Veterinarian Mark Drew in the Wildlife Health Laboratory in Caldwell. Once they were identified as hydatid cysts, IDFG Director Huffaker or his employees were required by law to report the newly discovered contageous disease to the Idaho Department of Agriculture within 24 hours (see above Code Section).

Instead, Drew says he told only his boss in the Wildlife Lab plus IDFG Wildlife Bureau Chief (now Deputy Director) Jim Unsworth. The information was kept secret by a handful of officials while they examined deer, elk and wolf carcasses and found an undisclosed number were also infected with the disease.

Meanwhile, on April 1, 2006, I mailed the Feb-Mar 2006 Outdoorsman which included a 3-page article by Dr. Val Geist titled "Information for Outdoorsmen in Areas Where Wolves Have Become Common." It described how increasing wolf populations would decimate the game, then increase killing of livestock, dogs, etc. and threaten humans, and finally, if wolf density was not controlled, infect dogs and humans with Hydatid disease.

But instead of heeding Dr. Geist's warning and trying to halt the spread of hydatid disease, IDFG officials continued to ignore Idaho law and allowed the disease to spread uninterrupted for nearly four more years. When Tom Remington's research revealed what they had done and I published the truth about their deception in the Dec. 2009 Outdoorsman, they began telling the media and the Idaho Legislature absurd lies claiming hydatid disease really wasn't a threat to humans who would have to put wolf feces in their mouth to catch the disease.

"White Paper" Implies Drew Reported Disease Timely

When I exposed the absurdity of those lies in the January 2010 Outdoorsman and wrote they had not even told Idaho Health & Welfare or the Ag Vet. the danger they caused by concealing the disease from them, they quickly tried to cover their backside. In addition to getting H&W to issue a Hydatid disease bulletin in April 2010, Drew sent a "White Paper" to the Legislature implying he had told both agencies when the disease was first discovered.

Drew's undated White Paper was given to key legislators during their Jan.-March 2010 session and was soon available on the IDFG website. However a copy of that same paper, with the date "July 7, 2011" added, was emailed to me by IDFG lawyer DAG Dallas Burkhalter on July 28, 2011, and listed as one of five exhibits provided to the F&G Commission that morning in response to my freedom-of-information request sent to Mark Drew.

The following exact photocopy of the "Reporting" paragraph on page 2 of that exhibit was adjusted to fit our columns and font style:

Reporting of *Echinococcus granulosus* in Idaho

Echinococcus granulosus in animals was a reportable disease in Idaho in 2006, but is not currently on the list of reportable diseases in animals. When the parasite was found in the mountain goat in 2006, the Wildlife Health Laboratory supervisor and the Wildlife Bureau Chief were notified. The disease was reported to the state veterinarian at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. When additional hydatid cysts were found in deer and elk, these were also reported to the Wildlife Bureau and the state veterinarian. Because of the possible zoonotic potential of this parasite, these findings were also reported to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The Idaho Department of Agriculture was notified about all preliminary results in the Foreyt et al. (2009) paper and received a copy of the final published paper.

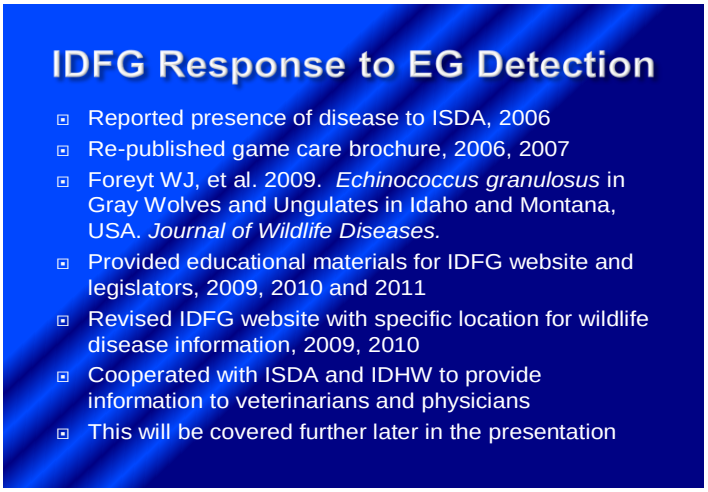
Echinococcus granulosus in humans is not a reportable disease in Idaho. Therefore, the presumed lack of human reports may not reflect the actual number of cases in the state. However, human infections with hydatid cysts are rare in North America. (emphasis added)

I was not able to document any of the underlined claims with two freedom-of-information requests citing I.C. Code Sec. 36-106(e)10 and referencing the underlined statements that I sent to ID Dept. of Ag State Veterinarian Dr. Bill Barton. With the exception of this document written by Drew, and the study report by Foreyt sent to me by Dr. Barton's office, they denied the existence of any communications, notes, etc. concerning hydatid disease to or from anyone.

Drew informally sharing bits of information with his boss at the research facility can hardly be construed as ongoing reports from the IDFG Director to the ID Dept. of Agriculture and to the State Veterinarian. Why is there no record of any action or even discussion concerning the alleged reports if they actually occurred?

Even if Drew or IDFG provided a copy of the annual Wildlife Health Lab reports for FY2006, FY2007 and FY2008 to Ag, H&W and the State Vet, they would probably be just as meaningless as they were to most people outside of IDFG. Although the lab found hydatid cysts in deer and elk and hydatid tapeworms in wolves in all three fiscal years, the reports never mentioned both in the same year and never even mentioned Hydatid ***disease***.

Slide 13 of Drew's Power Point Presentation



Note that none of the underlined alleged reports to the Idaho State Veterinarian or ID H&W prior to the late 2009 publication of the Foreyt wolf parasite study are claimed in the above July 28, 2011 slide presentation by Drew. Being more truthful now does not alter the four-year cover-up that allowed the decimation of the elk herds and the disease to be spread across much of Idaho.

Hydatid Disease Facts to Remember

If the above facts are confusing please concentrate on the following concerning wolves and rates of infection:

1) No Hydatid tapeworms were reported in Idaho wolves before 2006 and no hydatid cysts were reported in Idaho elk and deer before then although they obviously existed.
2) Legitimate medical research reports that ~75% of humans infected with hydatid disease do not experience symptoms until >10 years after the date of infection.
3) Canadian research indicates that the rate of infection in moose is directly proportional to the density of wolves which determines the density of infective eggs.
4) Where wolves are not allowed to exist in close proximity to humans and their animals, the rate of human infection is always much lower.
5) Diagnosis of hydatid disease in what appears to be a simple cyst can be both expensive and dangerous.

IDFG Veterinarians Mark Drew and Phil Mamer, two different Wildlife Bureau Chiefs and two different IDFG Directors all approved and transmitted the deceiving WHL reports. They and other officials refused to control the rapid spread of this disease by wolves and concealed its existence from the general public for at least four years – until citizens finally discovered and exposed the cover-up.

The recent award of $1.9 million by a Utah Judge to the family of a boy killed by a bear in a FS campground, was based on the federal agency's failure to warn campers of the potential threat, and the state agency's failure to take immediate action to remove the offending bear after it first entered the campground seeking food. IDFG's failure to warn and to take action to reduce human infection was compounded by its cover-up of the threat to humans.

Deer Seek Refuge from Predators in Rural Towns

By George Dovel

08-19-11 afternoon. 3-pt. mule deer buck in velvet stretches to eat pears from tree. Larger 4-pt. buck, also in velvet, glares at smaller buck from neighbor's yard where the tree is located. Mule deer doe (lower right) jumped in trailer to reach apples in other neighbor's yard.

As expanding wolf populations began killing large numbers of elk and deer in Idaho County and other rural counties in Idaho, many of the mule deer that survived moved into the small rural towns. Taking advantage of the people and their houses and ornamental shrubs instead of relying on elevation and distance for their protection, they regularly bed in the bushes next to the sidewalk along this town's Main Street during the day.

Although some of these deer can, and occasionally do, pose a physical threat to humans, especially during the November rut, most residents acknowledge uncontrolled wolves are their common enemy. In an Idaho county the size of New Jersey, containing all of one and part of three wilderness areas, IDFG biologists' refusal to control wolves has devastated the local economies.

08-27-11 evening. 4-pt. buck has scraped off all of its velvet and is ruminating in a cool spot in the back yard where Patti Dovel took all of these deer photos.

08-27-11 evening. 3-pt. buck still scraping its remaining velvet on peach tree limbs. Ear tag identifies deer as problem buck.

08-27-11 evening. 3-pt. buck eating peaches it shook lose from the branches while scraping velvet from antlers. Most residents accept loss of fruit and damage to trees.

In National and Provincial Parks in the Western United States and Canada, cow elk move into areas around buildings and humans to escape wolves when they give birth. At the end of the 2010 elk calving season, Chief Yellowstone National Park Ranger Tim Reid published a sequence of 14 photos showing a cow elk giving birth to a calf by the YNP Administration Building at Mammoth Hot Springs near the North Entrance (see photo below):

Reid's submission of the photos for publication on the internet included the following comments:

"You can see how wildlife and people can live together harmoniously. And I figure it is one of the few places in the Yellowstone area where a cow elk can safely have her calf without it being eaten immediately by a grizzly or a wolf!"

Mammoth Hot Springs

Resource Conservation Staff members in Alberta's Jasper National Park report using 3-4 person teams to locate and move newborn elk calves that their mothers have stashed in busy, predator-free areas near people. The calves are quickly carried to locations where their protective mothers are less likely to confront humans.

During roadside cow/calf surveys conducted the following May, biologists found that "town elk" – those that remained around humans all year – had almost no calf losses compared to significant loss of calves that wintered outside of town where wolves are free to take them down.

The foregoing examples illustrate the fallacy of so-called "ecosystem management", which is really protection of large native predators at the expense of other wildlife.

The Myth of Pristine Nature

A review of *Rambunctious Garden: Saving Nature in a Post-Wild World*

By Ronald Bailey

(NOTE: Ronald Bailey is science correspondent at ***Reason*** magazine and Reason.com, where this column first appeared on August 16, 2011. The column is re-printed here with their permission. – ED)

"Nature is almost everywhere. But wherever it is, there is one thing nature is not: pristine," writes science journalist Emma Marris in her engaging new book *Rambunctious Garden: Saving Nature in a Post-Wild World*. She adds, "We must temper our romantic notion of untrammeled wilderness and find room next to it for the more nuanced notion of a global, half-wild rambunctious garden, tended by us."

Marris' message will discomfort both environmental activists and most ecologists who are in thrall to the damaging cult of pristine wilderness and the false ideology of the balance of nature. But it should encourage and inspire the rest of us.

Marris begins by exposing the vacuity of the notion of the ecological *baseline.* "For many conservationists, restoration to a pre-human or a pre-European baseline is seen as healing a wounded or sick nature," explains Marris. "For others, it is an ethical duty. We broke it; therefore we must fix it.

Baselines thus typically don't act as a scientific *before* to compare with an *after*. They become the *good*, the goal, the one correct state." What is so g*ood* about historical ecosystems? I too have noted that ecologists when asked this same question become almost inarticulate. They just *know* that historical ecosystems are better.

So many ecologists set the historical baseline as the condition of ecosystems before Europeans arrived. Why? The fact is that primitive peoples killed off the largest species in North and South America, Australia and Pacific Islands thousands of years ago. For example, after people showed up about 14,000 years ago, North America lost 60 or so species of tasty mammals that weighed over 100 pounds, including giant ground sloths, mammoths, mastodons, cheetahs, camels, and glyptodonts.

Marris argues that the cult of pristine wilderness was created by nature romantics like John Muir. Muir is famous for advocating that the Yosemite Valley be turned into a national park.

As Marris notes, wild nature for Muir was a necessity for "tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people" suffering from "the vice of over-industry and the deadly apathy of luxury." And for some people it might be—but that is not a scientific claim about ecosystems and their "integrity."

In fact, Marris reports that there is precious little scientific support for the ideology that pristine nature is somehow "better" than the mélange that humanity has created by moving species around the globe. For example, she visits Hawaii where half of the plant species now living on the islands are non-native.

One brave younger ecologist, Joe Mascaro, studies novel ecosystems that are developing on Hawaii that incorporate both native and non-native species. Among other things, Mascaro "found that the novel forests, on average, had just as many species as native forests" and "that in many measures of forest productivity, such as nutrient cycling and biomass, novel forests matched or outproduced the native forests."

Marris contrasts Mascaro with another ecologist, Christian Giardina, who helps manage the Laupahoehoe Natural Area Reserve in Hawaii from which he wants to extirpate non-natives. Yet even Giardina muses over dinner, "Are we so religious about this biodiversity ethic that we need to be called on it?" He answers his own question: "If you really dig down to why we should care, you end up with nothing. You are running on faith that we should care."

Although Marris doesn't cite him, she is plowing much the same intellectual ground as University of Maryland philosopher Marc Sagoff. Sagoff has challenged ecologists to name any specifically ecological criterion by which scientists can objectively determine whether an ecosystem whose history they don't know has been invaded or not.

Are invaded ecosystems less productive? No. Are they less species-rich? No. And so on. In fact, Sagoff points out that there is no objective criterion for distinguishing between "disturbed" ecosystems and allegedly pristine ones.

Marris also cites research that shows that the notion of the "balance of nature" is scientifically specious. Early in the 20th century influential ecologist Frederic Clements developed the theory that each ecosystem tended toward a stable climax that, once achieved, was perfectly balanced unless disturbed by people.

Each participant in the climax ecosystem fitted tightly into niches as a result of coevolving together. However, ecologist Henry Gleason, a contemporary of Clements, countered that ecosystems were assembled by chance just depending on what species got there first and were successful in competing with other species as they arrived. For the most part, 20th century ecologists fell into the Clements' camp.

Now we know now that Gleason was far more right than Clements—ecosystems are largely assembled by chance. For example, northern temperate forests are composed of an assemblage of species that mixed together as they raced northward out of various refugia as the glaciers retreated.

Although Marris mentions it briefly, one of the more fascinating novel ecosystems is the accidental rainforest created on Ascension Island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. A little over 150 years ago, the British navy began receiving shipments of trees and shrubs from all over the world from the collections at Kew Gardens in London.

Once planted, they took hold and have transformed the bare peak once known as White Mountain into Green Mountain today. Species don't need to coevolve to create fully functioning ecosystems [PDF]; they make the best of what they have.

Only when the ecologically-correct ideologies that blind us are upended can we can see the real nature that is all around us. Baselines are properly transformed into aesthetic choices rather than "scientific" mandates.

For example, Marris discusses the ambitious Pleistocene Rewilding proposal in which proxy wild species from Africa might be used to replace those North American species killed off by early peoples. African cheetahs might chase after pronghorns, and elephants graze where mastodons once did.

A small version of rewilding is the fascinating Oostvaardersplassen [PDF] experiment where researchers are designing an ecosystem that aims to mimic what Northern Europe might have looked like 10,000 years ago. It is stocked with herds of Konik horses and Heck cattle thought to be respectively similar to the tarpan horses and the aurochs that once roamed Europe.

The newly constructed ecosystem has attracted many wild species that have long been absent from the Netherlands. It is still missing predators, but wolves are apparently moving westward from Eastern Europe.

Marris argues that the conservation and appreciation of nature can take place at far less exotic locations, such as backyards, city parks, farms, and even parking lots. If biodiversity is what is of interest, she notes that the Los Angeles area is home to 60 native tree species, but now hosts 145 species. "With eight to eleven tree species per hectare, L.A. is more diverse than many ecosystem types," she writes.

Another researcher has identified 227 species of bee living in New York City. And if some of us choose to conserve some areas as "pristine" with regard to some preferred aesthetic baseline, that's O.K. Certainly science can be used to help achieve that goal, but such areas become essentially wilderness gardens maintained by "perpetual weeding and perpetual watching."

This gracefully written and well-argued book deserves a wide readership. One hopes that readers will take to heart Marris' chief insight about conservation: "There is no one best goal."

She bravely and correctly concludes, "We've forever altered the Earth, and so now we cannot abandon it to a random fate. It is our duty to manage it. Luckily, it can be a pleasant, even joyful task if we embrace it in the right spirit. Let the rambunctious gardening begin."

(NOTE: It is worth noting that small re-wilding proposals to mimic ecosystems as they might have existed 10,000 years ago are either still just a concept, or else do not yet have predators to contend with. When they do have them, it is very accurate to describe them as "essentially wilderness gardens maintained by perpetual weeding and perpetual watching."

But this concept bears little resemblance to the so-called "ecosystem management" pipedream that State wildlife biologists have been implementing for several decades. They have no intention of maintaining anything – except their restriction of human use and enjoyment of that part of the earth outside of "self-sustaining urban centers," that they still refer to as "Wildlands."

As legitimate scientists continue to challenge the lack of science and the failure to increase biodiversity in the Wildlands agenda, its proponents keep changing the name to something that sounds more scientific – yet isn't.

But whether it's called Wildlands Project, UN Global Biodiversity Assessment, Nongame Wildlife Management, UN Natural Heritage Program, Sustainable Development, Watchable Wildlife, Conservation Biology or Conservation Science, its architects admit that science cannot be used to justify their project as follows:

"The Wildlands Project requires not only a re-thinking of science, politics, land use, industrialization, and civilization, it also requires re-thinking humanity's place in nature. It requires a new philosophical and spiritual foundation for western civilization. That foundation is the ecophilosophy of deep ecology. Deriving much of its ideology from Buddhism and Taoism, and the philosophy of Spinoza, deep ecology contends that science has little to tell us about living in harmony with the planet, and other non-human life forms."

The science still used by state wildlife managers includes whatever is required to keep deceiving hunters and fishermen into providing the funding to continue implementing their destructive agenda. That agenda allows "natural" weather, predators, diseases and parasites to determine the fate of our renewable natural resources.

The natural resource users and the businesses they support in every state have the power to demand elected officials stop funding this insanity. – ED)

What Happened to the Inalienable Rights of Man?

By George Dovel

The Constitution of the State of Idaho begins with "Article 1 Declaration of Rights" which is followed by: "Section 1. INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF MAN. All men are by nature free and equal, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing and protecting property; pursuing happiness and securing safety."

On Mothers Day May 8, 2011, when Boundary County resident Jeremy Hill emerged from the shower and heard his wife screaming at his children outside, he looked out and saw three grizzlies a short distance from where his children had been playing. He grabbed his 13-year-old daughter's .270 rifle and loaded it with the three shells he found as he raced outside to protect his family.

According to a newspaper interview of Boundary County Prosecutor Jack Douglas three months later on August 26th, Hill shot at one of the bears as it entered the pen where two of his children's 4H pigs were housed. Two of the bears ran away and as the limping bear he had shot turned to follow them, Hill's dog entered the fray.

The wounded bear turned and headed straight for a plate glass window behind Hill and he fired his second shot, dropping the bear at close range. Douglas wrote, "Shaken badly but thinking the ordeal was over, Jeremy went back into the house and went to find his family. He picked the 10 month old baby off the bed, and found Rachel with the other children, trying to soothe them and stop their crying.

"Jeremy asked Rachel to get the phone book so he could call Fish and Game, but before he could dial, he looked out and saw that the bear was trying to crawl to the woods. He stopped behind a tree, wounded but not dead, and Jeremy took up the rifle again, carefully walked over to the bear, unsure if it was dead or alive, but knowing that a wounded grizzly bear posed a significant threat. Using his last bullet, he fired a final shot, putting the bear out of his misery and ending the threat.

"He then went in and placed the call to Johnson. When the three officers arrived, Greg Johnson asked Jeremy to "get a different rifle," an indication, Douglas said, of the threat Johnson placed on a wounded predator, and knowing that both the .270 and the sidearms they carried were not sufficient to reliably bring down a bear.

"Grizzly bears are unpredictable, dangerous predators," Douglas said. "In my mind, there's no question that the Hill family was likely in danger or that Jeremy, by his actions, did what he did in defense of his family and his property. I believe that our local IDFG officers did a thorough investigation and came to the proper conclusion that Jeremy Hill acted reasonably in light of the circumstances."

Douglas told how FWS had failed to investigate the incident until a month after they received the report from IDFG, and said it came as a complete surprise when FWS filed a criminal charge against Hill on August 8th. Until the case was settled today, Sept. 7th, with the criminal charge dropped, Hill faced a fine of up to $50,000 and/or up to one year in jail.

There is little doubt that the massive support Hill received from local, county, state and federal officials was at least partly responsible for the criminal complaint being dropped. This included an August 22, 2011 letter from Idaho Gov. Otter to Interior Secretary Salazar agreeing with Hill's action and asking for fairness and compassion from the federal government.

Another reason to drop the charges may have been the suggestion by a popular Boise radio talk show host that Hill should have incinerated the carcass and never reported the shooting to IDFG. But a significant number of predator activists soundly condemned the killing, including *Spokesman-Review* Outdoor Editor Rich Landers.

In his August 24th column he said the dozens of supporters who attended Hill's hearing was simply good political theater for Sen. Keough and Gov. Otter to claim he shouldn't be charged. He also said, "The defense that Hill was defending his children doesn't necessarily fly if the bears weren't in a face-to-face conflict. It's not uncommon for children to be brought indoors for a few days until danger passes, whether they're in the city or the country."

He ended his column with the statement, "Meantime, Jeremy Hill is innocent until proven guilty and should get the benefit of any doubt, which may be more than the grizzly got in a blast of rural justice." His statements were on a par with U.S. Attorney Wendy Olson's claim that Jeremy Hill should have contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when he was confronted by the grizzlies.

When she dropped the criminal complaint, she required Hill to pay a $1,000 fine for violating an FWS regulation. Hill said he paid the fine to avoid putting his family through the stress and cost of a trial.

The answer to the question in the Title, "What Happened to the Inalienable Rights of Man?" in the Idaho Constitution, is simple. When Idaho Senator James McClure voted for the Eagle Protection Act, followed by the Endangered Species Act he, and the others who joined him, gave our Constitutional rights to eagles, hawks, wolves, bears and their parasites and diseases.

The only way we will ever regain those rights is to elect representatives at every level of government who have the intelligence and the integrity to abolish the ESA.


Rachael Hill and her six beautiful children after bear threat.

One of the most important things we can all do to help restore our rights is to politely but firmly tell all of our elected officials to stop pandering to the federal government and to all groups, individuals, and members of the media who espouse the destructive “ecosystem management” agenda. Because many politicians are notoriously forgetful once they win their election or re-election, try to get a written commitment before you and your friends and associates vote.

Remember that we have the power to implement changes at the state, county and local level one person at a time but we must make the changes now, before it’s too late. Meet with others and plan your agenda and prepare brief easy-to-read material that you can leave with officials as a reminder of what they need to concentrate on.

Our future and our children’ future is in your hands so please don’t put it off.

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IDAHO FOR WILDLIFE – News Bulletin No. 11

The United States Government has filed a criminal complaint against Jeremy Hill from Bonners Ferry Idaho for killing 1 of 3 grizzly bears that were attacking his property and which posed a serious and immediate threat to his children. Since the radical environmentalists continue to “Hand Pick” Federal judges like Donald Molloy to ensure the grizzly bear cannot be hunted, many of our Idaho, Montana and Wyoming grizzly bears no longer avoid humans. The Hill family is in need of your support with legal fees to fight an intrusive Government.

Please make checks or money orders payable to:
Jeremy Hill Benefit Account

Mail to:

Wells Fargo Bank
PO Box 1509
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
Att: Jeremy Hill Benefit Account
(Or you can go to your local Wells Fargo bank and donate. Just mention the account is held in Bonners Ferry, Idaho)

Mountain West Bank
PO Box 59
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
Att: Jeremy Hill Benefit Account
(Or go to any Mountain West branch and tell them the account is held at the Bonners Ferry Branch.)

Panhandle State Bank
P.O. Box 1479
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
Att: Jeremy Hill Benefit Account
(Or go to any Panhandle State Bank, Intermountain Community Bank or Magic Valley Bank and tell them the account is held at the Bonners Ferry Branch)

Please contact our Governor, US Senators, and US Congressmen, mayors, county commissioners and state legislators and let them know we can no longer tolerate being held hostage by the endangered Species Act and its divisive and abusive powers.

“To protect Idaho's hunting and fishing heritage. To fight against all legal and legislative attempts by the animal rights and anti-gun organizations who are attempting to take away our rights and freedoms under the constitution of the United States of America. To hold all Federal and State Agencies who are stewards of our Wildlife accountable and ensure that science is used as the primary role for our Wildlife management."

Please Read This if You Receive a Free Subscription

When each issue of The Outdoorsman is printed and mailed, we also mail several hundred "hard" copies to elected and appointed officials in several states. With so much information available at no charge on the internet, we receive fewer substantial donations to cover the cost of these free mailings. We believe it is important for every government official involved in natural resource management to have the opportunity to read the factual information we publish in order to make informed decisions – so as long as you read them we'll provide the money, out of our pocket if necessary, to get them to you.

But during a recent seminar in Salmon, Idaho, sponsored by Idaho For Wildlife, Salmon District Commissioner Gary Power announced that he has never read The Outdoorsman and always throws it in the trash when he receives it in the mail. Now that we know this, his copy will be addressed to someone who desires to read factual information.

If you are receiving a free copy and, like Commissioner Power, do not read the contents, we shall sincerely appreciate a note from you letting us know so we can send your copy to someone else who wants to read another side of issues that affect everyone in your state.

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A Reminder about the Folly of "Ecosystem Management"

The conception of a "*utopian philosophy of ecosystem perfection absent of all human activity*" is such intellectual rubbish, that it raises the hackles on my neck. The "leave it alone" philosophy - if one can call it such - is a baseless faith, believing in a mythical "balance of nature". It is worthless intellectually, ethically or morally - whatever the relation of ethics and morality. It is an expression of intellectual laziness, me-too ism, and a destructive force if expressed in policy. Like it or not we are the makers of our future today, and intellectually lazy, incompetent minds are no help for us in our crisis.

Valerius Geist
Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science.

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