

The Outdoorsman

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Time To Cry Wolf!

by George Dovel

(After receiving and reading a copy of *Outdoorsman* Bulletin 24, a new reader from Nevada said he borrowed a copy of the following article published in *The Outdoorsman* nearly 35 years ago. At that time, *The Outdoorsman* was published in tabloid newspaper format, with thousands of readers in the 50 states and several foreign countries.

The January 1973 article marked the turning point in restoring wild game populations that had reached record lows in nearly every State. The Nevada reader recognized that the same misguided philosophies are once again destroying our heritage of harvesting wild game on public lands.

He asked if I could reproduce the article in a format he could copy and send to Nevada Fish and Game Commissioners. The article is reproduced below - minus several photos and the information on how to order the book, "Time To Cry Wolf!" which is no longer in print. - ED)

At a time when concerned outdoorsmen, including myself, have been extremely critical of the efforts of wildlife biologists, it is a distinct pleasure to report on the work of one who is truly outstanding in his field.

Dr. Lester J. McCann, Professor of Biology at the College of St. Thomas in Minnesota, received his B.S. degree at the College of St. Thomas, his M.S. at the University of Minnesota, and his Ph.D. at the University of Utah. Formerly a game biologist for both the Wyoming Division of Game and Fish and the State of Minnesota, his achievements include such books as "Comprehensive Laboratory Zoology," "Paramedical Anatomy and Physiology," and a number of scientific papers describing his personal research.

A member of the Minnesota Academy of Science, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of Sigma Xi National Honorary Scientific Fraternity, he is listed in the National Registry of American Men of Science and the Dictionary of International Biography.

In other words, Dr. McCann is a biologist whose credentials are highly respected in the scientific community.

But to you and me there is something a lot more important than his pedigree. He has written a book about

the problems facing wildlife in America *telling it exactly as it is.*

His new book, entitled "Time To Cry Wolf!," tells why we are presently suffering from the greatest build-up of predators in history, a situation that has many desirable species of birds and mammals with their backs to the wall fighting for survival.

Although the book is written specifically for the legislator and the layman who must be induced to take action now if we are to preserve our wildlife resource and the productivity of our livestock industry, every conclusion is adequately and honestly documented with the results of scientific studies by well known wildlife biologists.

And McCann lays the blame for the destruction of our valuable game herds right where it belongs, in the laps of our wildlife biologists who are more concerned with protecting the various forms of wild animal killers than they are with providing game birds and game animals that are beneficial to man.

In his words, "A person who considers a fox as important as a hatch of wild mallards, a coyote as important as an antelope, or a skunk as important as a nest of pheasants, has a hang-up not likely to insure decisions in favor of the hunting public. Anyone who does not consider the production of game of primary importance ought not to be representing the hunting public.

"For the sportsman to depend upon this type of person for advice and help would be a little like a sick person consulting a physician who considers the welfare of the virus, the bacterium and the parasite on the same level with that of the patient."

McCann cites a number of biological studies proving that habitat improvement programs without accompanying control of predators are at best a waste of sportsmen's money and, in fact, often increase predation upon game birds and animals by providing concealment for the predators and inducing the prey to crouch until they are scented and caught rather than run from the predator as they would if it were more open.

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Time To Cry Wolf! *continued from page 1*

Any pheasant hunter who has watched his dog chase pheasants unsuccessfully across a nearly bare field and later seen it pounce on a pheasant hen lying semi-concealed in the tight cover of a beet field knows this already if he will just take a moment to stop and think.



Although dense cover offers more protection from avian predators such as hawks, it induces prey to crouch until they are scented and caught by terrestrial predators such as foxes and wolves.

The book explains why predator kills, like the predators themselves, are difficult for man to observe, and then describes methods by which irrefutable circumstantial evidence of such kills may be used to prove that they occur with frequency.

Taking the opposite tack of the preservationist-oriented types who, it seems, will look for any excuse to try to prove that predators don't really kill healthy birds or animals that are beneficial to man and to his environment, McCann describes in detail how both predatory birds and animals are mechanically equipped to capture, tear to pieces, and devour the healthiest prey with relative ease.

Pointing out that predators are designed as efficient killers and should be presumed equally capable and equally guilty of destroying both beneficial wildlife and livestock, McCann uses the results of scientific studies to disprove the currently popular theory that there are "good" and "bad" predators and that only the occasional outlaw is "bad" and should be removed.

These same biological studies proved beyond any reasonable doubt that killing is a natural instinct in predators regardless of how they were raised or what a parent may have taught them to kill (many predator worshippers claim that only a coyote that has been taught to kill sheep will turn into a sheep killer).

Outdoorsmen who have raised wild predators from birth only to have them turn into cold-blooded efficient killers given the opportunity, without benefit of any

training from a parent, will enjoy reading about controlled experiment with skunks.

Referring to the situation on Isle Royale where moose are preyed on by wolves and the surplus wolves either die off or migrate to the mainland, McCann explains that while the moose is a powerful, ferocious animal by nature, deer and other wildlife are not able to protect themselves from wolves and any that might find their way to the island are evidently quickly exterminated.

Pointing out that Isle Royale represents a unique situation where no wild animals are provided for man's harvest and no domestic animals are raised, he denounces the application of such zoo-oriented management thinking when applied to the complex situations in our usual wildlife environments.

Concerning the frequently heard idea that predators are necessary in order to keep game and other species from degenerating genetically, McCann calls it, "An out-and-out untruth. But it has just enough ring of possible scientific relationship to be attractive to some people," he continues.

"In the minds of its advocates, this idea probably has some kind of relationship to Darwin's evolutionary concept of the survival of the fittest. The fact is there is no evidence to support the notion that predators are necessary to support the genetic integrity of any species,"

Then he cites such examples as the polar bear, rhinoceros, wolf, tapeworm, grizzly bear, and African lion as examples of animals that are well adapted genetically to their mode of life in spite of the fact that almost nothing preys on them.

"Predators are not the only things that eliminate animals. In fact, if predators were to disappear altogether there would still be plenty of other mortality factors at work," McCann continues. "Wild creatures succumb to inclement weather, starvation, disease, parasites, cannibalism, and they fall victim to all sorts of accidents.

"Finally, they are hunted and trapped by man himself. Without predators, these hazards are sufficient to eliminate any unfit individuals, if and when they should happen to need removing."

In addition to an obvious wealth of knowledge that could only have been gained through years of actual field experience and research combined, Dr. McCann displays a remarkable application of common sense as he disproves the theories that have provided excuses for the destruction of our beneficial game species.

Concerning the "sick and crippled" theory which contends that predators perform an essential service in eliminating diseased, aged or otherwise weakened individuals in a wild population, he says:

"The implication is that predators must be on hand, ready to perform this work. Actually, somewhere in the past some of the ancestors of every animal alive today were

probably in mortal danger from a diseased or weakened condition. But they managed to recover and later have offspring; otherwise we probably wouldn't have any animals left today – or, for that matter, any human beings.

“The reason why nature provides the animal body with internal defense mechanisms like antibodies, and with a strong psychological urge for self-survival, is for overcoming any disease or weakness that might afflict it. Nature's way is to help the animal preserve itself; not to help eliminate it.”

A large portion of “Time To Cry Wolf!” is devoted to documentation of the serious threat that uncontrolled predation represents to beneficial game birds and game animals, and to livestock. The author thoroughly covers the subject of predator population dynamics and the effects of buffer species as well as prey species upon predator populations.

The predator's inability to control prolific rodents as well as its ability to destroy such valuable prey species as deer and bighorn sheep, which reproduce at a far lesser rate, are covered in the book. And the subject of predator control is given a thorough and honest treatment for a change.

McCann points out that opponents of the bounty system are actually opponents of controlling predators by ANY means (just as famed Canadian naturalist Jack Miner said 50 years ago). He offers substantial evidence to the effect that the bounty system works admirably whenever and wherever the amount of bounty payment offered is sufficient to act as the incentive it was designed to be.

He also discusses the important problem of who can be trusted to carry out predator control operations, casting doubt on the qualifications of wildlife managers as follows:

“Most fish and game departments, according to the experience of Dr. Walter Howard, conservation biologist, are reluctant to undertake predator control programs. Their interest appears to be oriented more toward the *broad* view of wildlife, in which all forms of living creatures are to be protected.

“Because they evidently operate from such a philosophy, it is the contention of Howard, and borne out in fact, fish and game departments as a rule do not take readily to the idea of reducing one species for the benefit of another. Yet one cannot help but notice fish and game departments are generally less squeamish when it comes to fish life.

“For example, a department which may be reluctant to the point of foot-dragging about controlling the various game predators may often set about poisoning every last fish in a lake if they don't like what they find. Poisoning undesirable fish is certainly justified, but on the other hand it would be nice if we could see some consistency here to control the predators on terrestrial wildlife.”

“Time To Cry Wolf!” covers a multitude of subjects related to the problem of exploding predator populations, including results obtained from spot-checking high school students on the material they are being taught regarding predators (an emotional half-truth approach in the majority of cases according to Clifford Presnall at the Fourteenth North American Wildlife Conference).

It discusses the “A little knowledge is a dangerous thing” concept that causes ecologists to demand the implementation of theories that have no practical application.

The book also discusses the predator lover who, though he (she) rarely sees a predatory species, declares that he is thrilled just because he knows that they are “out there somewhere.” It then comments; “...one wonders how many of these destructive predatory animals there have to be ‘out there somewhere’ to satisfy this feeling?”

Again, whether it's a discussion of predators as human disease carriers or the economic impact of predators upon farmers and ranchers, if it's related to our problems of predation the subject is discussed in this book.

As many long-time *Outdoorsman* readers are aware, I have devoted most of the years of my life to work involving wildlife and the outdoors. During the past four years I have tried, in the pages of this publication, to present the truth about the deplorable wildlife situation to the public.

To Lester McCann, I offer my sincere appreciation for accomplishing in his book, “Time To Cry Wolf!,” what I have been trying to do. It is my belief that every outdoorsman, whether he or she be a farmer, a rancher, a woodsman or a sportsman, owes that man a debt of gratitude for daring to disagree with his contemporaries and publish the whole truth about predatory birds and animals in a manner that cannot be denied.

In my opinion this book belongs immediately in the hands of every elected official in this Nation from the village board member to the President of the U.S. Some may not read it but to those who do the impact should be sufficient to reverse the terrible trend of wildlife destruction and non-productivity that we have been experiencing for too long.

It belongs in the hands of every resource manager and every school teacher and college professor who can influence the management of our wildlife resource both now and in the future.

It is a book which should be read and understood by every man or woman who calls himself a sportsman or a conservationist. And it should be put into the hands of every youngster who will pick up a gun, so that he or she will at least have the chance to learn the truth about the wild game they will hunt.

It puts the science of ecology and the hordes of city-dwelling nature lovers in proper perspective and
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Time To Cry WOLF! *continued from page 3*

provides outdoorsmen with the answers they have always needed to combat the arguments of the biologists, preservationists and environmentalists.

How many times have you heard knowledgeable hunters' and ranchers' testimony discredited because they are "laymen"? And how often have you read in the news recently that research into predator repellents is the answer - rather than a sensible control program to correct the radical predator-prey imbalance that is destroying millions of dollars worth of beneficial wildlife and livestock every year?

After years of complaining and fighting a losing battle, all outdoorsmen now have a weapon in "Time To Cry Wolf!" that can turn the tide. I sincerely hope you will use it NOW.

2007 Update - The Wildlifers

By George Dovel

During the ~40 years before the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed, state game wardens, assisted by concerned outdoorsmen, were rebuilding America's game herds that had been decimated by excessive human harvest. To implement passage of the P-R Act in 1938, each state hired several specialists (biologists) to design programs to take advantage of the newly available federal excise tax funding.

By 1950 those biologists were in control and began implementing recommendations from the Wildlife Management Institute to liberalize game harvests and phase out predator control, game preserves and emergency feeding programs. From 1951-1971, game populations and harvests changed from record highs to record lows.

From 1969-1972, with limited offers of help from individual conservation officers, federal range specialists and federal predator control agents, outdoorsmen in each state urged state legislatures to halt the excessive either-sex harvests and restore control of predators that were preventing recovery of game species. Then a federal trapper was fired for exposing Wyoming biologists' mismanagement and that ended professionals' testimony.

Despite the publication of "Time To Cry Wolf!" in 1972, Durward Allen and David Mech continued to promote their "Balance-of-Nature" myth and biologists continued to repeat Farley Mowatt's fiction that wolves subsist on a diet of mice. Since Dr. McCann was no longer a vulnerable government employee, The Wildlife Society (TWS) chose to publish an attack on his credibility.

The two-page Book Review published in its prestigious "Journal of Wildlife Management," charged: "In Time to Cry Wolf! Lester McCann has largely forsaken modern wildlife management principles and has returned to the emotional approach." Similar unfounded accusations in the media by other wildlife biologists also failed to offer

facts to refute any of the dozens of predator-prey studies cited in the book.

Dr. McCann cautioned that just because a biologist has studied an animal and recorded many facts, it does not necessarily mean his or her conclusions are accurate or the rationale is logical. Although activist biologists perceived this as a serious threat to their newfound fame and power, their continued attacks on his credibility in the media and to "friendly" legislators failed to stop the challenges to the balance-of-nature myth.

American hunters were tired of seeing activist biologists destroy game populations they had paid to rebuild, and tired of seeing excessive populations of protected predators preventing recovery of that game. Armed with facts documented by published research, they demanded their elected state officials restore biologically sound game management.

The Idaho Wildlife Management Investigation

Three years before Dr. McCann's book was published, an Idaho Legislative investigation of Fish & Game management resulted in further investigation by the Idaho Department of Administrative Services. That unlikely agency also hired Utah Fisheries Biologist Dr. William Sigler (AKA William F. Sigler and Associate Consultants) who promised to provide a range expert to determine whether Idaho big game populations exceeded carrying capacity.

Later Sigler admitted that, as a fisheries biologist, he had no expertise in either game or range management and claimed that someone with expertise in range management could not be located. USFS officials provided two members of the investigating team with a tour of typical big game range and explained that wild ungulate populations were so depleted FS was forced to use chain saws to simulate normal browsing in order to stimulate growth.

Yet in the report Sigler wrote, "Big game populations have probably reached near peak levels." Throughout the study report he referred to such intangibles as "finding solutions for the major ecological problems of the State," but failed to define those problems.

He also said, "The primary goal of the Department has been that of making a maximum amount of fish and game available to as many people as possible." Then he added, "It should be emphasized that non-consumptive recreational use of wildlife will become far more significant in the future than it has in the past." (emphasis added).

In an apparent effort to facilitate the change in emphasis from wild game and fish harvest to non-consumptive wildlife recreation, the October 1970 report recommended giving mountain lions the same protection as game and changing the Fish and Game Commission to a total of seven members representing seven special interests - with only one Commissioner representing sportsmen!

The report admitted numerous management deficiencies but blamed them on lack of money and criticism from sportsmen. In an interview following release of the report, Sigler said, "Criticism of game management often comes from the sportsman who thinks adequate big game levels are reached (only) when he can have a short hunt with no inconvenience and still bring down a trophy animal."

The report stated, "Responding to these criticisms cause the biologists to follow unsound management practices such as continuous winter feeding and over-restrictive regulations. The critics force them to spend their resources countering the many criticisms."

The report also stated, "The problems of wildlife management are substantially greater and more complex than can be handled by a lay organization." Ignoring the hundreds of concerned sportsmen who attended standing-room-only legislative hearings, it accused the critics of being only "vociferous self-seeking minorities" and claimed that the "silent majority believes the Department is doing a competent job."

Then the report stated, "The lesser-populated areas are often where the most vocal criticism originates. Because of closer, continuous personal contact with wildlife, the people that do inhabit these areas are likely to have a more intimate knowledge than the general public of the resource and the effects of the management programs."

But instead of suggesting listening to those people, Sigler and the Administration management team devoted page after page to recommending vast increases in funding for the Department's Information and Education program, and hiring or training specialists who can sell the programs to rural Idahoans. Then it recommended extensive use of surveys to see if the I&E effort was working.

Even if the surveys do not indicate increased support from rural Idahoans, urban residents far outnumber them so the results can be used to "prove" acceptance of biologists' programs by a majority of Idahoans.

IDFG Employees Also Severe Critics

The report recognized that some of the Department's severest critics were its own employees in the field - conservation officers whose observations were often ignored by biologists. Both of the study factions said those observations often agreed with those of rural residents and stated that was due to "a lack of discipline."

They unanimously recommended that the C.O.s be demoted or fired for a second offense of failing to advance Departmental policy to the public at all times." Although these employees were protected under the Merit System, the Department's private legal counsel devised a policy that allowed them to be fired the second time they were passed over for promotion.

The report recommended hiring additional biologists and setting up a complex chain of command, with biologists given "up to a 50% salary increase, new

attractively designed uniforms for work and dress," and paying their way through post graduate studies to allow them to obtain MS and PhD degrees.

It recommended that this new agenda, including expanded use of graduate students for research, be funded by increasing the number of nonresident hunters and fishermen and increasing resident sportsman fees 50-100%.

If you are a careful reader who likes to "connect the dots" you may realize that the foregoing is evidence that many state wildlife biologists had already abandoned the concept of managing wildlife to provide sustained harvests 37 years ago. That was before Nixon banned the most effective predator control methods, before Congress passed the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act and 22 years before the United Nations submitted its Biodiversity Treaty in Rio de Janeiro.

Cougar Hunters Called "Murderers"

The predator preservationist philosophy of Durward Allen and the Craighead brothers was evident early in their careers and was passed on to the graduate students whose research they controlled during the mid-1960s. At the same time that David Mech was claiming that "self-limiting" wolf populations did not reduce moose and white-tailed deer numbers in Michigan and Minnesota, Maurice Hornocker was claiming that self-limiting cougar populations did not reduce mule deer and elk herds in the Idaho Primitive Area.

Despite the fact that Idaho F&G helicopter counts showed declining deer and elk populations in Hornocker's lion study area, F&G officials supported his exaggerated prey population estimates and called for immediate protection for mountain lions. Just before a legislative hearing was scheduled on the bill, biologists "leaked" information to the urban media that two hunters had killed three cougars in the Big Creek study area a year earlier, without telling them it was legal and proper.

In "news" articles and editorials the urban media demonized the two hunters, and one urban legislator described them as "murderers" while urging his colleagues to make the cougar a game animal. In March 1971 Idaho, along with Montana and several other states, changed the status of the mountain lion from predator to game animal.

Although the IDFG Director was forced to resign in April 1971, the Idaho conservation officers who tried to stop the wild game slaughter were purged from the agency. The new Director was forced to work with staff biologists who refused to reduce excessive predator populations.

The attempt by predator advocates to enlist gullible outdoor writers in their campaign to paint all predators as benefactors of wild game species created some unlikely "bedfellows" during that period. The following statements from a January 1971 "American Rifleman" article entitled, "Mind Over Coyote," illustrate the attempt to brainwash several million NRA members about coyote predation.

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“A howl during the day is usually a call for help dragging down some sick or crippled critter...I have never known of their becoming so numerous in any given locality that they posed severe hazards to any desirable wildlife species. They cull the weaklings and thus help produce larger, stronger and more desirable survivors.

“They feed chiefly on rodents and bunnies, with an occasional sick, crippled or winter-weakened deer or antelope and offal from big game kills. On rare occasions hunger may drive them to pick off a few domestic animals, but this is unusual and does not pose any real threat to ranchers.”

During the 1972 Idaho legislative session a bill authorizing the payment of a \$7.50 bounty on 10,000 Idaho coyotes over a two-year period passed the House by a 44-22 vote. It was held in the Senate Committee for several weeks while IDFG and environmental lobbyists mounted a massive campaign to defeat it.

Finally, according to woolgrower Senator John Peavey, the F&G Director agreed to double the amount spent by the Department for federal predator control and the bill failed 18-17 in the Senate based on that promise. But only \$10,000 was added to the \$25,000 paid to federal Wildlife Services for coyote control, and it was used solely to reduce the number of coyotes killing deer on Dworshak Reservoir in the winter.

In an Idaho Statesman letter, gubernatorial aspirant Sen. Peavey explained his “no” vote on the bounty bill. He said that he had talked with IDFG Director Joe Greenley, and, “unlike his predecessor, Greenley believed in active predator management as a tool in providing adequate game for Idaho hunters.”

Wildlifers Refuse To Control Predators

But in a Guest Editorial, Greenley responded, “Although predator control has long been an integral part of wildlife management in Europe, it is a sensitive subject, particularly among wildlifers.* There is still a great deal of uncertainty about just how influential predators are in affecting the population levels of game species.”

“Even if effective,” he continued, “a general predator control program over an area the size of the state would be extremely expensive. Most American wildlifers* have a strong ecological background embracing the full diversity of the natural world – they are hesitant over extreme single value alteration of the biotic community for game.”

(* “wildlifers” is the term North American wildlife biologists who are members of The Wildlife Society, use to describe themselves. Readers with internet capability can access TWS at www.wildlife.org, to view “The Wildlifer” which is the Society’s official publication and its newsletter for its members.)

In April 1973, at its North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Denver, WMI President

Daniel Poole criticized wildlife biologists for their failure to sell their management programs to the public. Then the **North American Wildlife Policy of 1973** was presented by Wolf Biologist Durward Allen, who had forecast the *imminent* extermination of the coyote 20 years earlier.

The New Policy emphasized the protection of all predators by either giving them game status or by prohibiting “indiscriminate” predator control. In addition to outlawing predator bounties, and the use of poison except in emergencies such as a rabies epidemic, *the policy refused to recognize the need for predator control to benefit populations of game.*

“Provide Prey to Feed Predators”

Instead, it stressed the need to provide prey species to feed the predators which, it said, have high esthetic values. It concluded that predator control should only be conducted by professionals with broad wildlife management training and insisted that scarce or declining predator populations must have legal protection coupled with effective enforcement.

The agenda promoted by Sigler in the 1970 Idaho study and by WMI throughout North America since 1973, was based on a mythical natural “balance” that science tells us does not exist. Yet most, but not all, state wildlife biologists have blindly pursued that “feast or famine” agenda since then – adamantly refusing to control predators.

States Begin Restoration Effort

Two weeks before the 1973 WMI Conference, IDFG Director Greenley announced dramatic hunting season reductions designed to stabilize and restore big game populations throughout Idaho. Antlerless deer and elk harvest and multiple deer harvests were halted and Greenley said he saw the need for additional cutbacks as well as the need to retrench and develop better game management plans.

Despite objections from staff biologists and their Idaho Wildlife Federation supporters, Greenley made the changes and even liberalized hunter harvest of black bears and mountain lions following recommendation from a researcher studying elk calf survival. A similar scenario occurred in other states, with sportsmen accomplishing varying degrees of predator control to allow game populations to recover.

Meanwhile, a new book by Dr. McCann entitled, “A New Day For Wildlife” was published in 1978. In Idaho, with conservative seasons preventing excessive harvests, deer and elk populations were slowly recovering.

But Greenley retired in 1980 and the new Director soon began selling thousands of special privilege bonus deer and elk hunts to fund his non-hunting agenda. In 1987 the same IDFG biologist who helped destroy Idaho’s deer and elk herds in the 1960s implemented statewide general season doe harvests in addition to 7,900 special antlerless or either-sex controlled hunt deer permits.

Wildlifers Repeat Mule Deer Destruction

Compared to the average harvest over the preceding 12 years, the deer harvest was 38% higher in 1987 and 71% higher in 1988. Then the biologists added 3,450 extra (2nd deer) antlerless deer permits in Regions 2, 3 and 4 and an unlimited number of extra antlerless permits in the Southeast Region.

This doubled the 12-year harvest average and ended mule deer recovery in central and southern Idaho. Deer harvests nose-dived but the biologists continued to allow thousands of extra does and fawns to be killed – advertising the extra permits in the 1990 regulations as “Special Opportunity Deer Tags.”

Even after the 1992-93 winter, when two-thirds of Idaho’s remaining mule deer died of starvation or uncontrolled predation, biologists continued to provide “special opportunity deer tags” and extended seasons for another year. The 1993 deer harvest was the second lowest ever recorded since *total* harvests were first calculated in Idaho, yet the professional biologists (wildlifers) denied the losses for more than a year and then blamed them on (you guessed it) lack of winter forage.

In a 1994 meeting with concerned Idaho deer hunters, Idaho Big Game Manager Lonn Kuck, who had supervised the destruction of the mule deer herd, told them, “Deer populations are not affected by bullets.” He compared deer reproduction to house flies that produce hundreds of offspring each with the potential to produce 10 or more generations in a single season.

A similar scenario played out in Utah and other western states where wildlifers had also encouraged hunters to deplete the deer herd and then failed to mitigate severe winter losses. But after 13 years of conducting surveys, forming citizen advisory committees and species management teams, and designing and implementing recovery plans, the mule deer populations and annual harvests in these states remain near record lows.

Wildlifers Ignore Idaho Wildlife Policy

The North American Wildlife Policy adopted by TWS in 1973 instructs its wildlifer members to manage deer and elk to feed bears and lions, but prohibits controlling excessive predators to restore healthy game herds for hunters to harvest. The Outdoorsman has reported numerous documented examples of Idaho game biologists’ defiance of Idaho Wildlife Policy and their brazen refusal to control predators to the extent required to restore healthy big game herds.

Even when the biologists were instructed by the Commission to demonstratively reduce the number of predators affecting deer and elk, they refused to do it except as part of a mule deer “research” project in Southeast Idaho. Then the Wildlife Services agent who conducted the coyote control said the biologists failed to remove enough coyotes to significantly increase deer recruitment, thereby skewing the study results.

Wildlifers Ignore Idaho Wolf Law

Before the Canadian wolves were transplanted to Idaho, the Idaho Legislature amended I.C. Sec. 36-715 to expressly forbid IDFG from entering “into any agreement with any agency, department or entity of the federal government concerning wolves unless expressly authorized by state statute.” Yet the Director and his wildlifers brazenly ignored that law, approved the severe FWS penalties for daring to protect pets, domestic livestock and other private property from wolves, and illegally issued FWS a permit to bring the wolves into Idaho.

For the past 12 years Idaho biologists have failed to document the impact of wolf predation on big game species and they ignore the Yellowstone Park wolf research indicating that wolves in Idaho are killing more elk than hunters are. Despite the Commission’s stance on reducing wolf numbers to the 15 breeding pairs agreed to in the wolf plan IDFG wolf biologists have failed to capture and collar even one wolf in Idaho’s wilderness areas.

Wildlifers Ignore Montana Law

In 2003 Montana enacted Code Section 87-1-217 requiring MT FWP to manage bears, mountain lions and wolves with the primary goal of: (a) preserving citizens’ opportunities to hunt deer, elk, mountain sheep, moose antelope and mountain goats; (b) protecting humans, livestock and pets; and (c) preserving and enhancing the safety of the public during outdoor recreational and livelihood activities.

On December 12, 2007, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Wolf Coordinator Carolyn Sime announced that the Montana Wolf Management Advisory Council (on which she also serves) is recommending maintaining a population of 400 wolves rather than the 15 breeding pairs provided in the state’s wolf plan. According to Sime, who is also President of the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society, “keeping the Montana (wolf) population stable at present levels would aid scientists as they try to figure out how many wolves the landscape and inhabitants of Montana can tolerate and sustain.”

Maintaining a Montana wolf population four times as large as was projected for recovery will continue to violate every part of 87-1-217, yet Sime and her fellow wildlifers are protected from prosecution by the Montana Office of Attorney General. Her earlier announcement that MT FWP has no plans to control wolves in wilderness areas reflects their allegiance to the TWS agenda of protecting apex predators in Wildlands Core Areas.

Wildlifers “Coming Out of the Closet”

Following their success in getting Congress to partially fund non-hunting activities of state agencies with State Wildlife Grants and Multistate Conservation Grants, wildlifers are “coming out of the closet” with their Wildlands agenda. Readers with internet access can easily confirm this at The Wildlife Society website.

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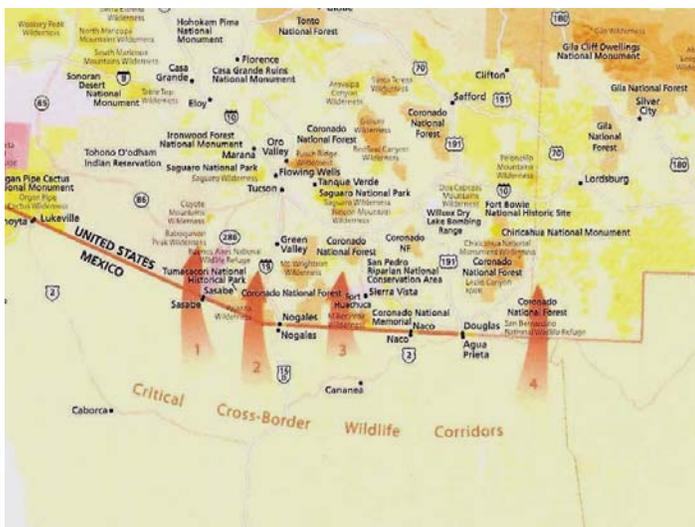
As this article is being written in mid-December 2007, the TWS home page features a paragraph titled “TWS Supports Border Ecological Workshop Consensus Statement.” The paragraph announces TWS endorsement of a request for immediate action to abate (put an end to) the ecological consequences of current and proposed tactical border security (the fence being constructed to prevent illegal entry to the United States from Mexico).

The official request to halt construction of the border fence except near towns and highways is available at the end of the paragraph. Other co-signors include The Wildlands Project, Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Audubon Society, Earth Justice, American Rivers, the Rewilding Institute and the Center for Biological Diversity.

Except for TWS’s lukewarm support, groups that advocate hunting are noticeably absent in the Request for Action dated November 29, 2007. The two-page document says “unimpaired movement of wildlife across the US-Mexico border may become increasingly necessary due to global climate change” and adds, “we call for the following immediate actions to protect border ecosystems and especially cross-border wildlife linkages: (a.) Do not use impermeable barriers in internationally-significant, transboundary ecosystems and wildlife linkages.”

The Request for action includes a link to an elaborate brochure published by The Wildlands Program and Defenders of Wildlife which explains that TWP and DOW orchestrated the entire process. The so-called “stakeholders” that were invited to participate in the process included The Nature Conservancy – but did not include any group representing hunting or hunters.

Map of “Critical Wildlife Corridors”



Portion of map in attachment to TWS request to halt construction of border fence. Arrows indicate four “critical wildlife corridors” between Mexico and the United States.

In the event the documents are no longer available at the TWS website, the attachment, including the full map, is also available at the TWP website at the following link: [http://www.twp.org/cms/File/Border Stakeholder Recommendations 6-07.pdf](http://www.twp.org/cms/File/Border_Stakeholder_Recommendations_6-07.pdf)

The attachment charges that the U.S. is putting too much emphasis on keeping illegal aliens, drug traffickers and other criminals from coming into the U.S. rather than attempting to catch them in the interior after they have already entered illegally. It says that endangered jaguars are once again beginning to cross the border into the U.S. and must be protected along with other “indicator” species including bears, mountain lions and Mexican wolves.

Predator Control vs. Predation Management

The fact that TWS places preservation of large predators above U.S. border security mirrors its position on not controlling predators. Wildlifers have substituted “predation management” for predator control – which often involves manipulation of habitat or live trapping and relocation rather than killing the excessive predators to permanently resolve the problem.

On November 20, 2007 a well-known sportsman-conservationist from Montana emailed a copy of the 1973 Outdoorsman article to big game managers in the West and Midwest, and in British Columbia. He received the following reply from Nevada Game Chief Russ Mason:

“Thanks for the article. It underscores why, here in Nevada, we have the most ambitious and proactive predation management program of any fish and wildlife agency in the U.S. Predation management is always considered in our planning efforts, along with habitat improvement and other actions that can be taken to improve game species numbers and population health.

Sometime, it might be useful for you or others to systematically examine the predation management efforts ongoing in various states and then provide an overview or perhaps even a rank ordering. The outside evaluation would help to inform the public and provide support to agencies such as NDOW that are trying to implement all of the tools of wildlife management.”

Unlike IDFG which has wasted years and a great deal of money transplanting caribou and bighorn sheep to feed mountain lions, NDOW has Wildlife Services remove coyotes and lions before it transplants bighorn sheep into a new location. But except in a protected area, there appears to be limited effort to reduce excessive lion populations preventing recovery of mule deer – as Alaska does with arctic foxes on nesting geese and wolves on moose.

Then vs. Now

While admitting that sport hunters support wildlife management, the TWS Hunting Policy supports hunting (only) “when guided by both biological and societal considerations.” But unlike 1973 when Dr. McCann was almost the only scientist spokesman for truth and reason, North American hunters are now joined by many wildlife scientists who also suggest “It’s Time to Cry Wolf!”

“Predators and Their Prey Cannot Be Managed Separately” Arizona Game and Fish Department



Three un-cached lion kills, two bighorn sheep and one mule deer, that were killed at Dripping Springs, near Arizona's Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, over a 3-4 day period by a single collared male mountain lion in June 2007.

By George Dovel

The anti-predator control campaign by wildlife preservationist groups based in Arizona has prompted the Arizona Game and Fish Department (**AZGFD**) to set up and maintain a website to inform the public about its effort to restore the desert bighorn sheep population in the Kofa Mountains Complex in southwest Arizona. That website is the primary source of the information and photographs in this article.

The Kofa Game Range contained in the Complex was established in 1939 and later became the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge has been the major source of transplants to restore desert bighorn populations in the Southwest, with 569 bighorns transferred to locations in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas from 1957-2006.

No Lions Detected for 57 Years

In general, bighorn sheep transplants that multiply to 100 or more animals are considered successful and most that don't are the result of excessive predation according to biologists' studies. A 1995-97 survey of 18 mountain ranges and two rivers in southwest Arizona revealed only three transient lions and there is no evidence that any lions existed in the Kofa Refuge from 1944-2001.

In 1996 the agencies involved developed criteria for removing bighorns from Kofa to include a minimum population of 800. This was the average population from 1981-2000 and is considered the Refuge carrying capacity.

During that period drought was thought to impact the population yet the surviving lamb-to-ewe ratio actually increased slightly during the two worst drought years.



Cached bighorn sheep killed at Dripping Springs by the same collared male lion during the same period. The lion was killed on June 5 and his back trail was followed. Confirmed kills were 5 bighorn sheep, 3 deer, 1 badger and one "sheep or deer."

Lions Appear, Bighorns Disappear

The bighorns on the Refuge are counted by helicopter every three years and the estimated total is published. In 2000 the total was 812 sheep but in 2003 the population had dropped to 613, and a female lion accompanied by two kittens was observed during the flights.

A team set up infrared and motion/heat detecting cameras at water holes on the refuge in 2004 and photographed female lions and spotted kittens each year. This indicated a resident population of lions and, although the total number of lions is not known, at least five different lions were documented on the refuge in 2006.

The 2006 census revealed a total of only 390 remaining bighorns reflecting a 52% decline since 2000. Other bighorn populations, such as the San Gabriel Mountains herd in California, have declined from over 500 animals to less than 90, almost exclusively attributed to mountain lion depredation.

Criteria for Lion Control

A young male lion was captured and collared in the spring of 2007 and the two photos above show one of the documented deer and three of the five documented bighorn sheep he killed in less than three months. AZGFD had already established the criterion that two sheep killed by a single lion in six months qualifies as an "offending" lion to be killed so that lion was killed on June 5, 2007.

In New Mexico the criteria is any lion that kills one bighorn and in the Peninsular Range in California it is any lion known or suspected of preying on bighorn sheep.

continued on page 10

Manage Predators and Prey *continued from page 9*

The Kofa definition of an offending lion was designed to target only lions that had established a pattern of regularly preying on bighorn sheep.

When taken, the young male lion was found in a small clump of trees with the carcasses of a mule deer and two bighorn sheep ewes cached within the same clump of trees. All kills appeared to have occurred within no more than four days, with the freshest probably killed within 24 hours. It was noted that two of the three kills appeared to have been fed on only once and one not at all. Both ewes appeared to be of prime reproductive age

Regardless of whether the initial bighorn decline measured in 2003 was caused by drought, predators, or a combination of factors, both AZGFD and the FWS Refuge Manager pointed out that predation on the Kofa bighorns by even a handful of lions would prevent recovery of the population. FWS announced its intention to allow lion hunting on the Kofa Refuge but this bought a storm of protests from the preservationist groups.

On April 17, 2007 AZGFD and the Kofa FWS Refuge jointly prepared a 39-page Investigative Report and Recommendations for the Kofa Bighorn Sheep Herd. The detailed information included discussion of “guzzlers” (artificial, often buried, water tanks that provide reliable year-around water for bighorns and other wildlife).

Wilderness Watch Lawsuit

When the report was approved by the agencies and discussed in a June 12, 2007 news release, a recently constructed “guzzler” and another one that was being constructed with volunteer help from hunters were mentioned. On June 15th, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and the Missoula, Montana-based Wilderness Watch filed suit against FWS seeking to “(1) stop further construction of artificial water sources inside the Wilderness Area; and (2) remove any artificial water source that have thus far been constructed under this secret and illegal authorization.”

Although 82% of the Refuge was classified as wilderness by Congress in 1990, intent language provided by the Act’s sponsor during a hearing on the Act included, “Wildlife water facilities and other habitat improvements can be maintained, repaired and reconstructed in accordance with the wilderness management plan developed by the land and wildlife managers.”

One of the Plaintiffs’ affidavits stated, “...the old McPherson Tank rarely held water long-term,” yet opposed the redeveloped tank designed to remedy that problem plus have less impact on the wilderness environment. During normal years many natural tanks (catchments) in the rocks are deep enough to provide adequate water for the bighorns and other wildlife that regularly use them

But during a drought some dry up - removing the only water source. Several of the deepest become “death traps” which the bighorns can’t escape from and perish.

Sportsmen Expose Real Agenda

During the 17 years since this area became wilderness, a number of replacement guzzlers for bighorn sheep or deer have been installed – often at locations that require less intrusion for maintenance. Yet this is the first time wilderness advocates have filed a lawsuit to stop the construction and remove the installations.

Several local and national organizations that represent hunters, including the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance, the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Safari Club International and the National Rifle Association, charged that the lawsuit was really an effort to establish a legal precedent to forbid active wildlife management in wilderness areas. If successful, this would end predator control and the use of other biological tools to restore depleted game populations in federal “wildlands.”

On July 19, 2007 these groups joined with FWS and AZGFD as co-defendants in the battle to keep this from happening. Although there is little doubt that a scarce, high-profile species like the desert bighorn makes it easier to justify the variety of tools used to restore them to carrying capacity, it would not be possible without the willingness of the Commission, its biologists and the Refuge Manager to use those tools.

Commission Predation Management Policy

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission 2001 Predation Management Policy states:

“Actions by the Arizona Game and Fish Department should be based on the best available scientific information. Mountain lions and coyotes will be managed to ensure their future ecological, intrinsic, scientific, educational, and recreational values, to minimize conflict with humans, and to minimize adverse impacts on other wildlife populations. (emphasis added)

The department will develop site-specific management plans when either of these two species is considered to be inhibiting the ability of the Department to attain management goals and objectives for other wildlife species.” (emphasis added)

The Department’s Predator Management Team Report states; “Predators and their prey cannot be managed separately.”

The specific predator control plan written for the Kofa Complex in April 2007 provides for annual bighorn census beginning in 2007 and follows the Ballard et al 2001 recommendation of removing 70% of the offending predators (lions) to achieve the desired result.

Because Arizona law (ARS 17-301) prohibits the use of steel traps or snares on public land (except traps designed not to kill) the plan suggests continuing to use sport hound hunters in winter plus hiring Wildlife Services or a private contractor to lethally remove enough lions

The plan acknowledges that because of media coverage driven by individuals or groups that oppose predator control, initial coverage will be negative.

A Wasted Effort

Restoring Native Plants Does Not Recover Species

By George Dovel

In 1979 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) biologists began trying to halt the decline in pygmy rabbit populations in the five counties in central Washington where they were known to exist (see figure 1). Despite the fact that the Columbia River Basin includes portions of seven Western states and two Canadian provinces, only the pygmy rabbits in Washington are called “Columbia Basin” Pygmy Rabbits.



Fig. 1. Reported historical distribution of the pygmy rabbit. Only rabbits from the small area in Washington are classified as “Columbia Basin” pygmy rabbits.

For 25 years, with increasing assistance from The Nature Conservancy and the FWS, they used population surveys, habitat inventory, land acquisition, habitat restoration, land management agreements and studies on the effects of livestock grazing to try to halt the decline. But by the 1990s only six small groups existed in a small part of two of those counties (see figure 2).

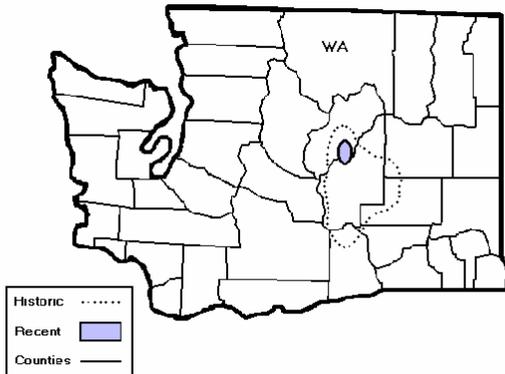


Fig. 2. By the 1990s the small dark-shaded area in part of two Washington counties was the only place the rabbits were found.

“Columbia Basin” Pygmy Rabbits Inbred

The rabbits were listed as “Threatened” by the Washington F&W Commission in 1990 and reclassified as “Endangered” in 1993. By 2000 the only pygmy rabbits found were in an area called “Sagebrush Flats” and a captive breeding program was established with rabbits live-trapped and transferred to a zoo and a wildlife park.

Although there are no recognized subspecies, the “Columbia Basin” rabbits were classified by FWS as an Endangered “Distinct Population Segment” in a federal emergency “Endangered” listing in 2001. FWS announced its intention to maintain the genetic integrity of the Washington rabbits but it was already too late.

Over the next three years researchers discovered that the few wild rabbits they had captured were so inbred their ability to reproduce was seriously impaired. The inbreeding also caused missing or malformed metacarpal and metatarsal bones in the front and rear feet.

Four male and three female pygmy rabbits captured in Idaho in 2000 plus their offspring had produced 30 litters totaling 90 offspring by 2003. During the same period, 16 pygmy rabbits captured in Washington had produced only nine purebred litters totaling 34 offspring, most of which died from various causes.



Young pygmy rabbits born in captivity for reintroduction into the wild.

Planned Purebred Release Canceled

The planned 2003 release of purebred offspring from Washington was canceled by FWS and the decision *continued on page 12*

A Wasted Effort *continued from page 11*

was made to introduce only crossbred rabbits by 2006 using the Idaho strain. Efforts to find more wild Washington rabbits were unsuccessful and the species was considered extirpated (extinct) in the wild in 2004.

For experimental purposes, four carefully monitored reintroductions of 42 Idaho offspring were made in southeast Idaho beginning in 2002. Despite various efforts to limit predation losses, including providing man-made burrows at the release sites, most were killed by weasels or other predators.

Pygmy rabbits are easily killed by most of the terrestrial and avian predators found in their territory. Where alternate prey species are available to these predators, it is possible for them to destroy entire pygmy rabbit populations once rabbit numbers are significantly reduced by over-hunting or natural events.

Whether the prey is bighorn sheep in Idaho's Frank Church Wilderness or pygmy rabbits in Washington's Sagebrush Flats Management Area, once numbers decline to an unhealthy level, the loss of genetic diversity caused by inbreeding also makes them far more susceptible to additional losses from disease and predation.

Millions for Habitat – Pittance for Predator Control

But although predators have been listed as the major cause of mortality in Washington's pygmy rabbits for the past 28 years and millions of dollars have been spent acquiring land and restoring "native" habitat, the sole attempt to control local coyotes for two seasons was discontinued in the spring of 2000. The following winter coyotes killed most of the remaining wild rabbits.

In the experimental Idaho releases, man-made burrows with two entrances were constructed and the rabbits were turned loose in a temporary "soft" release cage on top of those holes. Because weasels got into the cages and then killed the rabbits in their holes the biologists decided to dig the holes but omit the holding cages in the 2007 "hard" release in Washington.

The March 13, 2007 release of 20 crossbred rabbits in the Sagebrush Flats Management Area was accompanied by glowing national press releases and an optimistic prediction that the extinct population would quickly rebuild itself. But less than a month later, two male rabbits had been removed and all but four of the rest had been killed by predators.

WDFW Pygmy Rabbit Coordinator David Hayes said they believe that coyotes killed most of the 14 rabbits but some were also killed by hawks and owls. However he said the abrupt loss of four-fifths of the transplanted pygmy rabbits does not doom the multi-million dollar project and said more transplants will be made.

"Discourage" Predators

Hayes also said "experts" are looking for ways to "reduce predation" but controlling coyotes and weasels prior to the next release was not mentioned. He added,

"We're taking it week by week – this is valuable learning time."

The same stance against controlling predators was evident 12 years ago on Page 29 of the 1995 Washington State Recovery Plan for the (endangered) Pygmy Rabbit:

"Mammalian and avian predators may be a threat to pygmy rabbit populations because of the small number of rabbits and the small extent of area they occupy. During pygmy rabbit population monitoring, notes should be taken on predator species observed (including sign) and evidence of predation on pygmy rabbits. If there are indications of regular and widespread predation on pygmy rabbits, steps should be taken to discourage predators from frequenting pygmy rabbit habitat areas." (emphasis added)



Pygmy rabbit, born and raised in captivity, just released in the wild. Radio antenna extending horizontally from neck collar is barely visible.

Releasing tiny radio-collared pygmy rabbits that were born and raised in captivity into an area populated by multiple predators guarantees poor survival. Regardless of how many avian perches (fences and structures) are destroyed or how many trash sites are cleaned up, the 3,740 acres owned by WDFW plus the 22,390 acres owned or managed separately by The Nature Conservancy will not restore pygmy rabbit populations without lethally removing a majority of the local predators that are killing them.

The Big Bad Wolf...How Bad Is He?

Reprinted, with permission, from the November 2007 issue of Rural Montana Magazine



Rep. Mike Phillips of Bozeman, Montana is a scientist whose research interests include recovery of imperiled species.

Mike Phillips knows wolves.

From 1994 to 1997 Phillips was the National Park Service's first project leader for the Yellowstone wolf restoration effort and before that was the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's field coordinator for red wolf recovery in the Southwest.

Even so, he's not particularly pleased that wolf numbers have exceeded the original vision in the northern Rocky Mountain region – 1,500 wolves in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, when only 100 were projected for each state.

The problem occurred when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service extended recovery to Colorado and Washington.

"They extended recovery much further afield than ever imagined," Phillips said, saying FWS has gotten cute. "Nobody ever imagined when we built the recovery plan that the vision would extend to the rest of western U.S. — that's ridiculous. The wolf is recovered and should be removed from the endangered species list."

State management plans allow for resolving wolf conflicts with livestock producers and establishing reasonable hunting seasons and harvest quotas.

Phillips says wolves typically do not cause problems with livestock, but when they do, "The problems are real, involving private property. When there's conflict we should resolve it quickly" by killing problem wolves.

And, he says, "We should have a legal harvest. Philosophically, I see no difference between hunting a gray wolf for its hide and a pheasant for its meat." Phillips says he hunts birds in Montana and, on occasion, deer.

Even with his objections to the extension of the wolf recovery program, Phillips had compliments for the federal administrators. "The gray wolf is a great success story that speaks to all the good work being done so well. The program finished ahead of schedule and under budget."



Mike McKeever raises sheep near Jordan, MT. He says wolves were eradicated for a good reason and wants them kept in YNP.

Mike McKeever knows wolves.

For 32 years he's been in the sheep business down Jordan way, and two years ago, was one of the ranchers hit hard north of Brockway.

The area is outside the Northern Rockies wolf recovery area but inside an "experimental" area. He sees that designation simply as a way to protect wolves that wander out of the recovery area — too experimental for his tastes.

The McKeever's lost 39 sheep to predator attacks, but that's only part of the story. "We were hit in the middle of breeding. Our ewes weren't looking for bucks but scattered and nervous." He says he was 200 lambs short because of ewes that didn't breed or did not deliver at the usual rate for twins. A neighbor who was hit has kept lambing statistics for years. He calculated that twin lambs dropped 60 percent due to the attacks.

McKeever and his wife, Noreen, would find carcasses strung in a line across a hilly 2,000-acre pasture. "There were orange-size chunks torn out of the ewes' hamstrings, and their throats were ripped ear to ear."

Inspectors first laid the killings on dogs, but McKeever doubted it. "Those ewes had an inch and a half of wool on their throats, and dogs don't have the teeth to go through that." Later, it was determined that a wolf was to blame; both ranchers submitted claims, each in excess of \$20,000, to the Defenders of Wildlife.

But DNA testing declared the wolf a hybrid. The claims were rejected, and producers took the loss. "It looked like a wolf to us," McKeever said. "I'd bet that if you tested the wolves transplanted from Canada, you'd find there's no such thing as a pure wolf." Besides, he says, it isn't the dog in the hybrid that's doing the killing. "A wolf is a wolf."

In one incident, ewes were killed right by a lambing shed not far from the house. "We had grandkids here helping us shear. It makes you kind of wary."

When Do Wolves Become Dangerous To Humans?

By Valerius Geist, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science, The University of Calgary

Commentary by George Dovel

On December 17, 2007 Dr. Geist received a copy of a newspaper article from the November 18, 1963 issue of the Winnipeg Free Press describing a fatal wolf attack and suggesting that, if true, it would be the first authenticated case in Canada of a wolf killing a human. Dr. Geist forwarded the following 44-year-old article to several wildlife biologists with the comment that it resembled the (biased) reporting of the tragic death of Kenton Carnegie in a wolf attack two years ago.

QUEBEC (CP) — Game experts are generally skeptical about stories of wolves, attacking humans, but there is strong evidence to support belief that five-year-old Marc Leblond was killed by one Sept. 24 north of Baie-Comeau, Quebec. An autopsy showed he was killed by a savage animal and authorities at Baie-Comeau, 225 miles northeast of here, are convinced it was a wolf.

If so, it would be the first authenticated case in Canada of a wolf killing a human. Even reports of wolves attacking humans are rare. Dr. Louis Lemieux, director of Quebec's fish and wildlife management service, can recall only one—that of a man who reported fighting off a wolf in Northern Ontario several years ago.

Of the death of Marc Leblond, he says "It could happen" that a wolf killed him, but if so it would be as unusual as the case at Sept-Hes Quebec last year in which an airman was savagely attacked by an owl.

Shoot On Sight Police and hunters at Baie-Comeau are shooting wolves on sight, though few have been seen near inhabited areas. The Leblonds, from Godbout, Quebec, had rented a summer cottage for a week at an isolated lake north of Baie-Comeau. It was about 25 miles from the Manicouagan hydro-electric development where Mr. Leblond worked.

He commuted each day on an access road. Workers have often seen wolves near the road. Frank Auger, Quebec-Hydro police chief at Baie-Comeau, says Marc and his three-year-old brother had been outside playing for a few minutes Sept. 24 when their parents heard a commotion. The younger boy rushed screaming into the house.

The parents, unable to find Marc, thought he had drowned and called police. A search of the lake revealed nothing, but two policemen and foreman Leon Verrault of Quebec-Hydro found the torn body in the forest after a brief search.

Tracks Near Body. They also saw a wolf lurking 50 yards off. Unarmed, they were unable to shoot it but Verrault, an experienced hunter, described it as "a grey timber wolf weighing about 80 pounds." Tracks of two wolves surrounded the body. Later that day an armed group scoured the area, shot at a wolf but missed.

Examination by Dr. Jacques Beaumont, the district coroner, convinced Auger the boy was killed by a wolf.

Wolves follow the same pattern in killing deer. Auger says there are no wild dogs, in the area and there were no signs of other animals near the body.

He says Manicouagan workers have reported being watched by wolves — "They threw stones at them but the wolves didn't go away"—along the access road. There had never been a report of an attack however.

Bounties Halted. "We've seen all kinds of them in this, district but this is the first time in 20 years of police work I've had a case like this," Auger said. Yet he is convinced the Leblond boy was killed by a wolf and he has ordered his men to kill them on sight.

Quebec quit giving bounties for wolves in 1961 and now sends professional trappers into areas where they are killing cattle or sheep. A trapper hasn't been sent to Baie-Comeau. There evidently are thousands of wolves—the largest on record 136 pounds—north of the St. Lawrence but Dr. Lemieux says they are rarely seen even by hunters.

The incident reported above occurred several months after Canadian author of children's fiction, Farley Mowatt, published his infamous "Never Cry Wolf." Although Mowatt later admitted in an interview that his misleading fiction was designed to endear wolves to the public, it was already accepted and even quoted from by wildlife managers when Marc Leblond was killed.

As I pointed out in a 2004 Outdoorsman article that reported records of hundreds of fatal wolf attacks on humans in Europe and Asia over several centuries, fatal attacks in North America remain undocumented because no other human is present when they occur. If others were present they would normally be coming to the aid of the intended victim and there would be no fatal encounter.

Wolf-Human Incidents Rarely Reported

Dr. Geist, who has firsthand experience with aggressive wolf encounters, points out that the vast majority of wolf-human incidents go unreported. Those that are reported by local area media are rarely included in the urban media.

After the Boise media finally reported the wolf attack on Grangeville resident Scott Richards and the killing of two of his hounds, they implied that Richards — not the wolves — was responsible. Shortly after that when another north Idaho houndsman experienced a similar attack involving fatalities to his dogs, they ignored it.

And when two USFS employees radioed for help when they were pursued and surrounded by a pack of wolves the urban newspapers printed a response from IDFG Wolf Coordinator Steve Nadeau ridiculing them. Nadeau's limited experience with wolves and his willingness to parrot Farley Mowatt's claim that wolves are harmless to humans can have dangerous consequences.

In sharp contrast to the biased agenda of Nadeau and the urban media, Dr. Geist has the knowledge, the wisdom and the professional integrity to present the facts concerning when wolves represent no threat to humans and when they represent a serious threat. Dr. Geist and Retired Alaska wolf expert Mark McNay were asked to represent the parents of Kenton Carnegie in November 2007 at a Coroner's Inquest to determine the cause of their son's death.

The recent sharp increase in reported wolf-human confrontations prompted Dr. Geist to forward the following excerpt from the 61 pages of expert testimony he provided to the Coroner's Jury. Hopefully everyone who lives, works or recreates in areas where wolves exist will read and heed this expert's advice:

UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS ARE WOLVES NOT DANGEROUS TO HUMANS?

Wolves are not dangerous when they are well fed, by virtue of successfully preying on abundant wild prey where they have either very little contact with people or where they are hunted. This is no novel conclusion [1].

However, wolves can learn to avoid hunters and yet persist in attacking livestock. Wolves are also less dangerous to humans where there is an adequate buffer of readily available livestock [2].

Therefore, to minimize danger to humans there needs to be (1) a low ratio of wolves to prey, and (2) an occasional, rare visit by humans or (3) a self-confident, fearless, even arrogant demeanor of persons traveling in areas with wolves. Such a confident, fearless way of walking and acting is associated with carrying arms.

When we are armed we are sending a message of confidence and courage with our very movement. And that is intimidating to all large mammals I have worked with in my field studies as an ethologist.

It is not the act of hunting or shooting that makes wolves and other predators wary, but the confident, self-assured manner of armed persons. Healthy wilderness wolves under these conditions are so shy and wary that they are not vulnerable to regular hunting methods, especially stalking. It may be counterintuitive, but inefficient hunting is an excellent protector of large carnivores.

What must be avoided in the presence of wolves is running away, stumbling, limping, as well as any sign of weakness, such as may be associated with an illness, or exhaustion. Making and keeping up eye contact is essential [3].

We can surmise that the reason healthy free ranging wolves feeding on native prey are of little if any danger to people meeting them is that adult wolves live in a hard cage of interlocking instincts and imprint-like

learning. They will act on the dictates of those instincts and learning, and they will not attack potential prey that does not match what they learned during their long ontogeny.

To attack new prey requires the dismantling of what they learned and a slow process of re-learning, guided by observational learning about the new prey and a very cautious approach to attacking. Wolves cannot risk being bold as they risk injury attacking an unknown prey species.

The greater the discrepancy in appearance, sound and smell of the new prey between what wolves learned in their youth and what they encounter, the greater the resistance to exploring such as new prey. And that resistance increases should the new prey act bold, assertive and fearless.

Nevertheless, wolves will explore humans as alternative prey, even if there is no food shortage, if they continually come in close contact with humans and habituate. It cannot be emphasized enough that habituation is but a stepping stone towards fully exploring humans as prey.

Habituated wolves will eventually attack as the next step in exploration – in making the unknown known. This is a principle of exploratory behavior applicable to all animals – not just to wolves.

UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS ARE WOLVES HIGHLY DANGEROUS TO HUMANS?

Wolves become dangerous when they run out of food, be it by depleting prey, or by encountering difficulties in hunting by virtue of old age, or young age and lone status and low social rank, or due to illness, or due to injury inflicted by a hunter, or by reacting to a scream of a wounded pack member and attacking, or by mistaking the human as prey.

Well fed wolves can also become dangerous, but under conditions where they take advantage of a rich feeding opportunity that constantly brings them into close contact with humans. This can happen at garbage dumps and at campgrounds. However, a necessary condition for attacks to occur is the *de facto* or *de jure* protection of wolves. When these conditions are met, wolves begin to explore humans as alternative prey.

HOW DO WOLVES EXPLORE FOR ALTERNATIVE PREY?

A brief departure into theory is required here. All organisms – there are no exceptions – act so as to live in predictable surroundings and circumstances – **Predictability** is the key here!

The main reason for that is that under most conditions energy and nutrients for maintenance - let alone

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When Do Wolves...*continued from page 15*

reproduction - are difficult to acquire and are digested and metabolized into growth or energy expenditure quite inefficiently. The “**cheapest**” way to live, which is the way organisms set aside and store enough energy and nutrients for reproduction, is to live under utterly predictable circumstances.

To make the environment predictable, organisms have mechanisms of exploration and the manner of making the unknown known is remarkably similar, be the organism mice, sheep, wolves or men. It is a process of little excursions into the unfamiliar followed by a quick retreat into the familiar where the animal dwells mostly, until it sums up its “courage” to do a bit more exploration.

The manner of the wolf exploring and becoming familiar with new prey happens to be exceedingly slow and proceeds in stages over a long time, as the wolf, by nature, is – and needs to be – exceedingly timid. When confronting an unknown prey, the final exploration by a wolf is to attack [4].

THESE ARE THE SEVEN STAGES LEADING TO AN ATTACK ON PEOPLE BY WOLVES

1) Within the pack’s territory prey is becoming scarce not only due to increased predation on native prey animals, but also by the prey evacuating home ranges en masse, leading to a virtual absence of prey. **OR** wolves increasingly visit garbage dumps at night. We observed the former on Vancouver Island in summer and fall 1999.

Deer left the meadow systems occupied by wolves and entered boldly into suburbs and farms, causing – for the first time – much damage to gardens. At night they slept close to barns and houses, which they had not done in the previous four years.

The wintering grounds of trumpeter swans, Canada geese and flocks of several species of ducks were vacated. The virtual absence of wildlife in the landscape was striking.

2) Wolves in search of food began to approach human habitations – at night! Their presence was announced by frequent and loud barking of farm dogs. A pack of sheep-guarding dogs raced out each evening to confront the wolf pack, resulting in extended barking duels at night, and the wolves were heard howling even during the day.

3) The wolves appear in daylight and observe people doing their daily chores at some distance. Wolves excel at learning by close, steady observation [5]. They approach buildings during daylight.

4) Small bodied livestock and pets are attacked close to buildings even during the day. The wolves act distinctly bolder in their actions.

They preferentially pick on dogs and follow them right up to the verandas. People out with dogs find

themselves defending their dogs against a wolf or several wolves. Such attacks are still hesitant and people save some dogs.

At this stage wolves do not focus on humans, but attack pets and some livestock with determination. However, they may threaten humans with teeth exposed and growling when the humans are defending dogs, or show up close to a female dog in heat, or close to a kill or carrion defended by wolves. The wolves are still establishing territory.

5) The wolves explore large livestock, leading to docked tails, slit ears and hocks. Livestock may bolt through fences running for the safety of barns. When the first seriously wounded cattle are found they tend to have severe injuries to the udders, groin and sexual organs and need to be put down. The actions of wolves become more brazen and cattle or horses may be killed close to houses and barns where the cattle or horses were trying to find refuge. Wolves may follow riders and surround them. They may mount verandas and look into windows.

6) Wolves turn their attention to people and approach them closely, initially merely examining them closely for several minutes on end. This is a switch from establishing territory to targeting people as prey. The wolves may make hesitant, almost playful attacks biting and tearing clothing, nipping at limbs and torso. They withdraw when confronted. They defend kills by moving toward people and growling and barking at them from 10-20 paces away.

7) Wolves attack people. These initial attacks are clumsy, as the wolves have not yet learned how to take down the new prey efficiently. Persons attacked can often escape because of the clumsiness of the attacks.

A mature, courageous man may beat off or strangulate an attacking wolf. However, against a wolf pack there is no defense and even two able and armed men may be killed. Wolves as pack hunters are so capable a predator that they may take down black bears, even grizzly bears [6]. Wolves may defend kills.

The attack may not be motivated by predation, but be a matter of more detailed exploration unmotivated by hunger. This explains why wolves on occasion carry away living, resisting children, why they do not invariably feed on the humans they killed, but may abandon such just as they may kill foxes and just leave them, and why injuries to an attacked person may at times be surprisingly light, granted the strength of a wolf’s jaw and its potential shearing power [7].

[1] See Mark McNay 2002. *ibid*

[2] In correspondence with Dr. Leonid Baskin, Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Moscow, it turned out that in Siberia, even where wolves were common, attacks on people were absent. The critical criterion appeared to

be the ready availability of livestock. That is as long as domestic reindeer were available or adequate herds of sheep, goats etc., wolves concentrated on these and left people alone.

This suggests that wolves, which learned to kill ungulates, find it difficult to change over to humans as we are extremely different from the prey they learned to kill. Dissimilarity or discrepancy between what the wolves learned as pups and youngsters and the appearance, sounds and smells of humans, apparently acted to protect the latter. Baskin also reported that reindeer herders discovered that wolves may learn to avoid the dangers from hunting and yet continue to kill domestic reindeer.

[3] Wolves readily spot indications of vulnerability. Prof. Harry Frank wrote in an e-mail to me: *“Wolves are extraordinarily sensitive to movement cues. Something as trivial as a head cold can affect one’s gait. Even if the head cold sufferer is unaware of it, a wolf is very likely to detect it. I believe that at Wolf Park, workers with any sort of illness or injury are not permitted to enter the wolf pen.”*

[4] Jerome H. Woolpy and Benson E. Ginsburg 1967 *ibid*.

[5] It is important to recognize here that wolves learn in a manner different from dogs, and that they excel at learning by closely observing what is going on. They are insight learners, and they solve problems, such as unlatching gates, for instance, almost at once!

Some dogs may solve this, but over a very long time, and usually not at all. Captive wolves or coyotes not only learn to open their cage, but quickly open all the others as well! And they achieve this by sitting and just watching attentively – an activity wild wolves indulge in continually.

From an elevated position they rest or sit and watch, watch, watch. Many times wolves followed me and on some occasions sat beside my cabin at night, orientated towards the cabin, apparently watching what was going on.

Wolves have large heads relative to the body and at comparable skull sizes have about ten percent more brain mass than dogs. See Ray and Lorna Coppinger 2001 *Dogs*, pp. 42-47, 54-55.

[6] Personal communication by Dr. Paul Paquet from research on coastal wolves in British Columbia. Wolf scat contained fur and claws of both black bears and grizzly bears.

[7] I am grateful to Prof. Harry Frank drawing my attention to multiple motivations of wolves attacking people.

Wolf Pack Terrorized Eagle River Residents

The wolf-human confrontation that caused Dr. Geist to circulate the foregoing information took place on December 20, 2007 on Artillery Road in Eagle River, Alaska. Three female residents of Eagle River were exercising with their dogs on leashes when they were waylaid by a pack of at least seven wolves.

Holding on to their dogs, the women began screaming at the wolves while one of them sprayed the animals with pepper spray. The wolves moved a short distance away but when the women attempted to turn around in the direction of their vehicle, the wolves renewed their attack.

In a graphic television interview, one of the sobbing women described how three of the wolves attacked her dog but she said she didn’t let go of the leash. Another described how all three kept screaming at the wolves as they walked backwards for a mile and a half while she continued to spray the attacking wolves with pepper spray.

She told the Fish and Game officer who was present that the wolves had absolutely no fear of them and she felt they would have attacked her had she been alone. An hour earlier that morning wolves attacked and killed a dog chained in a front yard about a mile away and the F&G officer felt it was the same pack.

He advised that the same wolf pack was doing the same thing eleven years ago and would not stop until several pack members were trapped and killed. F&G advised residents to stay out of the area and try to keep their dogs indoors.

The women said they had obeyed warnings to keep their dogs leashed and carry pepper spray but that did not prevent the attack. Meanwhile in response to several dogs being killed by wolves in the Two Rivers/North Pole area outside of Fairbanks, F&G set up a statewide hotline to let people keep track of wolf sightings.

Hungry Wolves Chase Children

On December 21, 2007 two families were enjoying an outing in the NW corner of British Columbia. Rod Barrie was towing three youngsters, aged 3-4, on a toboggan with an ATV around the bottom of a hill while his wife sat in their truck with their two-year-old.

Kyle Keays was sitting in an Argo with his three-month-old youngster and his wife was at the top of the hill with their crossbred Rottweiler. Suddenly his wife began shouting and waving her arms frantically and he looked up to see their dog racing downhill to intercept the toboggan.

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Wolves Chase Children *continued from page 17*

Barrie was pulling the sled with the youngsters toward the truck, pursued by two wolves that were closing the distance. When he reached the truck the wolves were only 20 feet behind and the 120-pound rottweiler attacked the lead wolf at that instant.

As soon as the youngsters were safely inside the truck, Barrie grabbed a shovel, smashed the shovel blade off and waded in to help the dog. Meanwhile Keays, who was too far away to help, swung through their camp retrieving his rifle and raced to the scene.

Once the wolves backed off from Barrie, he jumped in the ATV and chased them toward the timber. Keays arrived then but was unable to get a shot off.

With their wives and children settled safely in the camp, the two men drove their ATVs to the shop about 400 yards distant to put them away. As they were returning they spotted the lead wolf moving close to camp and Keays shot and killed it.



The lead wolf in the chase after the children was later killed as it moved into the camp area.

After the family members viewed the black wolf it was getting dark so they dragged the carcass to the shop, took several more pictures and left it there to be skinned the following morning. But when they got up the next morning the wolf carcass was gone.

The two men followed the skid marks in the snow where the other wolf had dragged the carcass until they came upon what was left of it after its former companion had eaten its fill. The other wolf was still present and Keays shot and killed it.

Other hunters suggested he contact the media to let the public know the danger that hungry wolves represent to an unsuspecting public. In an interview published in the December 24, 2007 Vancouver Sun, Keays described both wolves as extremely thin and hungry and said that they were definitely not afraid of humans.



The second wolf, shown with the remains of its companion after it dragged it several hundred yards and partially devoured it, was shot the following morning.

If this incident had occurred in the lower 48 states it is likely that Keays would have been unduly harassed – and possibly arrested and prosecuted. Yet by pursuing the children on the toboggan as a source of food, both of the hungry wolves demonstrated the need for prompt lethal removal.

Dr. Geist has recorded ~15 similar incidents to the two reported above in which he or a neighbor were involved. Fourteen Vancouver Island wolves were reportedly killed yet only one was reported by the media.

By pretending that such incidents do not occur frequently because they are not often reported in the media, federal and state wildlife biologists are paving the way for increased confrontations, some of which may have tragic results. One way to help prevent this is to widely circulate copies of Dr. Geist's information in this issue.

Another is to denounce as false any statement from any source claiming that wolves are misunderstood and represent little or no threat to humans. A third way is to distribute copies of Will Graves' new book titled, "Russian Wolves – Anxiety through the Ages."

The following excerpt from the forward by Dr. Geist, who edited "Russian Wolves," is prophetic:

"North Americans have an opportunity to learn from others in good time to adopt management measures that minimize dangers and problems with wolves. If we fail to discuss the Russian experience and continue with myopic and currently fashionable romantic visions about wolves, which are enshrined in law, then in the long run it will be wolves, if not wildlife conservation as a whole, that will pay the price. We can learn from history that failure to manage wolves results in their decimation, if not extinction. Unfortunately, as the great philosopher Emanuel Kant once quipped, we learn from history that we do not learn from history."

Wolf Plan Testimony

(On December 31, 2007, after this issue was ready for the printer, I received the following unsolicited email testimony concerning the draft wolf plan, which had also been sent to the Idaho F&G Commissioners and Director. It accurately reflects the communications we receive from individual big game hunters concerning the 94-page Plan and 34-page Appendix, and is included here with Mr. Lindahl's permission. – ED)

Dear Members of the Commission and Department Director:

Please consider this letter as public comment related to the Idaho Wolf Plan. Idaho hunters want strong control and management of federally introduced Canadian Grey Wolves in Idaho.

The excessively lengthy plan is a document that has our sovereign state groveling before an unprofessional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and an obscenely assertive Nez Perce Tribe (NPT). It is an insult to ungulate hunters who have financially supported the management of elk, deer and moose populations in our state. You all must bear shame for having forwarded to the hunting public such a document that excessively panders to the USFWS and the NPT.

Perhaps the greatest indignity created by the senseless document is the need to develop wolf viewing locations so the public can view the once wisely decimated predators in the wild. Again, you will use hunters', anglers' and trappers' dollars to carry out extreme environmental operatives' demands. How bitterly ironic!!!

Wolves have largely destroyed a portion of the state's economy that big game hunters once produced. The outfitting community has suffered significant financial losses. Wolves and the political hacks in the Fish and Game Department, the Legislature, the Executive (Director Conley, Senator Noh and Governor Andrus) and the Defenders of Wildlife, the Idaho Wildlife Federation, the Idaho Conservation League and numerous other extreme environmental organizations have decimated the hunting and outfitting revenues and now those same entities want hunters and outfitters to create a yet-to-be proven alternative economy.

No mention is made of the size and value the formerly strong revenue and job producing components produced by hunting in the overall state economy. How bitterly ironic that such a provision was approved by our Fish and Game Department and Commission.

We need both aggressive wolf control and management in Idaho. Aerial gunnery and government-sponsored consumptive trapping must be applied to control wolves when conditions such as those that have existed, for far too long, in the Lochsa and Selway elk zones continue to worsen.

Management of wolves through year-long hunting with multiple tags for hunters priced at two dollars over the administrative point of sale costs will account for some kills, but the notion that wolves can be managed through hunting alone is pure fantasy.

The predator designation for wolves should be invoked when depredation to domestic animals and ungulate species reaches critical levels. Use bounty payments for wolf control attempts when necessary. Control and manage wolves down to the very minimum needed to escape their return to the unprofessional federal control we now experience. The present provisions of the "plan" come nowhere near to getting wolves to their minimum recovery levels where they need to be kept.

The Department needs to become far more professional when engaging the public regarding wolf/human incidents where danger to humans and their domestic animals is involved. The wolf boosters in the Department need some serious lessons regarding Department liability when dealing with the public in the area of wolf/human encounters.

The Commission needs to demonstrate courage in dealing with the federal bureaucrats and enviro/extremos. So far, that courage has been sorely lacking and I find such a lack of courage highly disappointing. This Department and the Commission can do much better in dealing with this issue.

Much bad faith dealing related to wolf introduction has been perpetrated by federal authorities since its early history and the Department and the Commission seem to want to follow the federal lead with more bad faith dealing by sending this wolf plan to Idaho hunters.

Get this document down to no more than about 10 pages and then control and manage those wolves and the federal bureaucrats who have bungled this introduction. Carry out your responsibility to the ungulate resources that hunters have helped create and maintain through their financial contributions.

I wish you all unlimited courage in 2008!

Sincerely,
Ed Lindahl
Sagle, Idaho

F&G Funding & the Mule Deer Plan

The third meeting of the F&G Funding Committee on Dec. 6, 2007 was attended by representatives from the Governor's Office, State Lands, State Ag and others in support of a proposed \$10 user fee for access to state lands and other facilities. Several speakers emphasized that Idaho endowment lands, often referred to as "State School Sections", are no longer considered public lands and providing free access is no longer required.

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Mule Deer Plan...continued from page 19

Director Groen and Commissioners McDermott and Wright pointed out that access and facilities paid for with sportsmen license dollars are utilized by a large number of family members and others who do not purchase hunting and fishing licenses. However the big news came from Legislative Liaison Sharon Kiefer who described how the 2008-2017 Mule Deer Plan will provide a tremendous amount of additional income to the Department.

She explained the principle by saying, "At the end of the day if you have only 10 tags and over 8,000 applicants (for 'quality' or 'trophy' buck hunt permits)," and then she used the specific figure of 442 tags for which countless applicants will pay money to get the chance to draw. She neglected to mention that the tens of thousands of applicants who are unsuccessful at drawing a special privilege hunt will then participate in other units with general season hunts.

As explained in Bulletin #23, this can easily double the number of hunters in some units thus cutting in half their odds of killing a deer. The hunting opportunity chart in the Mule Deer Plan shows there will be up to 35 times as many hunters per square mile in some general season hunts as in the special privilege trophy hunts. With a minimum of only 5 post-season bucks per 100 does in some general season units, the odds of seeing any 4 or 5-year-old bucks the following year are poor.

Former Director Greenley was still rebuilding mule deer herds in 1979 and he reported average post season buck-to-doe ratios of 44:100 in units surveyed in southeast Idaho. If approved once again by the Commission, the draft mule deer plan, designed to maximize F&G revenue, will continue to exploit general season mule deer populations and hunters.

An Important Decision

After three years of citing scientific studies to substantiate the facts I publish, the last Outdoorsman reported the radical agenda that is burying our hunting heritage. Several readers sent significant donations and complimented me on tying everything together in one long easy-to-understand article that was featured in several internet blogs and a national radio talk show.

A supporter even set up the article in an Outdoorsman Idaho blog, hoping that I would add other articles to induce more people to donate and read The Outdoorsman (see <http://theoutdoorsmanid.blogspot.com/>).

During the past several years when a donor sent more than the \$20 cost of an annual subscription I applied the extra money to providing new "subscriptions" for elected officials or to providing hundreds of bulk copies to various volunteers who distributed them. If a donor sent \$40-\$60 for just one year and didn't send another donation the following year, I extended his or her subscription by another year or two.

But because I had already used the extra money to increase circulation, that \$20-\$40 cost came out of my own pocket. Donors of large amounts are still receiving the publication although their entire donation was used to increase circulation at the time.

Widespread circulation of facts is the only weapon that will reverse the demise of public hunting but it cannot happen without your financial support. Only you can decide whether to sit back and hope the few who are trying will succeed – or donate now to spread the word in the places it will do the most good.

Without your help we may not reach enough people to succeed. With your help we cannot fail.

I urge you to take time now to send a donation for gift subscriptions along with names and addresses of people who need to read facts. Or simply send a donation and we will mail The Outdoorsman to appropriate officials in your area.

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