

The Outdoorsman

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New Wolf Bill – a Wolf Hunt Bill, Not a Recover Wildlife Bill – Was Passed to Derail Better Solutions

By George Dovel

On April 15, 2011, President Obama signed H.R. 1473, the spending “compromise” that supposedly cut Congressional spending by nearly \$40 billion for the remainder of FY2011, and supposedly turned wolf management over to two states and portions of three other states in the Northern Rocky Mountains. At least that’s what the politicians who were involved have been telling the media and the public for the past few weeks.

CBO and FWS Disagree With Politicians

Yet the Congressional Budget Office said while “Spending Authority” for the next ten years was “cut” by about \$37.7 billion, the actual spending cut for FY 2011 was only \$352 million – slightly less than one percent of the amount claimed. And retiring FWS Wolf Leader Ed Bangs confirmed in writing that the states selected for wolf delisting will still be required to manage wolves under 2009 FWS criteria and control for at least five more years.

He added that if either Idaho or Montana fail to meet their minimum number of breeding pairs at the end of any one of those five years, or if (someone decides that) changes in Idaho or Montana law or management objectives would significantly increase the threat to the wolf population, FWS will add an additional five years of FWS control to all of the states involved at that time.

Most Congressmen Had no Idea What They Voted For

But most of the members of Congress who voted to pass H.R. 1473, even if they read the 459-page resolution, didn’t have a clue how much FY 2011 spending had been cut or whether it did or did not really turn wolf management over to the five states. The following sentence concerning wolf delisting was the only explanation they were offered in the 459-page resolution and it does not even mention “wolves” or “delisting”:

“SEC. 1713. Before the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall reissue the final rule published on April 2, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 15123 et seq.) without regard to any other provision of statute or regulation that applies to issuance of such rule.”

Everyone Ignored Flaws in De-listing Document

A second sentence claimed the re-issuance would not be subject to judicial review and also said it did not affect the Wyoming U.S. District Court ruling and judgment issued on Nov. 18, 2010. That court ruled that FWS rejection of Wyoming’s Wolf Plan in the 2009 Delisting was arbitrary and capricious and ordered FWS to make it right.

Another District Court in Montana ruled that the FWS 2009 Delisting Rule was flawed in several respects – including its use of state borders to define population segments of wolves that travel in several states. If members of Congress had actually read the 75,000-word 66-page 2009 Delisting Rule, instead of approving its re-issuance blindly, they would have seen other discrepancies.

For example, it repeatedly states that for five years after delisting, Idaho and Montana must not allow the number of breeding pairs to fall below 10 or the number of wolves to fall below 100 at the end of any year. They also must not allow these numbers to fall below 15 and 150 for any three years in a row – the minimums originally agreed to by both states.

IDFG, OSC and Governor Agreed to Increase Wolves

But elsewhere it states that Idaho later agreed to manage for several times that many wolves. It confirms Ed Bangs’ warning that “changes in Idaho or Montana law or management objectives (that) would significantly increase the threat to the wolf population” *can* result in re-listing and *will* result in adding five additional years of FWS supervision for all states.

In Idaho, the recent 80% reduction ordered by Gov. Otter, from his 2008 minimum population of 518-732 wolves back to the 100-150 wolves agreed to by legislators and FWS in 2002, might be considered “a significant increase to the threat to the wolf population.” The FWS 2009 Delisting Rule lists Otter’s name seven times as the author of promises made in writing by the Governor and his two wolf agencies, IDFG and OSC, to dramatically increase the minimum number of wolves in Idaho.

continued on page 2

“Wolf Hunt Bill” – *continued from page 1*

In previous *Outdoorsman* issues, Dr. Valerious Geist has repeatedly explained and documented the disaster that always occurs when uncontrolled wolf populations are allowed to expand until they create unhealthy wolf-to-prey ratios. Because wolves multiply much faster than the big game animals they eat, once they have driven their primary prey into a “predator pit” from which it cannot recover they turn to alternate large and small prey and pets to survive.

Edwards Bill to Remove Wolves from ESA Listing

In 2010 some members of Congress failed to believe biologists’ claims that ecosystems where wildlife populations are ravaged by malnutrition, disease and cannibalism are “healthy”. Congressman Chet Edwards (D-TX) introduced HR 6028 to remove all gray wolves, which were never actually endangered, from ESA listing.

That legislation would have given all state F&G biologists full authority to properly manage all wildlife in their state. But some biologists in the Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Area viewed it as a threat to their system of wildlife corridors from Mexico to Alaska, where protected large predators will be free to roam, and where the biologists will ultimately control all human activity – including energy development.

Baucus/Tester Bill to De-list Wolves in Two States

They had already convinced Western governors to support their “Wildlands” agenda, and Montana Senators Baucus and Tester prepared a bill to de-list wolves only in Idaho and Montana where wolf plans were approved by FWS. The only stipulation in their bill was that each state must maintain a minimum wolf population within the minimums in its own plan or higher for five years, or wolves in that state would be re-listed by FWS.

Montana’s 2003 wolf plan required managing for at least 100-150 wolves but Idaho’s 2008 Fish and Game wolf plan, cited in the bill as “Idaho’s Wolf Plan”, required Idaho to manage for at least 518-732 wolves for five years after delisting. Although the F&G 2008-2012 plan was illegal, violating several Idaho laws, Gov. Otter sent a November 24, 2008 letter to FWS Director Hall stating that it was Idaho’s Post Delisting Plan and saying he supported managing for five times as many wolves as FWS required.

Otter’s letter referenced a 35-page attachment signed by the Governor’s Office of Species Conservation (OSC) and by IDFG Director Cal Groen, stating that wolves in Idaho were vigorous and healthy. It also specifically asked FWS to consider (implement) the new changes in Idaho’s Wolf Plan (i.e. to manage for five times as many wolves and not allow a hunting season unless a minimum of 20 breeding pairs would remain).

Ignoring Idaho Law Created Serious Problem

If IDFG and Otter had not ignored Idaho Law that required any F&G Plan to be submitted to the next (2009) session of the Legislature for either approval, amendment or rejection, the Tester Bill would not have created such a

problem for Idaho. There is no evidence that the Legislature would have approved managing for any more wolves – much less for five times as many!

F&G Refused to Use 10J Plan to Save Lolo Elk

Two months after Groen signed the 11-28-08 document to FWS claiming that wolves in Idaho were vigorous and healthy, he told Idaho legislators about his Research Biologist George Pauley’s long-term finding that wolves were causing a 15% decline in elk numbers each year – compared to a seven percent increase without wolves. Groen also said that wolves were killing a significant number of other wolves in some units – a scenario that occurs when wolves can no longer find enough prey to satisfy their hunger, and invade neighboring packs’ territories in search of food.

Because there was no question that wolves were decimating the famous elk herd in the Lolo Zone, F&G had prepared a 10J plan to kill up to 105 wolves. But instead of asking Wildlife Services to implement the plan, IDFG, OSC and House Resource Committee Chairman Bert Stevenson all assured FWS they would not use the 10J plan they had prepared.

Idaho F&G Commissioners were fully aware that wolves were now the sole cause of rapidly declining elk herds in the Lolo Zone, yet in a public meeting they voted not to use the 10J plan to let Wildlife Services kill the 105 wolves in 2008. Their decision ignored their lawful mandate to preserve, protect and perpetuate all wildlife and gave the wolves several more years to destroy the elk.

And the wolves obliged. By the start of the Lolo Zone wolf hunting season on September 1, 2009 following delisting, Lolo elk herds had declined dramatically and many of the wolves that had not killed each other had moved to other zones where elk were still plentiful.

Hunters Killed Only 13 Wolves in 7-Month Season

Although the 2009-2010 hunter harvest quota for the Lolo Zone was 27 wolves, by the end of the seven-month hunt on March 31, 2010, Lolo hunters had killed only 13 wolves. In May, Wildlife Bureau Chief Jeff Gould claimed there were still 75-100 wolves in about eight packs in the Lolo Zone and authorized four outfitters and their guides to conduct a control action through June 30, 2010 and kill up to 20 additional wolves. But the four Lolo outfitters and their guides were able to kill only two additional wolves by June 30, 2010.

Emergency Wolf Bill Buried by Chairman Stevenson

Meanwhile February 2010 elk counts revealed an 84% decline in Lolo Zone elk numbers since wolves were introduced in 1995. Rep. Dick Harwood introduced HCR 43 in the 2010 Idaho Legislative Session - listing the severe impact uncontrolled wolves were having on big game, livestock, local business and rural residents.

His House Concurrent Resolution encouraged the Idaho Governor to declare a state of emergency and to authorize and require the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game to

use any legal means to reduce wolf numbers to those designated for recovery of the species (150). It would have required IDFG to use the 10J plan to hire Wildlife Services and their pilot-gunner team to kill more Lolo wolves in midwinter when it was relatively easy, instead of allowing the wolves to continue destroying the elk – especially during each successive winter and calving season.

But whether it was because of pressure from Gov. Otter in support of the F&G wolf plan as some Resource Committee members claimed, or a warning from the Attorney General's Office as Chairman Stevenson later claimed, he refused to allow Harwood's bill to be discussed or voted on. That is the same tactic that U. S. Senate Committee Chair Barbara Boxer promised to use if the bill to remove all wolves from ESA listing reached her Committee.

Late Effort to Add HR 6028 to Funding Bill Failed

Two of the groups lobbying for passage of that Bill were Utah Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife (SFW) founded by Don Peay, and Big Game Forever, a subsidiary group he formed to promote legislation giving states control of wolves. Throughout the summer of 2010 Peay issued optimistic reports that Edwards' proposal would easily pass, but on September 22, 2010, he and Mule Deer Foundation President/CEO Miles Moretti donated \$13,500 to "Friends For Harry Reid" in what Peay described as an effort to "add the proposal as a rider on a funding bill."

The donation got them a meeting with Reid, but it was just a "drop in the bucket" compared to the \$25,975,547 Reid spent to get re-elected and he reportedly said he would do nothing until after the Nov. 2nd election. Peay and his group also met with Montana Senators Baucus and Tester who introduced their bill to delist wolves only in Idaho and Montana on Sept. 28th.

On Sept. 29, 2010, Utah Sen. Orren Hatch introduced S 3919 to replace Rep. Edwards' HR 6028 which automatically died at the end of the two-year session on Sept. 30, 2010.

After the funding bill passed without the Edwards/Hatch bill or the Tester bill being added as a rider, Peay accused Baucus and Tester of deliberately derailing the Hatch bill instead of working to pass it. Baucus and Tester claimed Peay's charge was not true and said he was just upset because his backroom deal to sneak the Edwards bill through without being debated was not successful.

More Shenanigans?

In October-December, sportsman and agricultural groups tried unsuccessfully to get the Hatch legislation considered but Baucus and Tester, with a "backroom deal" of their own, got their bill attached to a December funding bill which did not pass. Two days after the Nov. 2nd election, I received a call from *Outdoorsman* readers who said they received a conference call from Don Peay who was trying to solicit agricultural donations to support a bill to de-list wolves only in Idaho and Montana (Tester bill?).

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and other groups strongly denounced the Tester Bill, claiming it was written by FWS to derail the Hatch bill to remove wolves. Yet now they praise an even worse version of that bill.

Meanwhile - Back in Idaho

In 2010, with wolves re-listed again by Montana Judge Molloy, and Rep. Harwood's HCR 43 killed by Resource Committee Chairman Bert Stevenson, the wolf problem in rural Idaho had become critical. The June-August 2010 *Outdoorsman* described how the elk harvest had declined 2% per year since wolves were introduced, but had declined 23% to a 26-year low in just the 3 years since Otter took office.

It told how, in addition to the statewide loss of \$24 million spent each year by elk hunters who stopped coming to Idaho, the rate of unemployment from 2009-2010 in the one-third of counties that depend on hunters as a seasonal source of income increased by a whopping 31-72%!

It also told how, with both deer and elk populations declining rapidly, nearly one-third of the deer and 41% of the elk killed by hunters in 2009 were female breeding stock! That issue described how F&G raised hundreds of thousands of dollars by selling both special weapons permits and chances for rifle hunters to kill off the female breeding stock, and also documented the misuse (theft) of nearly half a million dollars in sportsman excise taxes to fund its nongame (Wildlands) agenda.

I made sure several friends of Gov. Otter received that issue so the facts would not be withheld from him or distorted by his staff or legal advisors. At about the same time (Sept. 16, 2010), Idaho County Commissioners asked Gov. Otter to declare their County a disaster area because of the damage excessive wolf numbers were causing.

On Oct. 18, 2010, Governor Otter ended Idaho's agreement to manage wolves for FWS. And on Dec. 9, 2010, the F&G Commissioners finally suspended their illegal 2008-2012 Wolf Plan at Otter's request.

At that F&G Commission meeting, Gov. Otter's Chief of Staff, David Hensley, announced that negotiations with FWS were ongoing and said when the new Congress came in session there would be a solution to delist wolves in the three NRM (Northern Rocky Mountain) states. Idaho Congressman Simpson was involved and the obvious solution, short of removing all wolves from the ESA, was to simply amend the Tester bill to include Wyoming's and Idaho's agreements to manage for 100-150 wolves.

Instead, in three versions of H.R. 1, Tester and Simpson restored the flawed 2009 delisting rule, omitting Wyoming but including portions of Oregon, Washington and Utah. Then Wyoming requested its successful court ruling be included and it was in the new H.R. 1473.

With Tester and Simpson both announcing their bill was intended to overcome the Montana court ruling, it invited a legal challenge of its Constitutionality. That has already happened as this issue goes to the printer.

Idaho HB 343: Why and How It Was Passed; and Why Hasn't Gov. Otter Declared a Wolf Emergency?

News and Commentary by George Dovel

Public testimony concerning the need for passage of HB 343 was limited to slightly more than one hour in the Senate Resources and Environment Committee. It had already passed the House with 93% of the members voting for its passage, and the fact that it passed the Senate by 77% indicates that most Idaho legislators supported aggressive action to halt the severe impact of uncontrolled wolves on rural Idaho.

The F&G Enablers in State Government

Despite the fact that FWS was guilty of frequently changing its wolf criteria, and even rejected the Wyoming wolf plan which it previously helped author and approved, more Idaho legislators are beginning to understand that the extensive wolf damage that resulted in the need for HB 343 could not have happened without major help from the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game and its enablers in State government.

These enablers include at least one legislative leader in each house, and especially the chairmen of both Resource committees. Dating back to 1970 when the present Senate Resources and Environment Committee was called the "Senate Fish and Game Committee," IDFG has cultivated a special relationship with these committee chairmen and has received favored treatment in return.

Idaho citizens never read in a newspaper or see sound bites on TV about a resource committee chairman attacking a Fish & Game critic's integrity when he is not there to defend himself. Nor do they hear about the chairman tabling legislation that would benefit Idaho citizens just because it might expose what is really happening to Idaho's wildlife.

And when a bill advocating a return to scientific wildlife management *is* approved by either resource committee, a group of F&G supporters in the Attorney General's Office is always available to issue an unofficial legal opinion suggesting one of a series of calamities that "might" happen if the bill is passed in the floor vote.

Passage of HB 343 Required Aggressive Leadership

The 2010 elections resulted in Senate Resource Committee Vice Chairman Monty Pearce becoming the new Chairman. Because he did not have a record of putting bureaucratic agendas above the welfare of Idaho citizens, the remaining potential stumbling block for passage of legislation that would address the wolf disaster in rural Idaho was House Resource Committee Chairman Bert Stevenson so his committee was bypassed.

On April 1, 2011, the House Ways and Means Committee approved RS 20736 by Speaker of the House Lawrence Denney for introduction, following presentation

by Rep. Judy Boyle. It was passed in the House as HB 343 on April 5th and was scheduled for a Senate Resources and Environment Committee hearing on April 6th.

One of the most significant pieces of testimony at that hearing was the following letter read aloud:

Esteemed members of the Idaho Senate Resources and Environment Committee:

Regretting that due to a prior commitment I'm unable to attend the H 343 hearing on Idaho's wolf issues I first wish to express my gratitude to those responsible for this hearing for the opportunity to put my 2 cents worth on the record.

Because of the probability that you will hear a litany of horror stories about the non-native Wolf depredation that has devastated Idaho's elk herds, I'd like to focus my testimony on another aspect of Canadian wolf introduction that is seldom publicly discussed, namely the co-introduction of non-native parasites and diseases that the US Fish and Wildlife Service in general, and Mr. Ed Bangs in particular, were warned about by several eminent biologists, all of whom possess impeccable credentials and whose field service and research can be counted in decades.

The bottom line is. . .nobody involved in the wolf introduction decision can plead ignorance to the warnings of the havoc that non-native Canadian wolves would wreak on Idaho's game herds and traditional lifestyle, since the letters documenting both those warnings and warnings of disease/parasite infestation still exist. It's my humble request that the documentation accompanying this letter and supporting the above allegations be entered into the public record by this committee.

My personal concern with the introduction of non-native diseases and parasites into Idaho's ecosystem stems from the fact that I live in a beautiful and semi-remote, but easily accessible part of the state that I have visited, camped, picnicked, fished, cut firewood, hiked, and hunted in since 1964, mostly without a care or worry that I or a family member could or would become part of the food chain. That's all changed and I will predict that the fantasy that "Wolves don't eat people" will sooner or later evaporate in Idaho like it long ago did everywhere else in the world that wolves and people co-exist.

But the really insidious factor in the introduction process that transcends the bounds of human decency is the failure of both the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Idaho Fish and Game Dept. to warn Northwest residents of

the between 30 and 50 diseases and parasites that were cointroduced with the wolves, the Echinococcus granulosus tapeworm, or Hydatid tapeworm as it is more commonly known, being potentially the most deadly one that I am personally aware of to date.

At any rate their decisions and actions have guaranteed that every generation from here on out will have to deal with introduced "diseases that could just as well have come from Jupiter for all the knowledge local citizens, vets, and physicians have of them."

My personal passion for accountability on the part of those who introduced this plague to my back yard stems from the knowledge that family, friends, uncountable numbers of visitors, and myself have, without warning, been extensively exposed from about 1995 to the present to these potentially deadly parasites.

It's become even more personal for me since a recent CT scan revealed that I have a liver cyst, a surprising development in someone who doesn't drink, smoke, or eat junk food but who has in ignorance camped, hunted, berry picked, picnicked, and fished in areas containing dump truck loads of wolf scat. Anyone who recreates in any capacity around Elk River has likewise been exposed.

Until we quit taking our dogs to the woods, they couldn't pass a pile without a good whiff or a roll in it, either of which acts virtually guarantees their contamination with Hydatid eggs. One can only imagine the massive exposure of ATV riders as machine after machine rims over dried scat piles on virtually every road around here, stirring literally millions of Hydatid eggs into the air for the following riders to filter out with their lungs. It's not rocket science to predict an unprecedented plague of Hydatid-related illnesses some 10 or 15 years down the road. Any idea who's going to pick up the medical costs?

In fairness to those who've unleashed this plague and thereby contributed to my personal exposure, it's an unknown at this time whether or not I owe this potentially serious medical issue to the wolves or some other cause. I have been in contact with Dr. Valerius Geist, a noted Canadian ungulate expert who has had extensive contact with wolves and who warned against Canadian wolf introduction to the lower 48, who advised me to contact the Aboriginal Health Clinic in Edmonton, Alberta, in order to get advice from a physician familiar with Hydatid issues, since American physicians are generally ignorant of this rnalady. To date all I've been able to talk with are nurses who have no hands-on experience but who are trying to put me in contact with a knowledgeable doctor.

Dr. Geist warned me to be very careful to avoid any kind of abdominal blow as a ruptured Hydatid cyst can release massive quantities of toxins that can kill within minutes. Additionally, survivors of a ruptured Hydatid cyst are virtually guaranteed an infestation of cysts colonizing their whole gut, since a ruptured cyst releases thousands of

pieces of Hydatid "sand", each piece of which is capable of generating a new cyst.

By way of illustration of the extent of the ignorance of Hydatid issues, the nurse in my doctor's office turned white when I explained the Hydatid infestation to him, with he in turn explaining to me that he regularly picked up and crumbled dried wolf scat in his bare hands to see by the hair in it what the wolves were eating. Information readily available on the net will inform anyone interested that such action releases millions of microscopic tapeworm eggs that settle everywhere the breeze carries them, including your mouth, your lungs, on your clothes where they are carried back to your home and family, etc.

It is my sincere hope that the information you collect will lead to the passage of H 343 and that control of Idaho's wildlife will be returned to its proper repository, the citizens of Idaho.

**Thank you,
Keith Lunders**

The next person to testify, a lady whose name is on file, presented another aspect of living with wolves. The following are excerpts from her testimony:

"The Canadian Gray Wolves have invaded my property and are a constant presence to the point that I am afraid to walk outside of my home, even if armed. I own 40 acres which I can no longer enjoy and use for my own benefit. I cannot raise livestock, chickens or outdoor pets.

If company comes to visit, they must keep their children in the house. The wooded area behind my house is a graveyard of deer and elk carcasses. Just a little over a week ago, nearly a dozen fresh, partially eaten carcasses were discovered.

On Saturday, November 27th, for 18 long, horrifying minutes I was trapped by 4 Canadian Gray Wolves in my driveway before help arrived. These wolves were not curious, they were not afraid. They were aggressive!

They had plenty of open space to run off into all directions, yet they advanced on me as I was screaming for help on my cell phone. I cannot begin to convey to you the horror of that event. To rightfully believe you are about to be ripped to shreds and eaten alive is something I would not wish on my worst enemy. I relive this event often in nightmares."

Suzanne Stone and Gov. Otter Use Same Excuse

Defenders of Wildlife rep. Suzanne Stone, one of two people who opposed HB 343 in the hearing, muttered something about people with Little Red Riding Hood mentality. Then she said: "People have always been able to protect themselves and wolves can be killed if they get into livestock - so it is not an emergency,"

continued on page 6

House Bill 343 – *continued from page 5*

It is perhaps a strange coincidence that in his April 19, 2011 letter to Idaho's Secretary of State, Governor Otter used that same excuse to object to the emergency provisions in HB 343. In my opinion, anyone who claims that Idahoans have always been able to protect themselves from wolves is either out of touch with reality, or deliberately ignoring the welfare of those who work, recreate or live on the vast majority of land in Idaho.

When IDFG officials concealed the existence of literally billions of hydatid tapeworm eggs being spread in the high wolf density areas for four years, how could people in those areas know how to protect themselves when they didn't even know the disease existed? And while it may have been *legal* for the lady who testified to protect herself from the wolves threatening her in her driveway, it is highly doubtful that throwing her cell phone at them would have saved her from being attacked.

In his letter To Secretary Ysursa, Otter claimed the Legislature usurped the Governor's statutory authority by declaring a disaster itself, which, he wrote, "infringes on the authority of the executive branch and violates the separation of powers provision outlined in the Idaho Constitution." When viewed in its kindest light, that statement appears to me to be a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

If one examines what Governor Otter did to cause the Legislators to take this action, in my opinion they were clearly justified. It was much kinder than impeaching him for endorsing the violation of Idaho law by IDFG; and for falsely claiming to FWS that the F&G plan was Idaho's (official) plan to manage for five times as many wolves and twice as many breeding pairs as was agreed to.

Gov. Otter Lacks Authority to Ignore Idaho Law

The Governor had no authority to ignore both the Code sections and the 2002 Wolf Plan requirement that *any* change to that Plan must be considered as a new plan and submitted to the next legislative session for approval, amendment or rejection. Former Director Groen's claim that multiplying the minimum wolf population by 500 percent was not a *change*, is obviously absurd.

When Gov. Otter submitted Groen's plan to FWS, instead of declaring the disaster that already existed and directing IDFG to reduce wolf numbers to the 150 agreed upon, it forced my son and his wife to endure the terrifying experience of fighting off hungry wolves attacking their horses. It also forced my family and countless other citizens to expose ourselves to an abnormally high risk of being infected with hydatid disease because of higher local wolf densities than exist even in Alaska and Canada.

I was not aware of HB 343 until I was notified of the Senate Committee hearing. But as soon as I read it I thought, "This will finally cause our Governor to stop supporting the insanity that is wildlife corridors and total protection of large carnivores." It appears I was wrong.

The Governor apparently continues to ignore the fact that there is no science to support the destructive philosophy promoted by the fanatical cultists who introduced their "Wildlands Project" to North America 20 years ago. Although biologists have changed the name several times to make it sound more palatable to Western governors and the citizens they govern, whether it's called Wildlands Network or Managing Ecosystems it's rapidly destroying our valuable renewable natural resources and the heritage passed down to us by our forefathers.

Otter Ignores Duty to Protect Citizens, Property

Although I have reported Governor Otter's inappropriate action in past issues, I have not criticized him because I respect the multiple challenges of his office and I am aware that some advisors and legal counsel support the IDFG agenda. But now the accelerated implementation of all phases of that destructive agenda by IDFG leaves me no other option to preserve our legacy for future generations.

By law the seven Idaho F&G Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the Governor but more than half of them sometimes ignore his direction just as they have laws enacted by the Idaho Legislature that they disagree with. When he was first elected, Gov. Otter announced that IDFG would reduce the wolf population to the 150 that was agreed. Instead F&G increased the wolf minimum to 519.

Although Gov. Otter wrote in his April 19, 2011 letter that he had asked IDFG to focus on managing wolves and "immediately reduce depredations on wildlife and livestock," only five wolves in the Lolo Zone have been killed in the month and a half since then. F&G Commissioners reportedly directed IDFG to have Wildlife Services helicopter gunners start killing wolves in the Lolo Zone when it assumed control on May 5th, but biologists apparently ignored them and gave the warm weather another six days to melt the snow needed to spot them.

WS was forced to abandon the unsuccessful control effort after three days that cost thousands of dollars, and IDFG Director Moore announced wolf control will not be resumed until 2012. Lolo Zone outfitters have been authorized to kill wolves until June 30th as they were last year when they killed only two wolves, and IDFG has issued six kill permits to livestock owners, but it has no intention of reducing the number of wolves to halt the disaster it caused.

In Elk City, where wolves come into town during the night to kill elk and defecate in people's yards, the two Deputy Sheriffs and two local F&G officers have been authorized to shoot wolves. But Deputy Stan Denham, whose dog was killed by wolves in his yard, said he's seen about 40 or more wolves since they were introduced but the number he could actually have shot is pretty small.

HB 343 correctly stated, "It is the duty and right of the legislature and the governor to protect the state, its citizens and property." A growing number of citizens are asking why Gov. Otter is ignoring that duty.

I am an Idaho Woman with a Story to Tell

Name on File

From 2001-2003 I had intestinal problems that didn't seem to go away. I had various exams, tests, and colonoscopies. No definitive diagnosis was made. I concluded it must be stress from a recent accident of my son that left him a quadriplegic.

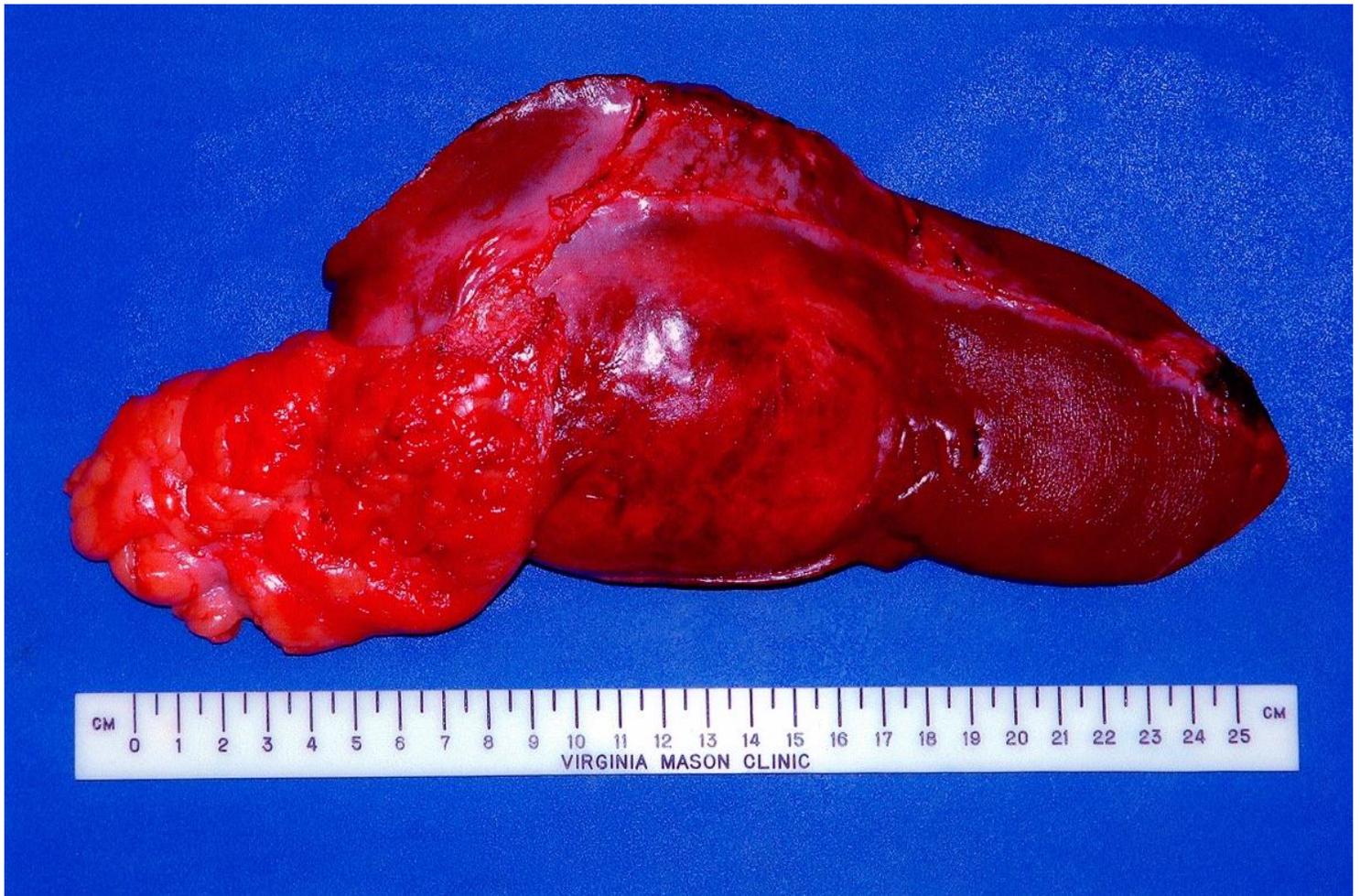
In June of 2003 I decided to go to an Internist in Boise to see if something was missed. She had ordered a CT scan as a diagnostic tool, and it showed a large "grapefruit size" cyst in the left lobe of my liver, which she was told was probably benign, as cysts are commonly found in the liver and to just watch to see if any symptoms develop.

In December, I went back to the Internist for my yearly physical and told the doctor that I had been having chest pains just below my sternum and that I could feel a lump there. I questioned if it could be a cyst. It would keep me awake at night. Another CT scan was taken and the large cyst was noted in the area of my symptoms. Several other cysts were seen on the right lobe of the liver.

It was concluded that the cyst should be aspirated and let the cyst walls collapse against themselves and adhere to each other. A "Special Procedure Radiologist" performed the procedure at the hospital. He placed a tube into the cyst just below the sternum and aspirated the fluid. The fluid was clear, more so than he expected. He said there didn't appear to be any problem but was sending it to pathology and my doctor would call me with the result.

The next day my doctor called and said that the pathologist had just given her "Surprising News". He had told my doctor "You won't believe what I found! Echinococcus Granulosus or Hydatid Disease." My doctor told me how rare it was in the United States. I now knew I had a cyst full of tiny worms in my liver...

My doctor informed me that I would need to have another more complicated aspiration. I decided to wait for 10 days until after Christmas since the whole family was coming and I didn't want to spoil anything for them. A few days later I noticed the aspiration site had become



Excised portion of author's liver (left lobe) after surgery, with clearly visible intact swollen hydatid cyst inside.

continued on page 8

Woman with a Story to Tell – cont. from page 7

quite red, about the size of a silver dollar, and my temperature was up to 103 degrees. My pain also increased as well and the lump had begun to fill up again and could be palpated, or felt.

My doctor referred me to an Infection Disease Specialist who prescribed Albendazol for me to begin taking immediately and for a re-aspiration of the cyst. All the literature the doctors could find said that a cyst my size should be removed surgically, resecting, or removing, part of the liver. But the doctors felt that since I had tolerated the procedure so well that last time that it might work to try it again and not have to have major surgery. They would aspirate the fluid again, then infuse a dye to rule out any extensions into other portions of the liver, and then inject an alcohol solution to kill the worms and help sclerosis in so it would collapse and adhere to itself.

This procedure was attempted, but concern of the color of the fluid (milky not clear), caused them to terminate the procedure waiting for lab results. I was hospitalized and put on IV antibiotics, with the tube in my liver through my chest still in place. I spiked a temperature of 104 degrees. After a few days of antibiotic treatment my temperature came back down and no bacteria was

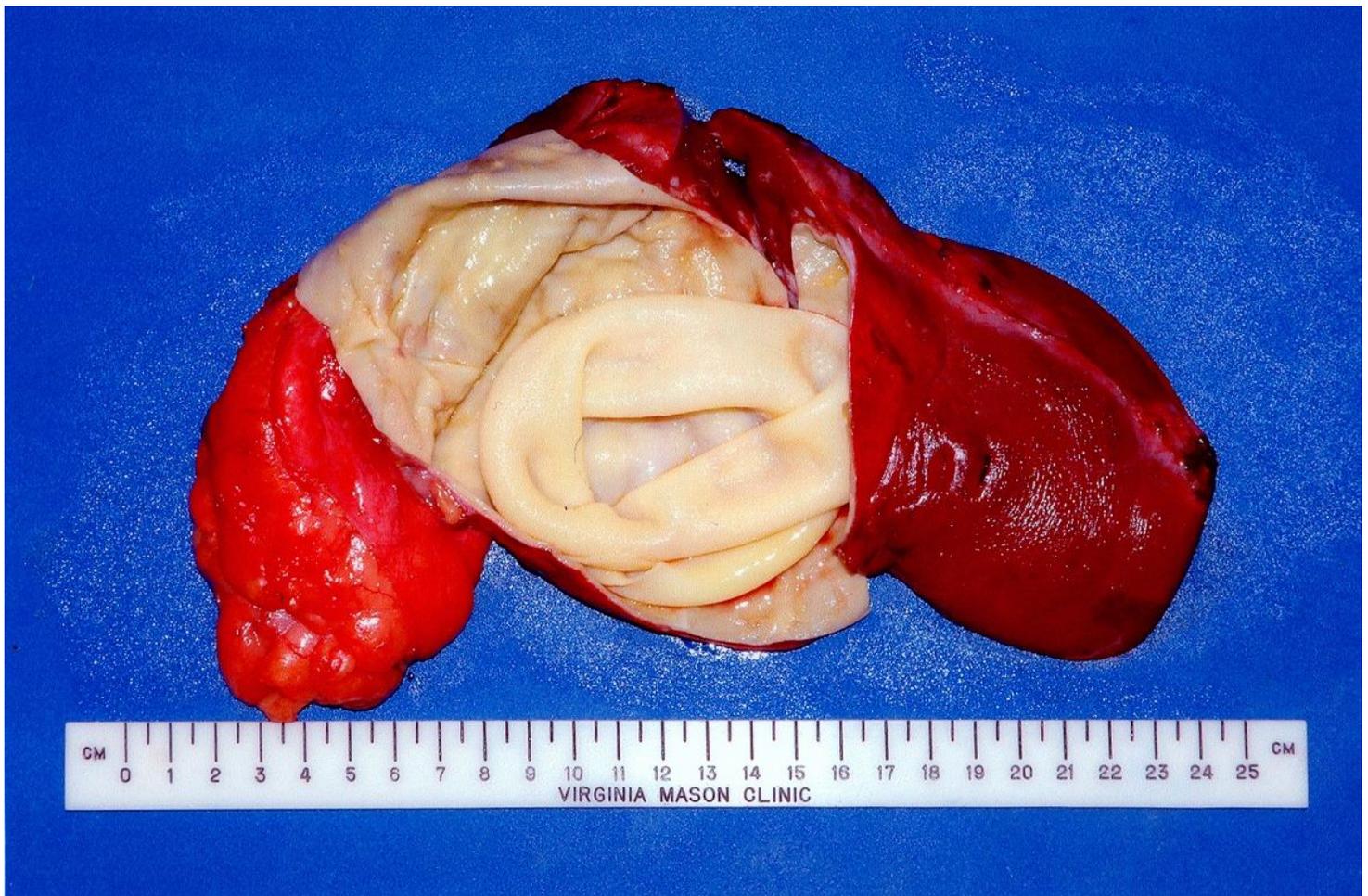
found upon the culture of the aspirant and the procedure was redone to completion.

I initially felt better with the pressure reduced as the CT scan now indicated that only 20% of the cyst remained open. However symptoms soon returned and another CT scan done three weeks later showed it 50% full of fluid again.

The Infection Specialist went to the hospital to look at the path slides and confirmed it was indeed the Hydatid “worms”. He recommended another aspiration of the cyst. I was really tired, sore, and becoming depressed over this whole situation. I expressed my desire to explore my option of surgical removal of the cyst. He recommended a liver specialist in Seattle. He explained that the surgery would be quite difficult and that the recovery would be about two months.

The Seattle doctor called me after seeing my CT scans and pathology reports. He said “the aspirations would never work on a cyst that size.” This was a bit disappointing as I had been billed over \$20,000 so far and I still had the cyst!

I asked the doctor if he had a lot of experience with Hydatid Disease, since I was referred to him. He responded that he had only five patients with this disease



Excised portion of author's liver (left lobe) after hydatid cyst was removed following surgery.

Idaho Faces Inevitable Hydatid Disease Spread Unless Emergency Preventative Action Is Taken

By Dr. Valerius Geist

(On May 9, 2011, Dr. Valerius Geist sent the following letter, minus several paragraphs that have been removed for lack of space, to the Boone & Crockett Club Board of Directors. His warning is self-explanatory. – ED)

My e-mails pertaining to hydatid disease in Idaho have been met with deafening silence, except from Finland where retired moose and wolf biologist Kaarlo Nygren wrote back in response to my suggestion that we are seeing at best the tip of the iceberg: *“Thank You, Val! The iceberg is there and Titanic is heading to it with people dancing on its decks”*. His words, not mine. But then Finland has had historically tragic experiences with wolves and hydatid disease. As I informed you, it was Fins that marshaled army helicopters and sub-machine gunners to deal with the spreaders of hydatid disease.

The introduction and spread of wolves in the United States will one day – not now – be considered a disaster in wildlife conservation with nothing to celebrate. We shall eventually learn what we have not learned from history, namely, that wolves and settled landscapes are not compatible.

Here is the primary problem: **Wolves, probably well-infected with dog tape worm (*Echinococcus granulosus*) are hunting and killing elk and deer close to and within hamlets and suburbs and defecating on lawns, driveways and school grounds in Idaho and Montana.**

Now, if nothing else but this were known, it is an utterly unacceptable situation as these visiting wolves will almost certainly contaminate the hamlet, suburb or school ground with hydatid disease. Secondly, this sets up the beginning of habituation and the targeting of people by wolves, children being the most likely potential victims.

In short – if wolves visit residential areas, we have an intolerable breakdown of management at hand with very serious medical implication for people. This is not merely a breakdown in conventional wildlife management, it is a breakdown in governance.

The wolf feces on lawns and driveways is likely to contain large amounts of tiny, microscopic hydatid eggs, which can be spread and enter homes carried on foot wear, carried by tires from the driveways into the family garage, or carried by domestic dogs that roll on wolf feces into houses where petting the dog transfers the eggs to hands. Unwashed hands touching food, or kids chewing fingernails etc can carry the eggs into the mouth. Eggs mingling with house dust can also wind up inside toddlers crawling on the floor who put hands into their mouths.

The pathway of hydatid eggs entering the house via ranch dogs feeding on infected deer and elk offal, developing adult tape worms in their gut and spreading infective feces, as I described earlier (MT Legislature's Environmental Quality Council, on April 27th 2010), may or may not have happened. However, any dog be, it a ranch or a hunter's town dog rolling in wolf feces is a serious threat to the family.

I will not bore you with describing the progress of that disease. It's dreadful! Apparently some state biologists have been downplaying this disease. I ask you not to fall into that trap! Also, the cost of this disease, in your country will be borne by the affected family, victims of the breakdown in governance that we are witness to.

The main reason that hydatid disease has not been prevalent to the north of Idaho in British Columbia is that trappers have continued to remove wolves at a fairly high rate, aided by predator control officers, and an open season for all hunters on wolves. There are some 900 registered trappers in BC and they hold contests as to who can kill the most wolves. The 2010 winner took first prize with 30! Second prize was responsible for 29!

Similarly in Alberta there is no limit on wolves for trappers and hunters – and wolves are still spreading and causing consternation in the ranching community. However, we have no wolves hunting in suburbs, hamlets or cities – as hunters alone would quickly shoot any wolf bold or sick enough to show itself.

In my earlier presentations I have been diplomatic trying to point out that my U.S. colleagues have not explored in the professional literature the precise conditions under which hydatid disease is most prevalent as well as highly dangerous. Reciting that the disease is rare among patients of big urban hospitals does not reflect on the prevalence of the disease! I understand that Idaho has passed emergency legislation in the form of bill H343. It is time to use it. Similar legislation failed to pass in Montana. Secondly, to stop this wildlife management disaster and failure of governance the wolves have to come off the endangered species list, and there is legislation to that effect tied up in committee both in the congress and in the senate.

What can we (Boone & Crockett) do as a club? Our position has to be that, based on historical information, wolves do not belong in settled landscapes and legislation to that effect counters the public good. Secondly we need to insist that all wolves entering settlements be destroyed.

**Sincerely,
Val Geist**

Idaho Governor Refuses to Implement New Law

By George Dovel



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

May 17, 2011

Michael Popp
Committee for a Safe & Wolf-Free Idaho
P.O. Box 549
Kooskia, ID 83539

Dear Michael,

Thank you for contacting me about wolves and House Bill 343. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I signed House Bill 343 into law on April 19, 2011. I have some concerns with this new law, which I shared with the legislative co-sponsors. The recent delisting has made emergency action unnecessary, and I want to be clear; I have no intention of using this new law to declare an emergency in the immediate future. I want Idaho to focus on State management of wolves under our approved management plan.

Portions of this law may prove useful in the future should the species be relisted under the Endangered Species Act. In the meantime, however, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game must focus on resuming State management of wolves. Part of that focus includes immediately reducing depredations on wildlife and livestock. Control actions already are under way in areas like the Lolo Zone and include issuing kill permits to area outfitters.

Thanks again for contacting me. Please keep me informed of any State government issues of concern to you.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

CLO/sg

In a May 6, 2011 letter to Gov. Otter, "Committee for a Safe and Wolf-Free Idaho" officers Michael Popp and Stan Celmar wrote: "As wolves are drawn to Idaho County's rural communities, disease and parasites are transmitted and wolf and human confrontations are frequent. Historical and current evidence exists that people and wolves cannot coexist unless all habituating wolves are

removed."

Their letter says that "after the fact" management like the Lolo Zone plan and a sport hunting season will not address the habituated wolves that threaten the property and personal safety of Idaho County residents. It requests Gov. Otter adopt a plan of immediate aggressive action to

continued on page 12

Gov. Refuses to Implement Law-cont. from page 11 address the disaster and state of emergency that now exists in Idaho County.

Gov. Otter’s May 17, 2011 response was direct and not subject to misinterpretation as follows: “The recent delisting has made emergency action unnecessary, and I want to be clear; I have no intention of using this new law to declare an emergency in the immediate future. I want Idaho to focus on State management of wolves under our approved management plan.”

As I feared, Gov. Otter has abandoned the people of Idaho and their problems with wolves spreading disease, becoming further habituated to humans until they attack, and killing increased numbers of game species, domestic animals, livestock and pets. His continued allegiance to the “Wildlands Network” with the destruction of rural Idaho and its natural resources can no longer be denied.

That plan, more recently defined by our state F&G agencies as “ecosystem management”, relies on the combination of protected native predators and parasites and the diseases and plagues they spread, to restore so-called “equilibrium”. To those who are still asking me for more proof that this is really happening, I am saddened by your refusal to see what exists around you.

To those who, like Gov. Otter, have lost the ability to separate fantasy from reality, I include the following photos of a beloved ranch horse that won a championship in 2006 yet was gentle enough to give the kids a ride until last Thursday.



Beloved “Jack” won a championship in 2006 but was gentle enough to give the kids a ride.



Jack, still in his prime when he was run down and killed by wolves on May 26, 2011 – another victim of “Ecosystem Management”.

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