Opportunity

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on an antelope, etc. The lions fight to keep the hyenas, wild dogs, jackals, and buzzard off, so they can get their fill. What they don't get now is gone as soon as the multitude of other scavengers get their chance. Those African scenes are identical to what is going on right here on our deer, antelope and livestock, etc.

A Montana wolf researcher lamented to me how difficult it was to prove wolf damage on a cow here in Montana. Due to the flank and hamstring attack of a wolf, evidence is easily gone after feeding on a carcass by predators, as when the wolf finishes, the grizzly and black bear, coyotes, etc., are all feeding on it the moment it is not guarded. Also, you can't guard against a bigger intruder (i.e. a grizzly bear). Thus, it is hard to confirm the damage unless you are on the spot before the carcass gets cold, to check for method of kill and sign of killers.

In 1993, here in Montana, the private predator control programs were stopped for 90 days in the spring from any control on BLM lands and were later allowed "Emergency Only" work, thus only on documented livestock kills could we work and then only on the offending animal.

There is no emergency for Big Game. During this time, there was a basin on BLM that we normally remove the coyotes from, in a preventative manner, before the sheep go in for summer grazing. Due to the ban, nothing was done to these coyotes. Fifteen doe antelope fawned [twins] here. By August only 3 fawns remained. That canine nose that can detect a human at 340-400 yards down wind had found 27 of those fawns in high vegetation (where the antelope couldn't see the coyote as easy) and killed them.

Many people fail to realize that most sheep are killed from April to October, and then, only when available. What do you think they [coyotes] are eating when there are no sheep? Deer, antelope, turkeys, grouse, pheasants, etc. When your favorite restaurant is closed, you don't stop eating, you just eat elsewhere.

Another item often overlooked is the coyote has replaced the wolf in most areas as the dominate predator. His status and change in food base has caused him to be more "wolf like" drifting and following the deer and antelope like the wolf follows the caribou in Alaska. Coyotes do congregate on calving, lambing and fawning ground.

They do follow livestock and big game movements and migrations from summer range to winter ranges, etc.

On the fawning grounds, odors are given off by female deer and antelope, abortions, after birth, stillborns, etc., start the food source and cause the natural progression to killing the live fawns. I have on a number of occasions seen or killed one to four coyotes hanging around a cow or deer or antelope giving birth just waiting for that right moment when the mother makes a mistake or simply is out numbered and out gunned. One of the Nature Channels on TV, a few years back, clearly showed a pack of coyotes in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone decoy a mother black bear long enough, with numbers, and kill her cub. If they can do a animal with protective equipment of a bear, where does that leave an antelope???

A wool grower here in Montana, asked the Fish and Game what about coyote predation on deer and antelope? Their response was, "that was simply a lost hunting opportunity." Until there are very few left to hunt and no hunters, they are not very concerned.

Most Fish and Game departments are more afraid of the animal worshippers than the sports men that pay their salaries. They think when the hunter is gone, they will get their money from bird watching and hiking licenses. It will become more like a park service. It is up to sportsmen to get proactive and ferret out Fish and Game officials that are environmentally green and get them removed.

Fish and Game is generally all politics. Our problem is we don't exert the same pressure or more pressure on them than the animal cults do. Biologists have or can get the hard unrefutable data of predation. It is up to the sportsmen to demand more hunting opportunities. I believe hunters should be the ones harvesting old bucks. Remember: dead predators don't eat!!!

Source: The Utah Trapper, June 1994

Wolf Bounty Bill Vetoed

The Wolf Bounty bill, which proved popular in the Wyoming House and Senate, was vetoed by Wyoming's Governor Geringer.

The bill, HB-214, had three basic provisions: 1) Any person who shot a wolf in Wyoming would be paid $500; 2) The Attorney General would provide defense for anyone prosecuted under the Endangered Species Act; 3) Any public or private entity could contribute to the bounty fund.

The bill, sponsored by Roger Huckfeldt and others, passed on first reading in the Wyoming House, but was killed on a later reading. Headlines of the liberal press hailed the death of the bill only to find House members resurrecting the bill later that same week. It was passed and sent to the Senate for consideration.

Many felt the Senate would not support the measure, particularly when Governor Geringer sent a letter to the Senate asking them to gut the bill. Instead, the opposite was found to be the case. The Senate not only supported the measure but increased the bounty to $1,000.

Governor Geringer vetoed the bill when it reached his desk, citing constitutional problems with the words "lawful taking."

Legislators and supporters of the Bounty bill were disgusted. Sen. Charles Scott, from Natrona County, voiced their sentiments exactly, "I hope this doesn't prove to be one of the defining points of the Geringer governorship because what he's saying is it's all right to have rhetoric against the federal government but when it comes down to it, he ain't there. The excuse for vetoing the bill was a feeble as any I've seen. What it says to me is they don't have the stomach for some hard-nosed negotiations with the feds."

Abundant Wildlife Society of North America (AWS) started a Special Wolf Fund in support of the bill. News releases were sent out and, predictably, the media blacked it out. Still, within two days, more than $2,000 was pledged. In three days, nearly $4,000. More than $3,000 was received with more than $7,000 pledged to the fund if the bill passed.

AWS stated it would refund all contributions to the Special Wolf Fund if the bill was killed or vetoed. They were in for a surprise. Even while the bounty bill was being debated, contributors were calling AWS saying that if the bill failed, they wanted the money to be used for the lawsuit or to cover AWS' expenses.

After the veto, AWS sent out a letter asking contributors if they wanted their contributions back. None of those responding have requested refunds. They've designated their contributions to go for gift subscriptions, the "Stop the Wolf" Legal Fund or to AWS' general fund.

Abundant Wildlife Society of North America thanks all contributors for their unwavering support.

AWS Staff Report

Predator Impacts

Did you know predators caused an estimated $1.9 million in losses in Montana in 1994? Losses to coyotes was estimated at $1.3 million. 42,900 sheep and lambs were lost to all predators in that state. Wyoming reports a loss of 96,000 sheep and lambs in 1994, costing producers a loss of $4.23 million. Coyotes again were the main predator, taking 72% of all predator losses.

[Ed. Note: Eagles are reportedly increasing their depredations on lambs throughout the West.]

Source: Western Livestock Reporter, 2/22/95

AWS Seeking To Intervene In Farm Bureau Lawsuit

For those who have been with us fighting this wolf recovery fiasco, you know Abundant Wildlife Society of North America (AWS), the NO-OPTION Committee and Wyoming Farm Bureau have been leaders in the fight against wolf recovery. However, when it came to lawsuits, Farm Bureau took the lead using its staff attorneys to write the complaint and sue the Federal government.

AWS had planned to file an Amicus (Friend of the Court) Brief addressing certain issues of Farm Bureau's lawsuit. However, recent correspondence with Farm Bureau's attorney has opened the door for a more active role and AWS seeks to intervene with Farm Bureau.

The basic difference between filing an Amicus Brief and Intervention is the brief is basically researching the issues and informing the court of that research. Intervention is placing an attorney in the courtroom and bringing issues and witnesses to the trial.

AWS wants to intervene because Farm Bureau is only addressing livestock-related issues. However, their complaint is broad enough, says AWS' attorney Sean Durrant, that wildlife issues can be addressed under Farm Bureau's complaint.

For example, one issue Farm Bureau is addressing is economics, i.e. their members stand to lose livestock to wolves. AWS can come in and also address economics on wildlife issues. For example, National Park Service Biologist Wayne Brewster told a group of Gallatin outfitters that once wolves were introduced to Yellowstone National Park, their late hunt permits would be cut by 50%. AWS can address such issues under Farm Bureau's lawsuit.

What will it cost? An Amicus Brief costs about $5,000. Intervention, but calling no witnesses, will cost about $10,000. However, in order to really have a chance of winning, expert witnesses are needed. These would be biologists from Canada and Alaska that could refute the government's lying wolf promoters. To have the witnesses necessary, the cost could be $20,000 which is certainly more economical than attempting to raise $350,000 — the estimated cost of filing a separate lawsuit.

AWS has nearly $4,000 in it's STOP THE WOLF Legal Fund. The NO-WOLF OPTION Committee is soliciting funding from other wildlife organizations such a Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS), guides and outfitters groups and others.

We urge our members to help us in this lawsuit. Can you contribute or organize a fund raiser for AWS Legal Fund? All funds collected will go directly to the lawsuit.

[Ed Note: Lawsuit contributions should be sent to: STOP THE WOLF Legal Fund, 12665 Hwy 59 N., Gillette, WY 82716. If you need ideas on how you can raise funding for this effort, contact AWS at (307) 682 - 2826.]

AWS Staff Report

Sheep/Dog Story

Bob was a respected, God-fearing, family man. He rarely cursed and acts of violence were not part of his nature. Yet, on this particular spring day, something snapped within this third generation sheep rancher.

It was a beautiful spring morning when Bob stormed into the house and went right to the hall closet. There he found his 38 Smith & Wesson, loaded it, and ran out the front door. Bob's wife, Helen, looked away from the breakfast dishes and asked, "Bob, is something wrong?" Too late, Bob was out the door and gone.

Fifteen minutes later the phone rang, Helen answered. It was one of the neighbors, "Helen", the voice said, "What's wrong with Bob? "What do you mean", Helen responded. "Bob just drove in our yard and shot our dog," the neighbor said. Soon the phone rang again, it was another neighbor with the same bizarre story.

By now, Helen was frantic as her husband was running around the neighborhood shooting the neighbor's loose dogs. Soon she heard Bob's pickup coming up the ranch driveway, followed by several neighbors. Helen ran out to meet Bob. "What wrong", she pleaded. "Follow me," said Bob. Helen could see her husband was visibly shaken.

Bob took the gathering to the pasture behind the large hay barn. There, before them, was the carnage that had set Bob off. The small 10 acre pasture held 500 head of prize sheep. Three hundred had been killed or mauled by stray dogs during the night. In a trembling voice, Bob told his wife and neighbors that marauding dogs had come on to the ranch and killed his sheep. Bob's revenge began with one of his own dog's that had been left loose the previous night. Bob did not kill any of the neighbor's dogs that had been tied.

Until you have lost one of your pets, 4-H projects, or farm animals to marauding animals, you can never know the horror that faced Bob that morning.

Source: San Joaquin County Citizens Land Alliance, November 1994

> Christianity does not remove you from the world and its problems; it makes you fit to live in it, triumphantly and usefully.
>
> *Charles Templeton*

Founder's Forum

By R. A. "Dick" Mader, Founder, Abundant Wildlife Society of North America

Black-Footed Ferret Fiasco

We've had a terrible calamity in our tax paid, black-footed ferret rip-off. We've really got problems. Coyotes won't cooperate!

The feds shipped forty of these black footed weasels, fully equipped with radio transmitters, to Montana. Guess what? Coyotes ate half of them. Radio's and all.

One radio went clear through the coyote! Should the coyote have grounds for a lawsuit from pain when he passed it whole? Sounds like a classic lawyer's case to me. Lawyers are so full of scat this should be no problem.

Think of the poor coyote! Did it get a buzz from the radio? What did the radio transmit inside the coyote? Did the coyote pass extra methane gas possibly blowing holes in the ozone?

I hear bureaucrat wolf predator chief, Ed Bangs, will fine the coyotes $100,000 for killing an endangered species.

They've decided to kill the coyotes with a helicopter. Can you believe it? Did they see the coyotes actually kill the ferrets? Maybe the ferrets died of natural causes and some poor coyote stopped by for a carrion cleanup. Did the radio collar transmit signals that enticed the coyote to "come and get it?" Shouldn't the feds be restricted to shoot only those coyotes actually "in the act" of killing a ferret, not just eating it, so they don't kill some poor innocent coyote?

In the great wolf fiasco, a person can only shoot the wolf actually attacking pets or animals, so unless they actually see the coyote attack and kill a black-footed ferret, these coyote killers should be classified as hypocrites?

Just because they found a radio collar in the crap of what they thought was a coyote might have been someone's pet Pekinese!!

> **You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.**
> **You cannot help the earner by pulling down the wage payer.**
> **You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.**
> **And you cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.** **Abe Lincoln**