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April 10, 2019

Oregon Wild Testimony Re: prohibiting the use of cyanide devices, SB 580

Chairman Witt and Members of the Committee,

My name is Danielle Moser and I am the Wildlife Program Coordinator for Oregon Wild.

On behalf of Oregon Wild's nearly 20,000 members and supporters from all across the state we strongly support SB 580, a bill prohibiting the use of M-44 cyanide devices for controlling wildlife.

During the 2017 budget negotiations, and in response to loud public outcry about Wildlife Services and the use of M-44's in Oregon, a budget note was attached to money allocated to ODFW that said:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will seek assurances from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services that Wildlife Services will not use any state funding to purchase or deploy cyanide traps to control predators before disbursement of any General Fund monies appropriated during the 2017-19 biennium for predator control activities.

While this budget note was an attempt to mollify the public's concerns, unfortunately it did nothing in way of actually curtailing the number of cyanide devices that are deployed and used in Oregon. In fact, it only created a more burdensome bureaucratic hassle for ODFW, without achieving an actual reduction in usage.

We need to address the public's concerns once and for all by passing a state prohibition on these cyanide devices, instead of making piecemeal attempts. These cyanide devices are indiscriminate and there are countless examples of M-44 cyanide devices harming people and killing non-target wildlife, but here are a few to highlight:

- ❖ In February of 2017, Wildlife Services killed OR 48 – a wolf from the Shamrock Pack in Wallowa County. This device was targeting a coyote, but because these devices are indiscriminate, it killed a wolf.
- ❖ In March of 2017, a young boy from Idaho was poisoned by an M-44 and his Labrador was killed when they inadvertently stepped on one during a walk, just 300 yards from their home.
- ❖ In February of 2011, the Walker family dog was killed by an M-44 in Texas, only 900 feet from their house.

Adding insult to injury, because these cyanide devices are spring loaded and activated by a bite and pull action (primarily used to target coyotes, feral dogs, and foxes), you cannot (rather should not) use guard dogs in areas where M-44s are deployed. Meaning, the very presence of these on the landscape discourages livestock operators and others from using a non-lethal conflict prevention tool.

I urge you to support SB 580 and to build on the progress that was attempted with the 2017-2019 budget note. Oregonians are looking to you to ensure we can effectively manage wildlife while keeping our families, pets, and non-target wildlife safe.

Thank you,

Danielle Moser
Wildlife Program Coordinator, Oregon Wild