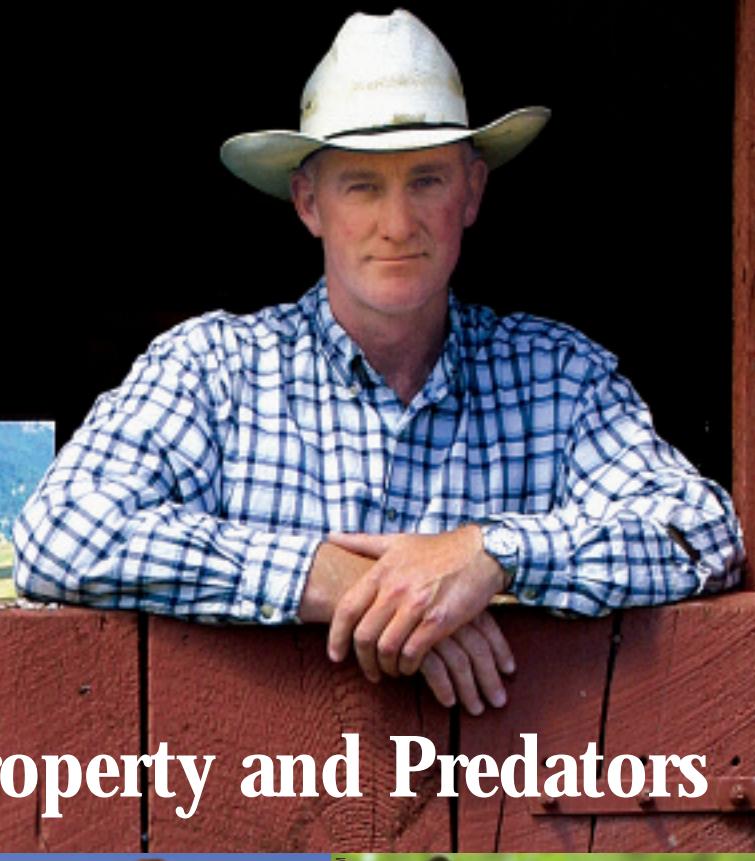




THE BAILEY WILDLIFE FOUNDATION PROACTIVE CARNIVORE CONSERVATION FUND

MONTANA RANCHER TIM TEW © DALE NETZEL



Protecting People, Property and Predators

Summer was approaching when a group of ranchers in Idaho contacted Defenders of Wildlife with a problem: Wolves were denning with their new pups close to where the ranchers were planning to graze their cattle in the coming warmer months. The ranchers were concerned about their own young animals and asked if Defenders could help. Defenders rallied the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nez Perce Tribe and other partners. Together they bought enough hay to feed the cattle elsewhere until the wolves raised their pups and moved deeper into the surrounding forest. Because Defenders and its partners were ready to offer a solution and the ranchers were willing to accept it, not a single animal—calf or wolf—was lost.



CATTLE: © VIVIANOMATIKU/JOHNE EAST/GETTY IMAGES

GRAY WOLF: © MCDONALD WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY/ANIMALSINTHEWILD.COM

Ranches and developed areas are inevitably part of the vast tracts of land crucial to the survival of wolves, grizzlies, jaguars and other wide-ranging predators. Protecting these animals is particularly challenging because it requires balancing the needs of people, predators and livestock. To meet the challenge, Defenders of Wildlife created The Bailey Wildlife Foundation Proactive Carnivore Conservation Fund (named for the Bailey family to recognize their lead gift to the program). Through this fund we help ranchers, property owners and communities throughout North America live successfully and responsibly with carnivores.



SALMON CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST; © BRADIE VRIES/DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE



GRIZZLY BEARS; © DANIEL J. COX/NATUREPLUGGERS.COM

Wolves, grizzlies and other carnivores at the top of the food chain play a key role in our ecosystems, and Defenders of

Wildlife has worked long and hard to restore them to their native territory and protect them in areas where they are threatened. As these predators reclaim portions of their former ranges, and development and population growth bring people and wildlife closer together, Defenders is working to address and prevent the conflicts that sometimes arise.

When wolves started returning to Montana from Canada in the 1980s, Defenders established the first privately funded compensation program and reimbursed ranchers for livestock killed by wolves. In 1997, we also began paying for predation caused by grizzly bears.

In 1998, we decided not only to compensate for losses but also to help prevent them. We established The Bailey Wildlife Foundation Proactive Carnivore Conservation Fund to work directly with individuals and communities to:

- Reduce conflicts between humans and predators.
- Prevent the unnecessary killing of predators by government agencies charged with responding to conflicts.
- Improve public acceptance and appreciation of predators and predator conservation.

Through the proactive fund, Defenders collaborates with individuals, communities, organizations and government agencies in the United States, Canada and Mexico. As funding allows, we offer full or partial support for carefully chosen projects employing the best available measures for reducing the potential for problems with predators.

Success on the Ground

Defenders works with land and livestock owners, rural residents, recreationists, agencies, tribes and other groups to prevent conflicts in North America's wolf, bear and big cat habitat.

NORTHERN ROCKIES

- Shared the cost of hiring range riders to patrol wolf and grizzly habitat in Montana's Gallatin National Forest during the 2005 summer-fall grazing season.
- Purchased bear-resistant dumpsters for parks and rural communities in key grizzly bear habitat.
- Helped purchase guarding dogs to protect grazing livestock from wolves in four Idaho national forests.



Defenders provides ranchers with specially bred livestock guarding dogs like this Great Pyrenees. The dogs bond with their charges and fiercely keep predators at bay.

- Provided an alternative pasture to keep cattle safe from the denning Buffalo Ridge wolf pack in Idaho's Salmon Challis National Forest.
- Monitored Idaho wolf territory by airplane to pinpoint areas of wolf activity best avoided by ranchers.
- Provided electric fencing for 42 bee yards and livestock enclosures in Montana.
- Sponsored the development and testing of electric fladry, a new type of fencing for repelling wolves and other predators.

SOUTHWEST AND MEXICO

- Designed a livestock watering system to draw cattle away from a natural water source in jaguar and puma habitat in Sonora, Mexico.
- Hosted a workshop to teach Arizona ranchers how to protect their sheep from wolves.
- Provided funding to relocate livestock to a grazing area away from a denning wolf pack in Blue, Arizona.
- Hired a range rider to monitor wolf activity and protect livestock in southwestern New Mexico

GREAT LAKES

- Provided funding for an airplane survey of wolf activity, pack size and territory in Wisconsin.
- Funded research in Michigan on the effectiveness of livestock guarding dogs and fladry as wolf deterrents.
- Installed a well to provide a water source for cattle away from a creek near an area used by wolves in Wisconsin.

The Proactive Approach

Through The Bailey Wildlife Foundation Proactive Carnivore Conservation Fund, Defenders uses a variety of measures and methods to promote peaceful coexistence of people and predators.

Livestock Guarding Dogs

For centuries, shepherds around the world have used Great Pyrenees and other specially bred livestock guarding dogs to keep their flocks safe from predators. Defenders brings this time-tested method to the new world, providing ranchers with trained guarding dogs that live and move with livestock and protect them by scaring off approaching wolves.

Fladry and Fencing

Fladry—rope strung with red or orange flags at fixed intervals—has long been used by hunters in Eastern Europe to funnel wolves into small, open areas where they can be shot. Now Defenders is helping U.S. ranchers use fladry to keep wolves away from livestock. We also share the cost of electric fencing to keep small pastures, nighttime enclosures and bee yards predator-free.

Guardian Programs

During the summer, a diverse group of volunteers serve as “wolf guardians” and assist in tracking wolf pack movements, installing fladry and electric fencing, watching over livestock, and fostering good will toward wolf recovery. Building on the success of this volunteer effort, Defenders recently enlisted “jaguar guardians” to promote predator-friendly ranching practices and help track and study jaguars south of the Arizona border.

Livestock Relocation

Sometimes the best solution to a predation problem is to move livestock to an area where encounters with predators are less likely. In addition to responding to requests from ranchers for help with alternate grazing arrangements, Defenders uses planes and satellite tracking devices to pinpoint predator activity and identify herds that need to be moved before problems occur.

Education and Prevention

Teaching people how to live safely and responsibly in carnivore country is a vital component of Defenders’ proactive program. A bear that becomes accustomed to eating garbage, animal feed and other food readily obtainable in residential areas will soon make it a habit and will ultimately have to be relocated or destroyed. Through workshops, pamphlets and other materials, we educate the public about the importance of keeping yards and neighborhoods free of unsecured garbage and other bear attractants. We also help pay for bear-resistant trash cans and dumpsters for residential and recreation areas, food storage lockers for campsites and poles for hanging food out of bears’ reach in the backcountry.

Partnerships

Defenders’ proactive programs would not be successful without the support of our partners. Our proactive partnership includes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.D.A. Forest Service and Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Native American tribes and community and conservation groups.

For critical input from ranchers and landowners—the people most impacted by predators—we turn to our recently established Livestock Producer Advisory Council. The trust and expert guidance of this group representing sheep and cattle ranchers enhances the effectiveness of our carnivore conservation work.

FLADRY—heavy twine affixed with long, narrow, brightly colored strips—is used as a barrier to keep wolves out of calving areas and short-term grazing allotments. Wolves are reluctant to cross fladry, and it has been used for centuries by hunters in Eastern Europe to funnel wolves into small areas. Defenders supports research on this cost-effective way of protecting livestock and assists with fladry projects like the one pictured here in Idaho's Salmon Challis National Forest.

PHOTO BY © BRAD DE VRIES/DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE



Positive Feedback

"I appreciate Defenders of Wildlife providing important resources, both in equipment and volunteers, to minimize wolf depredations through their proactive conservation efforts."

—CARTER NIEMEYER, IDAHO WOLF COORDINATOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

"Your willingness and commitment to work with the recovery program and to 'think outside the box' in crafting creative means for reducing wolf-livestock conflicts has been key in generating increased tolerance for wolves among affected livestock producers. Continued efforts are not only important for saving wolves and increasing tolerance, but also for providing incentives and rewards for those livestock producers that are willing to participate with us in resolving conflicts."

—CURT MACK, WOLF RECOVERY PROGRAM LEADER
NEZ PERCE TRIBE

"We appreciate your willingness to help fund Lava Lake's efforts to develop nonlethal methods to minimize livestock losses to wolves. Our cost-sharing agreement on monitoring flights and the potential for cost-sharing on guard dog purchases will make it much easier for Lava Lake to quickly implement an on-the-ground approach to livestock protection. We hope we can achieve our goal of coexistence between livestock and wolves and are thankful for your willingness to constructively and pragmatically help us."

—MIKE STEVENS, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
LAVA LAKE LAND & LIVESTOCK, LLC
LIVESTOCK PRODUCER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

"The compensation program really speaks to the commitment of Defenders to assist ranchers with the impacts of wolf reintroduction. It's amazing and wonderful that an environmental group will go to such lengths to help people on the land."

—JAN HOLDER, ARIZONA CATTLE RANCHER
LIVESTOCK PRODUCER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER



Proactive Program Staff and Support

Defenders of Wildlife has staff in Montana, Idaho, Arizona, Washington, D.C., Mexico and Canada working with ranchers and others through The Bailey Wildlife Foundation Proactive Carnivore Conservation Fund. For information, please contact:

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Defenders acknowledges The Bailey Wildlife Foundation, the proactive program's lead donor, and all the foundations and individuals who make this important work possible. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact:

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