

# The Outdoorsman

Bulletin Number 51

Dec 2012-Apr 17, 2013

## In Spite of Directors' Claims, Idaho Fish and Game Refuses to Control Wolves Decimating Elk Herds

By George Dovel

In January 1999 I attended a predator symposium in Boise co-sponsored by the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Assn., Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game and eight other groups. Like many of the 17 panel members whose unsupported testimony claimed wolves would have limited impact on deer, elk and moose numbers, Wolf Education Center's David Langhorst claimed poachers kill 10 times as much game as wolves do.

But Wildlife Ecologist Dr. Charles Kay provided facts to support his testimony – that the wolves transplanted from Canada would eventually drive Idaho's already declining big game populations into a predator pit.

Beginning with his August 1993 *Petersen's Hunting* article titled, "Wolves in the West – what the government does not want you to know about wolf recovery," Dr. Kay had published extensive research exposing federal and many state biologists' false claim that protecting wolves would create healthy game populations.

### **Biologist Can't Refute Facts – Attacks Messenger**

Unable to refute any of Dr. Kay's expert testimony, one biologist publicly confronted him and implied that his testimony was not valid because he was not a biologist.

But Dr. Kay snapped back at him, "I'd be ashamed to admit it if I was, the way you biologists have destroyed our wildlife."

Pretending that a simple degree in wildlife biology bestows the wisdom, integrity and judgment needed to recommend real solutions ignores reality. And attacking the credibility of the messenger is a tactic used by those who lack facts to defend their position.

These two observations are based on half a century of working alongside and closely observing wildlife biologists. Deceiving the citizen hunters who pay their wages has become a specialty with most of them.

### **Geist - Wolves Caused ~90% Decline in Deer Harvest**

But like Dr. Kay, Dr. Valerius Geist, the featured speaker at the 1999 Symposium, strived to enlighten rather than deceive. He spent a couple of hours patiently explaining to those in attendance how the return of wolves

to Vancouver Island resulted in nearly a 90% decline in the number of black-tailed deer harvested each year by hunters.

He warned the audience that strict control of wolf numbers in Idaho must occur to prevent a similar decline in Idaho big game populations. IDFG Director Steve Mealey, who was the Symposium facilitator, summed up the consensus that wolf predation is largely additive and wolves must be limited to preserve healthy game populations.

Despite being provided ample opportunity to question Dr. Geist, Idaho biologists and Commissioners remained quiet. Yet a group of them confronted me a few minutes later and said, "He told us what was going to happen but he didn't tell us what to do."

Two months later, Mealey was fired by a 4-to-3 vote, and replaced with a series of pro-wolf Directors. But on Jan. 5 2006 Interior Secretary Gale Norton signed an agreement with Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne designating Idaho to act as its agent, and directing IDFG to "implement lethal control or translocation of wolves to reduce impacts on wild ungulates in accordance with the process outlined in the amended 10J Rule." (emphasis added)

That was seven years ago and during those seven years, IDFG has had the authority and the duty to lethally control wolves to reduce their impact on elk, moose and deer – either using the 10J Rule with the 2002 Wolf Plan as a guide – or following the 2002 Wolf Plan during the two periods, including now, when the wolves were/are delisted.

### **So How Many Total Wolves Has Idaho Lethally Controlled to Reduce the Impact on Wild Ungulates During the Past Seven Years?**

The answer is only *nineteen* – all in the Lolo Zone.

That 19, plus the few wolves harvested by hunters and outfitters in the Lolo Zone, failed to halt the dramatic annual decline in its elk population and harvest. Yet in the following exchange of communications dated Jan. 21, 2013, Moore tells Viola sportsman Jim Hagedorn that many people have simply not been exposed to the Department "science" on managing wolf predation on Idaho's elk.

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## IDFG Refuses to Control Wolves – *cont. from pg. 1*

### TV Interviewed Moore, Stone – Ignored Citizens

On Jan. 17, 2013 KTVB published interviews with IDFG Director Moore and Defenders of Wildlife wolf promoter Suzanne Stone at IDFG Headquarters in Boise. Moore said hunters have done a good job controlling wolves in farm and ranch areas, but said wolves are increasing and further reducing elk populations in back country areas “like the Clearwater, Lolo and Selway.”

He announced the F&G Commission had removed \$50,000 from a research project and directed it to be spent killing and trapping wolves in remote areas like these. Of course Stone disagreed and said the \$50,000 should be spent on non-lethal methods which she falsely claimed were more effective than lethal control.

As always happens in the urban media, KTVB ignored the majority of Idaho citizens who share ownership of the wildlife resource, and the multi-million dollar loss the exploitation of that resource by both Moore and Stone is costing them every year. This understandably upset Viola sportsman leader Jim Hagedorn who, along with many others, contributes a great deal of time and money seeking honest scientific wildlife management.

On Jan. 20, the following letter from Hagedorn to Director Moore appeared in the *Forever Free Press*:

A direct question for Virgil Moore:

"[IDFG's] job is actually to conserve wolves," says Suzanne Stone with Defenders of Wildlife. "We propose that commission use the money for non-lethal tools that are more effective in reducing livestock losses, and certainly more effective in reducing the impact on wildlife, including wolves," Stone said.

"Moore says he's putting together opportunities for advocates like Stone to talk to Fish and Game biologists about their management techniques."

Director Moore, would you please explain to me why you would waste your time, your IDFG employees' time, and MY MONEY, by opening a channel of communication to your (or MY) employees so a clearly deranged individual (Stone) who can NEVER seem to get her facts straight with the media, or anyone else for that matter, can have ANYTHING to do with advising FISH and GAME management in Idaho?

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The following day, Hagedorn emailed a copy to Moore and to several legislators, commissioners and other knowledgeable individuals. The subject line said simply, “How about an answer Virgil?”

He quickly received the following response from Moore:

Jim,

I decided to go over the science that wolves are important predators to elk. Based on the testimony at the

Commission meeting last week by 16 individuals it is apparent to the Commission that many people simply have not been exposed to the Department science on managing predation on Idaho's elk. The meeting with folks concerned about our wolf reduction efforts is to allow a more in-depth opportunity to present Department information and answer questions that could not be addressed at the public meeting.

Ms. Stone is looking for an opportunity to do more of the non-lethal management that has been tried in the Blain (sic) County area. It certainly will not work for wildlife depredation and does not work in most livestock grazing situations either. Her statements do not represent what we are trying to accomplish by providing the correct information on hunting, trapping and aerial methods of reducing wolf numbers.

Jim – I believe some of these folks can be moderated by the correct information based on my discussion with some of them at the Commission meeting—as they do not have the correct information to judge the Department program properly. I do not believe, as you do, that Defenders of Wildlife can be convinced though but the discussion of what we are planning is open to public discussion and public input and we do have an obligation to meet with folks when appropriate.

I hope this helps. Let me know if we need to talk and I'll give you a call.

Virgil

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### The Facts

The Department “science” on managing wolf predation of elk is a myth.

Every authority on wolf-ungulate management – including L. David Mech – who has advised IDFG on this issue, has warned that 70-80% of wolves must be removed initially, and the reduced numbers maintained for at least five years in order to restore healthy ungulate populations.

When the Lolo elk herd was still estimated at about 4,000 animals, IDFG biologists carefully prepared a 10J Plan to lethally remove 75% of the wolves from the Lolo Zone the first year, and kill enough wolves for the next four years to maintain 20-30% of the original number. But instead of implementing the plan to rebuild the Lolo elk herd, the Commission voted to use it only as “leverage” (i.e. blackmail) to FWS to insure they would be allowed to manage wolves as game animals.

They got the “on again – off again” right to hold a wolf hunting season but hunters killed only 13 Lolo wolves and the Lolo elk population went down the tube. Anyone who takes the time to compare IDFG's published annual elk harvest statistics will find that elk harvests have also nose-dived *every year* in *all* back country units since the Commission approved the 10J plan – but refused to use it.

And Moore's promise to the Commissioners and the public when he was hired as Director two years ago –

that he would also implement wolf control in 2011 in the Selway and other units where wolves were also impacting elk – was never kept. Between 2006 and 2011, both of Moore’s predecessors, Steve Huffaker and Cal Groen, made similar promises that were also never kept.

It is worth noting that at the same time former Director Steve Mealey was telling a packed Commission Meeting audience that wolves were having a detrimental effect on Idaho elk herds, his Wildlife Bureau Chief Huffaker was standing in the back of that room telling a reporter that wolves had co-evolved with elk for ten thousand years and would “reach a balance” without man’s interference.

In February of 2006 when the IDFG plan to remove 75% of the Lolo Zone wolves was being “scoped” by the public, a letter writing campaign by radical pro-wolf groups supplied then Director Huffaker with the excuses he needed to convince the Commission not to control the wolves.

A Feb. 14, 2006 letter from Tami Williams of Wolf Haven International at Tenino, Washington, reminded Huffaker of the large cost of paying (Wildlife Services) to control 75% of the Lolo wolves. She speculated IDFG would get a hunting season if it waited and said, “With patience, wolf control could end up as a revenue generator rather than a revenue drain for IDFG.”

Instead of obeying Idaho Wildlife Policy in I.C. Sec. 36-103 (to preserve, protect, perpetuate and manage *all* wildlife), Huffaker and his biologists chose to listen to the wolf advocates and sacrifice the Lolo elk herd. Large Carnivore Coordinator Steve Nadeau prepared a 2006 10J wolf control plan claiming that declining habitat – *not* over-harvesting and later wolf predation – was the primary cause of the elk decline.

Nadeau’s lie ignored Clearwater elk research biologist George Pauley’s long-term and well documented research concluding that allowing hunters to kill too many bull elk was the cause of the steady decline in Lolo elk from 1986 – 2005. Read “IDFG – No Evidence Links Lolo Elk Loss to Habitat!” on Pages 6-8 of *Outdoorsman* No. 40.

Ignoring Pauley’s 1996 warning to stop over-harvesting bull elk, Clearwater Region Supervisor Herb Pollard increased the number of 1996 antlerless elk permits in the Lolo Zone from 350 to 1,900! In Dec. of 1996 when Steve Mealey was hired as IDFG Director, he replaced Pollard with Natural Resources Policy Director Cal Groen to halt the deliberate over-harvest.

But in 1997, Groen reduced the 1,900 antlerless permits by only 50 and changed 525 permits so hunts would end on Nov. 30 instead of Nov. 13. See results of Pollard’s and Groen’s mismanagement in harvest chart below:

**IDFG Lolo Zone Elk Harvest Statistics**

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>2011</u>
Female	156	200	223	166	638	277	7	0
Antlered	<u>1819</u>	<u>1447</u>	<u>1268</u>	<u>1759</u>	<u>599</u>	<u>316</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>83</u>
Total	<b>1975</b>	1647	1491	1925	1237	593	271	83

The 2006 10J wolf control plan could easily have been corrected by replacing Nadeau’s false claims with Pauley’s facts, and then submitting it to FWS. But even *two years later*, in 2008, IDFG Director Groen and F&G Commissioner Gary Power told the Legislature and the media that IDFG had no intention of controlling wolves in Idaho’s wilderness areas.

The appointment of Groen to the Governor’s staff in 2007 was apparently seen as an opportunity for IDFG to ignore Idaho law and the Legislature. Groen’s direction to Nadeau, to write an IDFG Wolf Plan containing massive changes to the only wolf plan approved by the Legislature, and Groen’s failure to transmit that plan for legislative approval or rejection, reflects his willingness to ignore state law and the welfare of Idaho wildlife.

The IDFG conspiracy that bypassed the lawful process and resulted in Groen, Otter and Otter’s Office of Species Conservation telling FWS Director Dale Hall that IDFG will manage for five times as many wolves as agreed to in the FWS Recovery Plan, happened without public or legislative input.

Idaho’s 2002 wolf plan emphasizes several times on pages 21 and 23 how extremely important it is for IDFG to conduct an *annual* census of selected important prey species. The Lolo Zone elk met every criterion for annual monitoring – yet in the 11 years since that plan was approved by the Legislature – IDFG has conducted only two counts in Unit 10 and three counts in Unit 12!

And when Nadeau wrote the bastard wolf plan in 2007 – approved unanimously by the F&G Commission on March 6, 2008 – the “*annual* count” language was changed to once every three to five years, plus it allowed biologists to wait another three years before taking any action! On May 22, 2008 Groen gave Nadeau an “Employee of the Year” Award for “outstanding management/leadership.”

In February of 2009, Pauley met with Montana sportsmen and the media and said there were *130-150* wolves in the Lolo Zone. He advised that the State of Idaho was making a request to shoot about 80% (104-120) of them, and would leave a minimum of 25 wolves.

Although Pauley said the 10J proposal would be presented to FWS shortly and Unsworth confirmed it, neither had any intention of controlling wolves. This was simply designed to show hard core wolf advocates they had better not oppose delisting or IDFG would kill 100 wolves in one location.

Even after Senator Jeff Siddoway forced IDFG to commit to control Lolo Zone wolves during the 2011-2012 winter, Deputy Director Unsworth ordered the helicopter control halted on the third day despite ideal conditions. Only 14 wolves were taken in that brief control action and Wildlife Services told me I would have to talk to Unsworth to find out why. The wolf control figures Unsworth claimed would reduce big game predation in the Lolo Zone were far too low to have *any* measurable impact.

# Why Johnny Won't (Be Able To) Hunt

By John C. Street

*(After working to qualify as a member of the prestigious state and national outdoor writers associations in the 1990s, the author said he began to notice the groups' emphasis changing from supporting hunting to praising the "New World Order" being orchestrated by the United Nations. His final transition from compromising and recognizing "gray" areas, to realizing that everything in his world is either black or white, caused him to resign his membership in the seven clubs, associations and organizations to which an outdoor writer would be expected to belong. – ED)*

In the December 2008/January 2009 edition of **FIELD & STREAM**, Conservation Editor Bob Marshall did an excellent job of shining a bright light onto a dark shadow that is falling over hunting. Bob's well researched report, "Why Johnny Won't Hunt" eviscerated the apathy that is eroding participation in this eons old pastime; Johnny won't hunt because we won't take him.

With unflinching honesty and solid research to support his conclusion, Bob clearly explained the economic and societal issues that have led to this sad state of affairs, deducing that despite these impediments the future of hunting depends on current participants making a commitment to introducing young people to the outdoors.

From the perspective that his cited research provides, Bob's conclusion is both logical and correct. But his conclusion is like saying the Green Bay Packers didn't make it to the Super Bowl this year because they let Brett Favre go. That may very well be true but it is far from a complete explanation.

It's hard to pinpoint the exact date that hunting (and fishing) began to change but historical evidence points to the late 1970s and early 1980s. Without being overly pessimistic about this change, let's agree this is when hunting and fishing began to shed their utilitarian "hunter-gatherer" traditions and tied their future to commercialization.

Today, according to a report ("Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy" available at [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org)) prepared for the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, hunting and fishing are "a \$76 billion economic force" here in the United States. Furthermore, the report adds, through the purchases of licenses, related gear and travel, hunters and anglers "directly support 1.6 million jobs ... And they generate \$25 billion a year in federal, state and local taxes."

Only the passage of time will tell if this "change" was for better or worse but again, without rendering judgment, this is the sword that hunting and fishing will

either live or die by. Let it be recognized, however, that under this new paradigm, hunting and fishing have become just another commercialized pastime. The very uniqueness that lured many of us old-timers to the field and stream in the first place must simply "take a number" along with all the other pastimes competing for the hours in our children's day.

Ironically, at about the same time hunting and fishing began evolving into a "\$76 billion economic force," a new environmental ethos was taking root here in the United States and, not surprisingly given their historically well documented conservation background, hunters and anglers embraced this newborn environmental awakening.

Today, according to a report ("The NODOG Cluster" available at [www.greentrackinglibrary.com](http://www.greentrackinglibrary.com)) researched and published by the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, this environmental movement has blossomed into a multi-billion dollar, tightly controlled consortium of both fringe and "mainstream environmental" organizations that is attempting to blur the line between traditional hunter/angler groups and the politically potent environmental movement.

Yet, while many in the hunting and fishing community advocate for partnerships between this new, politically potent environmentalism and traditional hunter/angler groups, there is mounting evidence that suggests this will have dangerous consequences for the future of hunting and fishing and may, ultimately, do more to keep Johnny from hunting and fishing than all the economic and societal issues outlined in Bob Marshall's excellent article.

Like any other "industry," the hunting and fishing "economic force" is susceptible to and controlled by the market that purchases the "goods" it produces. So, while some of us stodgy old-timers might argue that the array of high-tech electronic and mechanical gadgets and gizmos being hauled – or hauling us – into the woods these days has nothing to do with the real act of hunting, they are the manifestation of a free-market economy working as it should.

However, at the same time those "goods" are being manufactured by the individual companies and corporations that collectively make up the "\$76 billion economic force," their suppliers (the other companies and corporations that extract and harvest raw materials from the Earth) are under attack by the very environmental groups who want hunters and anglers to be their partners. But that, alas, is not worst of it.

Unbeknownst to – or, perhaps, unacknowledged by – most who advocate for a partnership between "mainstream environmental groups" and the "\$76 billion

economic force,” there is a little known document called “Agenda 21” that spells out prescriptions and action plans for, among a long list of other frightening things, taking away your right to own firearms and curtailing your access to public land. So what, you might ask, does Agenda 21 have to do with Johnny not being able to hunt and fish in the future? Plenty.

Agenda 21 is, as described on the Wikipedia web site ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)), “a program run by the United Nations related to [sustainable development](#). It is a comprehensive blueprint of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the UN, governments, and major groups in every area in which humans impact on the [environment](#).” The “major groups” referred to in this description are identified in the text of the Agenda 21 document as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or, in laymen’s terms, our “main stream environmental groups,” operating as not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) entities.

While it would be appropriate at this point to list the names of the NGOs – the “main stream environmental groups” – who are complicit in aiding and abetting the UN’s effort to deny you your Second Amendment Rights and prevent you from accessing the “Public’s Land” (please look at the “Wildlands Project” while you’re at the Wikipedia’s UN web site), it will serve a much greater purpose if you would go back to the Green Tracking Library and learn this on your own. Suffice to say, you’re in for a shock.

As this nation’s original conservationists, hunters and anglers have a long and distinguished history of being at the forefront of the fight to protect and preserve wildlife and wild places. It was logical, therefore, that when the environmental ethos took hold back in the late 1970s and early 1980s, hunters and anglers would put their time and money into addressing these new environmental concerns.

But the “mainstream environmental groups” that hunters and anglers allied with in those early days of this nation’s environmental awakening have chosen a new course, a course more aligned with the “Sustainable Development” initiatives of the United Nations than with making certain that Johnny always has a place to hunt and fish (Note: For a full explanation of the consequences of the UN’s “Sustainable Development” initiative which is just one part of Agenda 21, please see “Understanding Sustainable Development: A Guide for Public Officials” at [www.americanpolicy.org](http://www.americanpolicy.org)). Now those environmental groups want to co-opt hunters and anglers to be their “Poster Children,” sacrificing a century of conservation credibility on the pantheistic altar of Agenda 21.

What is most alarming, however, is that several national hunter/angler organizations (as detailed in the Green Tracking Library) have already joined ranks with the environmentalists. Lured by the enormous foundation largess bestowed on those willing to convert to the new

green Agenda (21), they seem unable to comprehend or, are unwilling to publicly acknowledge their support for, the socio/economic Armageddon that will ensue when the sovereignty of the United States is subjugated to the socialistic prescriptions of the United Nations.

Hunting and fishing are indeed bright stars of the American economy. The question that needs to be asked, therefore, isn’t “Why Johnny won’t hunt.” The question that all the members of this “economic force” need to ask is, “Will Johnny even be able to hunt and fish in the future?”

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## More Information (by Editor)

In numerous articles, John Street has reported the 12-year increasing destruction of the once famous Pennsylvania white-tailed deer herd. The step-by-step record of how this occurred has been thoroughly documented by Forester, Wildlife Biologist and Ecologist Dr. John Eveland.

Because Eveland’s biological science does not support destruction of healthy white-tailed deer on the 2.1 million acres of Pennsylvania’s state forest lands, his credentials are now being attacked by supporters of The Nature Conservancy’s “Old Growth Forest Plan” and the Audubon Society’s “ecosystem management/biodiversity” agenda.

### U.N. Biodiversity Agenda Vs Healthy Deer & Forests

These environmental groups and their supporters fail to emphasize that the plan to decimate Pennsylvania’s major wild herbivore began with the U.N. Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and evolved into an agreement between the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Forest Stewardship Council of Bonn Germany. In return for reducing the deer herd and promoting the U.N. biodiversity agenda, DCNR may stamp its lumber with a “Green Certification” stamp which often brings in more money, with access to European markets.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission – not DCNR – has sole authority to regulate wildlife so the then governor replaced the PGC chairman, who opposed destroying the deer, with a man who supported the U.N. sponsored agenda. Either three-point or four-point per-side minimum antler restrictions were implemented to limit the harvest of yearling bucks and increase the harvest of mature bucks.

Colorado used a similar point system for elk – not allowing hunters to kill any bull that was not “branch-antlered”. By nearly eliminating the harvest of yearlings and antlerless elk for a period of years, the elk population reached or exceeded carrying capacity and they then offered cheap hunts for hunters to kill one or even two cows.

But unlike the Colorado elk, Pennsylvania began killing off its breeding female white-tails and replacement fawns. The excuse they used for awhile was too many deer

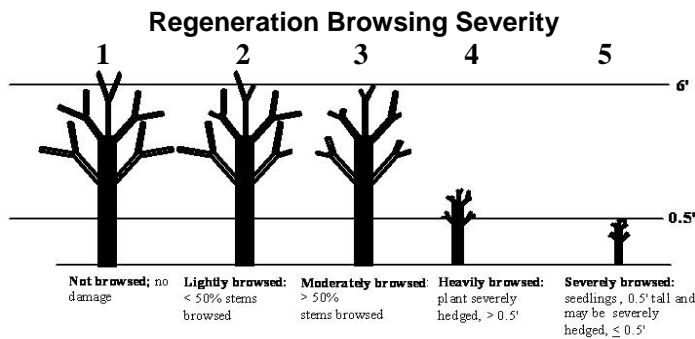
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### More Information – *continued from page 5*

for the available range were over-browsing and causing forage damage which, they claimed, resulted in an unhealthy white-tailed deer population.

Yet a 2006-2007 DCNR statewide browsing study on 74,615 **regeneration** plots (40,892 in 2006 and 33,723 in 2007) revealed that an average of 88% received either light or no browsing, 8% moderate browsing and only 4% received heavy or severe browsing that stunted seedling growth to half a foot or so (see chart below). Sugar maple, with mature trees dead or dying on hundreds of thousands of acres, received 94% – light or none, 4% – moderate, and only 2% – heavy or severe browsing.



**Seedlings > 0.5' provide best evidence of browsing damage. Under severe deer browsing, seedlings may never exceed 0.5' tall and will be severely hedged\*: deer browsing keeps them suppressed below 0.5'. Small, current year seedlings may never grow above 0.5' under severe deer browsing.**

\* Severely hedged = seedling browsed repeatedly over years; all stems short, thick, with "bonsai" appearance.

And a nine year white-tail embryo count study plus a decade of doe-to-fawn ratio counts indicated healthy deer populations in all 22 WMUs. So what is the obvious primary cause of the failure to regenerate new seedlings following logging?

In 1996, DCNR was the first in the U.S. to enroll its 2.1 million acres of forests in the Green Certification program. In 1999 it was certified and a November 12, 2012 report to the Pa. Assembly listed a total of 33,792,218 certified acres in 34 states with FSC – just one of four groups selling Green Certification.

Idaho, for example, has 838,381 acres listed as certified with FSC. A total of 130 million acres in North American forests and 348 million acres worldwide are also listed as certified with FSC.

Peer-reviewed published data from unbiased researchers since the 1970s concluded that even if the deer were totally eliminated, the soil had become too acidic to allow red oak and several other species, including sugar maple to regenerate. Pennsylvania timber companies and local, state and federal governments ignored the science and blamed the lack of regeneration after logging of red oak **solely** on too many deer browsing the young plants.

They also ignored the 1998 report from an invited international team of acid rain experts, that depositing

sulfur dioxide on Pennsylvania soils from coal-fired plants in five states had made the soil too acidic to be tolerated by certain tree species. They said Pennsylvania soils were as bad as any they had ever seen and all of this information was published in a 1998 Penn State book titled "The Effects of Acid Deposition on Pennsylvania's Forests."

In addition to all of this evidence, the hundreds of thousands of acres of **mature** sugar maple trees that were dead or dying – not from over-browsing, excessive fern growth or the other factors which contribute to poor **seedling** survival, but from their inability to survive in the acidic soil. Yet state and federal agencies chose to ignore all of this overwhelming evidence that acidic soils were the number one cause of poor regeneration, and continued to claim deer reduction would solve the problem.

### Excuses Substituted for Scientific Deer Management

In a May 2002 news release, Penn State Forest Hydrologist Bill Sharpe pointed out that in his 25 years of continuous research he had never found that deer were the main problem preventing regeneration. He said too many people in state and federal governments fail to understand that a combination of several factors, including browsing by deer, competition from ferns, etc., combine to destroy **unhealthy** seedlings unable to survive in acidic soils.

Sharpe provided a cost-effective solution to the problem which was the application of 1.5 tons of calcium and magnesium carbonate limestone per acre when trees are harvested to correct the acidic soil. This information was also contained in the book published in 1998.

But both the PGC and DCNR claim their goal is based on eliminating impacts to the forest that are caused by deer. They recommended that forest wildflowers (Indian cucumber root, Canada mayflower, and trilliums) be used as indicators of forest health – stating that when these wildflowers returned in greater numbers, then the herd had been lowered far enough.

However, a 10-year study by Susan Stout of the U.S. Forest Service that was intended to demonstrate a return of these three wildflowers after a decade of herd reduction has recently failed. Her study shows no change in the occurrence of these wildflowers.

But as a staunch promoter of herd reduction, her conclusion was that the herd had not been reduced far enough or long enough and accelerated herd reduction through even more antlerless allocations was her recommendation.

Unified Sportsmen, a group representing tens of thousands of members, has taken the Game Commission to court twice for its failure to manage the deer herd according to law. Jim Slinsky, well-known radio talk show host and outdoor writer, testified for that group but the court ruled it had not shown proof of fraud or bad faith and the bureaucrats prevailed.

In a private communication with Jim, he told me he is taking a year off to try to enjoy what is left.

# Pubic Lice Declared an Endangered Species

Protest group on campus outraged that more wasn't done to protect crabs

By University of Calgary "Gauntlet" Editor Sarah Dorchak



Betty Thrace and Cory Williams are fighting against the loss of biodiversity that pubic lice extinction will cause.

Pubic lice, commonly known as crabs, were declared an endangered species last week. A 2003 study from the Australian Kirby Institute showed pubic lice as the most common sexually transmitted infection in Australia. Now, a mere 10 years later, the Kirby Institute has noted a dramatic decrease in the number of pubic lice infections.

"This decrease is probably due to an increase in grooming," explained Veronica Granger, a physician at a Calgary sexual health clinic. "The optimal habitat of pubic lice is the groin area so, with the popularity of waxing and shaving that area, it is not surprising that pubic lice populations would suffer."

Not everyone is happy about one less STI in the world. Betty Thrace, third-year biology student at the University of Calgary and leader of the "Don't Shave the Rainforest" campaign on campus, acknowledged the "extreme loss in biodiversity" that the extinction of pubic lice could cause.

"Whenever there is a threat to biodiversity, there is a threat to the overall health of ecosystems," said Thrace.

"There needs to be a balance of various species in order to support a healthy planet." Thrace's campaign has gained popularity at the U of C. A downtown rally on Jan. 19 drew a crowd of about 200 people.

"People are highly concerned about the ecological safety of our planet. We don't want pubic lice to be put on the list of avoidable extinctions," said Thrace. "Habitat loss is extremely preventable."

Along with rallies to save pubic lice, Thrace and her fellow campaign leader Cory Williams have also sent letters to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the United Nations.

"The UN declared 2011–20 to be the 'Decade on Biodiversity,' " Thrace explained. "It's time the UN stepped up and took action against something terrible in the world!"

Williams led the rally over the weekend and is attempting to organize another rally in Ottawa.

"Canada was a part of the Biodiversity Convention and as such should take crabs' endangerment very seriously," Williams said.

The Biodiversity Convention is an international legally-binding treaty that aims to conserve biodiversity, sustain natural resource use and advocate for fair sharing of resources among countries.

While Williams could not point to how pubic lice related to sustainable usage and equitable sharing of resources, she quickly acknowledged the need for international attention to habitat depletion.

"First it was the polar bear, now its pubic lice! What will be next?"

U of C biology professor Susan Ghall supported Williams and Thrace's campaign initially, allowing them to speak to her first year biology students. "I'm happy young people are paying attention to these important issues," Ghall said, but was confused as to why Williams and Thrace would unite behind "pubic lice, of all things."

"Even if we lost pubic lice, there is still vast lice diversity," continued Ghall. "Besides ecosystems, there's not much genetic difference between head lice and pubic lice."

Granger said that while a decrease in lice biodiversity is a "terrible loss," it would be beneficial in the long run. "In my line of work, especially working at a sexual health clinic so close to post-secondary institutions, any decrease in infections is seen as a good thing," she said.

"This is perhaps one of the few cases that habitat destruction is beneficial in the long run," added Granger. "You know, like the tigers."

(NOTE: Whether you view this Jan. 2013 *Gauntlet* article as college humor, or are concerned at the legitimacy provided by the biology professor and physician, it speaks volumes about the insanity of teaching students to "restore 'native' ecosystems" and refer to humans as "intruders". I still recall being told by a respected lawyer prior to wolf introduction that we must preserve wolves and study their family structures as a pattern for human existence. My quick response citing facts made him think twice about repeating such absurd propaganda to anyone else. – ED)

# Top Wolf Scientist Charges Wolf Researchers Have Become Advocates Rather Than Scientists

By George Dovel

During a May 7, 2010 Boise State University Radio interview, Idaho Fish and Game Predator Biologist Dr. Hilary Cooley stated emphatically that wolves – not hunters – are necessary to manage elk herds.

Speaking with authority, as if she were part of a team of scientists whose research prompted her statements, Cooley stated:

“We saw this in Yellowstone – when we had tons and tons of elk they could change the entire landscape. We saw songbird densities changing, we saw beaver populations changing – everything responds to that and so while some people like to have high, high densities of ungulates, it’s not always good for the rest of the ecosystem.”

What Cooley was referring to are the alleged “trophic cascades” that many ecologists and most conservation biologists now claim are the stabilizing benefits provided to ecosystems by wolves and other top predators. The basic theory is that the top predator (wolf) reduces the number and/or alters the habits of its prey (elk), which provides more habitat for other species such as beaver, song birds and smaller predators.

This revival of the “Balance of Nature” myth promoted by Durward Allen and his graduate student David Mech in their 1963 *National Geographic* article, began when Robert Payne coined “keystone species” in 1969 and “trophic cascades” in 1980.

## In 1985 Mech Admitted Balance-of-Nature is a Myth

Meanwhile after several more years of research with wolves and moose on Isle Royale and wolves and deer in Minnesota, Mech found that his “balance-of-nature claim had *zero* validity. Both wolves and their prey were in a constant state of changing from population peaks to radical declines, yet Mech waited until 1985 to publish the truth about what was occurring in both states but with different prey species.

And instead of publishing the correction in *National Geographic* or major news media – or at least in scientific journals – Mech’s startling confession that he was the cause of the balance-of-nature myth appeared only in *National Wildlife Vol. 23, No. 1*, and in the *May 1985 Alaska Magazine*. In that article titled, “How Delicate is the Balance of Nature,” Mech wrote, “Far from being ‘balanced,’ ratios of wolves and prey animals can fluctuate wildly – and sometimes catastrophically.”

Several years later, I photocopied the article, including its B&W and color photos, and sent it to the leadership of all 27 organizations in the *Idaho Shooting Sports Alliance*. But those groups were understandably still

so upset with IDFG for letting half of Idaho’s mule deer and thousands of elk die from malnutrition during the 1992-93 winter, they failed to even consider what would happen with wolves 10-20 years down the road.

## Misleading Headline: “Wolves Not Guilty”

Because the National Wildlife Federation was promoting wolf recovery, and Mech’s 1985 article emphasized the need to control wolves to prevent the radical swings in populations, his choice of magazines was perhaps understandable. Canadian wolf transplants into Idaho and Wyoming (YNP) would not happen for another 10 years, but the biologists promoting wolves were enlisting all the help they could get from environmental activists to lessen public resistance to restoring wolves.

Twenty years later, Mech’s team of student Yellowstone Park researchers (wolf advocates) issued a news release with the headline, “Wolves Not Guilty,” saying their unfinished research revealed that bears were the major predator of newborn elk and moose calves.

When the study was finally completed, Mech explained that bears killing most newborn elk or moose calves had been documented for several decades. But based on the volume of mail I received from Alaskans who read the “Not Guilty” article, it was too late to change their new opinion that wolves had been wrongly accused of killing elk and moose.

## Mech 2008 Testimony Refuted DOW Claims

Mech has always recognized the necessity for state wildlife managers to control wolves that adversely impact either livestock or game populations. And when Defenders of Wildlife and 11 other preservationist groups sued FWS to shut down wolf hunting in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, Mech’s May 9, 2008 22-page testimony destroyed every one of their arguments.

The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that federal and state wolf promoters have “been in bed with” for several decades, now oppose the same recovery plans they helped design during the early 1980s. They have parlayed wolf recovery into a never-ending billion-dollar enterprise, and used tainted science and activist judges to support their destructive agenda.

Mech realized that the states’ failure to control wolves to numbers that are biologically sustainable has generated extreme opposition to their very existence in the areas where they are causing problems. The difference between the make-believe world of indoctrinated biologists like Hilary Cooley, and the real world where wolves eventually destroy the wild prey necessary to sustain their numbers, caused Mech to take drastic action in 2011.



On Oct. 26, 2011, Mech submitted an article to the editor of *Biological Conservation* titled, "Is science in danger of sanctifying the wolf." He also sent copies to eight wolf scientists for review and suggestions, and on Feb. 29, 2012, the slightly amended article was submitted to *Biological Conservation* and was accepted for publication on March 12, 2012.

In his article, just before he dropped his bombshell on wolf preservationists who falsely promote the image of the wolf as a saint, Mech mentioned that North America's wildlife manager, Aldo Leopold, continued to recommend bounties on wolves in 1946 to increase abundance of big game populations. Leopold also warned that *extermination* of large predators could result in over-browsing.

#### **Propaganda Changed Wolf Image from Devil to Saint**

But in 1967 the wolf was listed as endangered and one of the most effective propaganda campaigns of all time began. Mech points out that the image of the wolf changed from a devil to a saint and wolf advocates began to claim that the wolves' presence was vital to restore healthy "native" ecosystems.

He said that his library has more than 30 books written about wolves and that 27 NGOs have been formed to promote wolf preservation. One of Mech's reviewers commented on the millions of dollars raised by these groups, and could have commented on the dollars many of them receive for reimbursement of legal fees from the feds each time they sue to halt delisting or hunting.

Mech also said that a large number of researchers have invaded Yellowstone Park with the intention of proving the existence of trophic cascades caused by wolves. Yet he asserts there is not even one YNP study with evidence proving that a cascade actually took place beyond the wolf and its prey.

For example he says the claim that wolves would kill most of the coyotes and replace them with smaller predators has not happened. Instead, after the initial coyote decline they have repopulated the Park with the same number of coyote packs.

#### **Do Wolf Kills Really Benefit Scavengers?**

According to Mech the claim that wolves benefit other scavengers by providing more kills ignores the fact that wolves consume most of the prey they kill. If the prey animal died from other causes, the scavengers would have 7-10 times as much meat as is available from a wolf kill.

And he reminds us that as the wolves kill more of the available prey, the scavengers have fewer – not more – animals available for food.

#### **What Really Caused the Restoration of Beavers**

Similarly, the claim that wolves killing the elk and/or creating a "landscape of fear" would reduce elk depredation on willows and aspen, which would cascade to restoring beavers, which would, in turn, raise the water table has been highly advertised – but it has never been proved according to Mech.

He points out the reality that there were no beavers in the Northern Range of YNP when wolves were introduced in 1995. He responded to recent unsupported claims that wolves caused beavers to return to the Northern Range and raise the water table with the following excerpt from a recent study:

"What has had little publicity, however, was that the rapid re-occupation of the Northern Range with persistent beaver colonies, especially along Slough Creek, occurred because Tyers of the Gallatin National Forest released 129 beavers in drainages north of the park."

Mech referred to other research pointing out that the combination of these beaver colonizing in the Park and raising the water table, and a reported 27-day addition to the YNP growing season, were valid reasons for increased growth and height of willows, and aspen. "It should be clear from the above examples that sweeping, definitive claims about wolf effects on ecosystems are premature whether made by the public or by scientists" said Mech.

Mech continued, "Once findings claiming wolf-caused trophic cascades were published, scientists competed to find more. Teams from several universities and agencies swarmed National Parks and churned out masses of papers, most of them drawing conclusions that wolf advocates considered positive toward the wolf."

He explained that after synthesizing 19 chapters of reviews relating to the ecological role of large carnivores in 2005, a research team concluded, "Scientists will likely never be able to reliably predict cascading impacts on biodiversity other than prey." Mech continued, "As one reviewer of this article put it, ecologists (and particularly conservation biologists) do seem obsessed to the point of blindness with predator-induced trophic cascades."

The extreme bias of their studies is reflected in Mech's comment that the only wolf study results he can recall that might be considered negative by the public is the 2003 Idaho study by Oakleaf et al who found that in central Idaho, ranchers discovered only one of eight calves that were killed by wolves. That study gained little popular press.

Although Mech candidly named several wolf scientists whose research reports are tainted by their "wolf is a saint" agenda, his closing comments reflect his own agenda. "National Parks are protected from most hunting and trapping, logging, grazing, agriculture, irrigation, predator control, pest management, human habitation, and mining, all of which wreak pervasive, long-term effects on ecosystems." (emphasis added)

By the time tens of thousands of young biologists and journalists and a hundred million other youngsters have spent 80% of their lives being taught that *all* human activity destroys *healthy* ecosystems, they believe that starvation, cannibalism and widespread disease make up a "healthy" ecosystem. Is this the legacy you want to leave to future generations – or are you just too "busy" to care?

# Gun Control and the Second Amendment

*By George Dovel*

Are you aware that “The Right to Keep and Bear Arms Shall Not be Infringed” (Amendment II of the Bill of Rights) applied directly only to citizens of the U. S.? But it was also written as a reminder that citizens of each state (the vast majority of Americans at that time) have that inalienable right which cannot be given or taken away?

Did your history teacher tell you that for 92 years after the Declaration of independence (81 years after the Constitution was ratified and three years after the civil war ended) very few people living in the 13-39 existing states were citizens of the United States? My history teacher probably told me that my grandfather became a dual citizen of both the U.S. and the State he lived in when the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified in 1868, but historical facts were boring to a youngster who was eager to get outdoors.

## **Right to Own and Use Weapons Pre-dates Civilization**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment has reportedly been challenged more times than any other provision in the U.S. Constitution and some members of Congress say they will vote for its repeal if given the chance. While it may well have been a violation of the U.S. Constitution to force federal citizenship on the citizens of the 39 states that existed then, many of those states were still violating the States’ equal protection clause after the civil war ended.

Yet that Amendment, along with the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments, failed to insure equal rights for many former slaves for more than a century after it was ratified. Trying to undo 145 years of case law to restore sovereignty to what are now 50 states that are jumping through hoops to get “their share” of federal tax dollars is not going to happen in my lifetime.

I’ve briefly touched on these issues because: 1) very few people I discuss our right to own and use guns with are even aware that the founders of this nation, and most who followed them during the next 80 years were not citizens of the United States; and 2) most of the people who are discussing this in the media ignore the history of that right, which was included in the Magna Carta in 1215.

## **Justice Clarence Thomas Said It Best**

The best legal explanation I have read of why that right cannot be altered was provided by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in his 56-page 2010 Opinion in *McDonald v. City of Chicago* cited as 561 U.S. \_\_\_2010. It was appropriate that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment designed to give former slaves equal rights to other U.S. Citizens, forced the City of Chicago to allow a black man to own a handgun.

Readers with internet access, who don’t have the time to locate that opinion on Google and read it, may want to read the six-page article titled, “The Heritage of Our Right to Keep and Bear Arms” by former Florida Congressman Cliff Stearns.

Ever since the Sandy Hook massacre in December 2012, I’ve listened to politicians hell-bent on disarming law-abiding Americans, and exploiting the grieving parents and children by using them as props for their propaganda. On March 31, 2013, I watched Chris Wallace interview Mark Kelly, the husband of former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords who was shot in the head by another mass murderer two years before Sandy Hook.

During the interview, Kelly was critical of the NRA and its Executive Director, Wayne LaPierre, and said that any effort by Congress to introduce legislation that doesn’t include a universal background check is a mistake. But when Wallace pointed out LaPierre’s statement that both killers had legal access to guns, Kelly instantly stopped his criticism without batting an eye.

He admitted that the killer who shot his wife two years ago had passed a background check and purchased a handgun legally shortly before the shooting. When Wallace brought up NRA comments that both of these killers should have been prevented from legally having access to firearms because of their erratic mental histories, Kelly responded that he “would love to work with leadership of NRA to make sure we get those records in the system.”

## **Background Check Ineffective Without Registration**

Kelly knows that the estimated 100 million honest gun owners are not criminals and should not be treated like criminals. He admitted that requiring them to participate in a universal background check would not have prevented the mass murders, and few if any other gun crimes would have been prevented by the background check.

Yet a universal background check will ultimately identify millions of individuals who own guns along with their addresses. It will facilitate enforcement of stricter regulations and more severe penalties, and pave the way for confiscation which the majority of urban feds want but know they cannot pass until more disasters happen.

## **Do Gun Laws Improve Public Safety?**

Dr. Gary A. Mauser, Professor Emeritus at the Institute for Canadian Urban Research, has studied the politics of gun control, the effectiveness of gun control laws, and the use of firearms in self defense for the past 15 years. A citizen of both the U.S. and Canada, Dr. Mauser’s published comments include the following:

“Gun violence frightens many Americans. Some claim we’d be safer if only we had the political courage to introduce stricter gun laws like they have in the British Commonwealth; even ban all handguns like they do in the United Kingdom.

“Gun laws must be demonstrated to cut violent crime, or gun control is no more than a hollow promise. It’s time to pause and ask: do gun laws actually work?”

“A study I conducted recently shows that recent gun laws in the Commonwealth have had no discernable impact on violent crime. In ‘The Failed Experiment: Gun Control and Public Safety in Canada, Australia, England and Wales,’ published by the Fraser Institute, in Vancouver, BC, in Canada, I examine trends in violent crime in Commonwealth countries that had recently introduced firearm regulations.

The widely ignored key to evaluating firearm regulations is to examine trends in total violent crime, not just gun crime. Firearms are involved in only a small fraction of criminal violence. The real problem is criminal violence, not just gun violence...”

“Recent gun laws introduced in the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia have failed to improve public safety. In the past 20 years, the UK has introduced increasingly restrictive laws on firearm ownership, finally banning handguns in 1997. The result? Police statistics show that the homicide rate in England and Wales jumped 50% in the 1990s, going from 10 per million in 1990 to 15 per million in 2000.”

The anti-gun politicians, who compare reported *gun* deaths in these four countries with those in the United States, fail to explain they are “comparing apples to oranges.” That is because only a fraction of the violent crimes occurring in the other four countries are reported, and because the rapid increase in concealed carry permits and ownership of guns in U.S. households cause a decrease in the percent of violent crimes every year.

### **The Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness**

Although the total number of people murdered in schools has declined, the number of young people using prescription drugs with potentially deadly side effects is increasing. On Sept. 14, 2011, Manitoba Court Judge Robert Heinrichs ruled that a sixteen year old boy stabbing and killing his friend was caused by a psychiatric increase in Prozac despite a warning from the boy’s family doctor.

Prescribing anti-psychotic drugs to patients to relieve symptoms – rather than try to *cure* attention deficit disorder, depression, schizophrenia, etc. – has reportedly resulted in a \$40 billion annual income to pharmaceutical companies. But, according to medical authors like Robert Whitaker, prescribing psychotic drugs has also created the astonishing rise of mental illness in America.

### **Extended Drug Use Can Cause Violent Behavior**

Throughout his career, Whitaker has received recognition and numerous awards for his papers, books and even a movie warning that prescribing psyche drugs instead of treatment is doing more harm than good. His 2010 book entitled, “Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America,” has received high praise.

This included the *Investigative Reporters and Editors’* award as the best investigative journalism book of 2010 with the comment, “this book provides an in-depth

exploration of medical studies and science and intersperses compelling anecdotal examples. In the end, Whitaker punches holes in the conventional wisdom of treatment of mental illness with drugs.”

Yet the warnings from Whitaker and others about the danger involved in prescribing psych drugs to hide the symptoms of mental illness are obviously being ignored.

### **No Investigation of Holmes’ Death Threats**

On July 20, 2012 when graduate student James Holmes shot and killed 12 people and injured 58 others in an Aurora, Colorado movie theater, the University of Colorado campus police had known he was threatening to kill people for more than a month. Yet crime scene investigators reported they were told by those same police that they had never even talked to Holmes.

Shortly after that, Campus Police Officer Lynn Whitton admitted that Holmes’ Psychiatrist, Dr. Lynne Fenton, had given her the legally required notice of death threats coming from her patient. This occurred on June 11, 2012, six weeks before the bloody massacre took place, but the only action Officer Whitton took was to deactivate Holmes’ student identification after he failed an oral test on June 7, 2012, and withdrew from the PhD program on either June 10<sup>th</sup> or\* 12<sup>th</sup>” (\*both dates reported)

This did not prevent most of Holmes’ activities on campus, but it established the fact that he was no longer a graduate student in the PhD program. This supposedly provided the faculty and the campus police a weak excuse for not addressing – or at least investigating – his ongoing threat to murder people, including students and faculty.

But whether this is even a flimsy excuse for their lack of action and failure to investigate the real threat that still existed, is questionable when one considers other facts:

### **Pistols Used to Commit Record Number of Murders**

Five years earlier on April 16, 2007, a senior at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI), Cho Seung Hui, shot and killed 32 people and wounded 17 others\* in an attack that involved two separate locations on campus during a two-hour period. (\* six others were injured jumping out of windows)

A high school history of mental problems was not transmitted to VPI, but a stalking charge in 2005 resulted in a judge ordering Cho to seek outpatient treatment for mental illness. That history plus abrupt behavior changes and sudden poor grades in 2007 frightened his professors and should have been translated into a warning that he was not eligible for firearms ownership.

Instead, Cho successfully passed two background checks – 30 days apart per Virginia law – and purchased a .22 caliber Walther and a 9 mm. Glock to commit the worst mass gun murders in U.S. history. Both semi-auto pistols used their standard (10-round and 15-round) magazines and there were no so-called “assault” rifles or high-capacity magazines used according to the crime reports.

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## Gun Control – *continued from page 11*

Neither a gun-free campus nor the NICS background checks hindered this 23-year-old from killing two people and then killing 30 more people two hours later in another part of the University. During that two hour interval, he left the campus to deliver his own videotapes to be shown on TV (see frame below) and then resumed his killing. He shot through doors to kill several brave people who were holding the doors shut to give students time to exit through the windows.



Video frame of Cho with the two pistols he used to kill 34 people.

When Cho heard police officers shooting a lock to gain access to his second story classroom location, he turned the Glock on himself and ended his killing spree. Predictably Virginia officials decided to beef up their already strict prohibition of guns on campus – which will guarantee the next psychotic killer that he also won't be stopped until the police arrive and locate him.

### **Two Victim's Families Currently Suing VPI**

VPI officials claimed sovereign immunity from legal actions because it is a government-run institution, and this reportedly caused most families of victims to accept part of the \$11 million settlement offered by the State in June 2008. However in 2010 a judge allowed two families to proceed with their \$10 million lawsuit against the VPI President and former Executive Vice President, based on their duty to warn students and instructors that the killer was still at large after the first two victims were found.

The plaintiffs charged University officials were more concerned about VPI's image when the first two killings were discovered, than they were with protecting others from the potential large-scale killings that occurred two hours later. They also argued that the killer seeking psychiatric treatment earlier should have been part of the Instant Background Check record to prevent him from buying the two pistols.

One positive outcome of this terrible disaster was renewed emphasis on universities establishing "Threat Assessment Teams" to take action early before the situation gets critical. Another was a change in the doctor-patient confidentiality standards to require mental health professionals to report the first signs of potential danger so treatment and/or confinement will occur before another disaster happens.

## **University of Colorado Established Threat Assessment Team But Failed to Consider Threats From Holmes.**

The Univ. of Colorado faculty reportedly formed its "Behavioral Evaluation and Threat Assessment" team (BETA) in 2010 with psychiatrist Lynne Fenton promoting it and providing the team's written criteria for preventing incidents like the July 20, 2012 mass murder.

Fenton advised that she had called several of the BETA team members *individually* to discuss Holmes' text death threats to her after he had resigned and she treated him on June 11, 2012. She admitted she was still treating him during the spring but did not mention the critical fact that he began stockpiling, weapons equipment and ammunition on May 10, 2012, one month before the death threats to her began.

She also had not mentioned that Holmes told her during a June 11, 2012 session that he fantasized about killing "a lot of people". And she did not mention that the Security Police Officer offered to arrest and confine Holmes on a "psychiatric hold" to which Fenton said no.

A psychiatric hold normally entails confinement in a medical facility for 72 hours to determine if a suspect could be a danger to himself/herself or to others. The fact that Fenton failed to allow this – and did not request a meeting of the BETA team to discuss the obvious danger she reported – raises questions about what she was trying to hide and/or who she was trying to protect.

Testimony presented to prosecutors during the Holmes hearing by ATF Agent Steve Beggs, established that Holmes was purchasing various items intended to be used to kill people from May 10 to July 14. According to Dr. Fenton's testimony, she was still his psychiatrist for half of that period and said she continued to receive threatening text messages from him after that.

Eight days before the massacre, Holmes reportedly sent her a package containing some bizarre objects and a journal, complete with stick figure illustrations reportedly depicting his plan to kill numerous people. It was found in the University mail room four days after the killings, with no explanation of why it was not picked up 10 days earlier.

If this had been picked up and examined, or turned over to campus police to check it out, it should have immediately resulted in Holmes being arrested and confined.

Because it apparently was not, Fenton's lawyer is defending her in a lawsuit filed in Denver on Jan. 14, 2013 by the widow of 26-year-old Navy veteran Jonathon Blunk, who was killed in the shooting. Chantel Blunk said in the lawsuit that Fenton knew Holmes "was dangerous and had a duty to use reasonable care to protect the public at large."

Given these facts, any prudent person would conclude the same thing. But bureaucrats, politicians, lawyers and white-collar criminals have become experts at creating "gray areas" that appear to provide an alibi for their failure to obey laws.



### Expert Said BETA Team Should Intensify Efforts

That is what college officials did in the 2007 VPI shooting by Cho. And that is exactly what Fenton, the BETA team, campus police, and CU officials did when they claimed they no longer had jurisdiction once Holmes resigned from the PhD program.

Contrary to early media claims, Holmes was never banned from the campus. Their sudden decision to ignore him because he had announced his intention to not continue with the PhD program resulted in criticism from several crisis evaluation experts.

In an ABC News interview, threat assessment expert Psychotherapist Barry Spodak said:

“(Holmes’ decision to leave the University) is the signal that you should intensify your efforts – not walk away. Under those circumstances, most well-trained assessment teams would have gone into action.”

Also, in a *60 Minutes* interview explaining why expulsion from school did not prevent the mass murders and the attempted murder of Congresswoman Gifford, Spodak explained:

“Just because you’ve expelled somebody doesn’t mean you’ve gotten them off the path to violence – indeed you may have pushed them further down that path to violence.”

Following the 1999 Columbine massacre and double suicide, Spodak was a member of the training team assembled by the National Threat Assessment Center and the Department of Education to train school officials in strategies to prevent school violence. He has set up, trained and serves as a consultant to the U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Capitol Police.

He teaches these officers, and a host of others, how to monitor a growing list of suspects and accurately predict when they start making the abrupt changes that signal the immediate need for mental treatment and/or confinement. He repeatedly points out that every one of these (*hundreds* of) psychotic killers deteriorated until something triggered their final departure from the world of reality.

In many instances they have the heinous crime in their minds for several years, like the Columbine killers who advertised what they planned to do on blogs and in a hard copy paper for at least two years. And James Holmes confided to a fellow classmate what he planned to do “when his life ended” four years before the CU slaughter.

But in *every* case, once something triggers the final deterioration, friends or even casual associates the potential killer may meet, definitely notice the change and could stop the deed before it happens – if they care enough. For example one week after the July 20, 2012 killings in Colorado, a Woodward, Oklahoma cab driver picked up a fare, 18-year-old new high school Senior Timmy Eike, who he sometimes hauled to his job at Walmart.

But this time Eike told the driver that he planned to kill a bunch of people at school, hide their bodies, and head

for Mexico before the bodies were discovered. Unlike the university administrators who chose to cover their own backsides and then ignore the threats, the cab driver quickly told the story to the local Sheriff.

When Eike was arrested, a search of his bedroom revealed a newly purchased rifle and shotgun and 250 rounds of ammunition. He was initially charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and lying to a licensed dealer about his mental condition.

### Banning Military Style Rifles Doesn’t Stop Attacks

After examining the evidence, anyone who still possesses the ability to think and reason knows that the 100+ so-called assault rifles banned by Connecticut after the Sandy Hook tragedy are *not* the common thread in these psychotic mass murders. Remember that in 2007, Cho Seung Hui killed more people with two pistols, one firing rimfire .22 long rifle bullets and both using standard capacity magazines, than any other mass shooter(s) in U.S. history – regardless of weapon style or magazine capacity.

And on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 20-year-old college student Dylan Quick ran through the halls of Lone Star College near Houston, from building to building, slashing everyone in sight in their neck, face or shoulder. His weapon was described as a “razor blade type knife” and pieces of the blade were found in some of the more serious wounds.

Once he had stabbed or slashed at least 14 students and the flimsy blade was destroyed, Quick was chased and tackled, and held down by students until the police arrived. In a taped confession, he admitted to the stabbings with an X-Acto knife “because of his fantasy to kill people” and said he had been planning it for some time.

Based on my personal experience, if he had used a sharp knife of the varieties available at countless stores or in most households, several of those whose throats were cut would have bled out and died before they received transfusions.

### How to Prevent Attacks or Minimize Victims

In addition to the bona fide experts in recognizing the symptoms of mental illness that precipitate these attacks (e.g. Mauser, Whitaker and Spodak), there are other experts whose experience guarantees they know how to prevent these attacks – or minimize the casualties if they do occur.

One of these experts, retired Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman, served as a West Point Psychology Professor, an Airborne Infantry Ranger leading fighting men for 23 years, and is an acclaimed author and speaker, who spends nearly 300 days per year on the road.

He has presented to over 100 different colleges and universities worldwide, and has trained educators and law enforcement professionals, in the field of school safety, at the state and regional level, in all 50 states and over a dozen foreign nations.

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## Gun Control – continued from page 13

### Sheep, Wolves and Sheep Dogs

In one of Grossman's books and in countless presentations, he describes Americans as being in one of three categories. The overwhelming majority "are kind, generous productive creatures who can only hurt one another by accident." These citizens are referred to as

"Sheep" because they do not normally display aggressive behavior that intimidates or harms others.

This is reflected in the Violent Crime statistics in the chart below. Despite a tremendously high murder rate in numerous large cities and several states, note that the average murder rate in the U.S. has declined to 4.7 per 100,000 people in the past 20 years (see chart).

### U.S. Decline in Violent Crime during the Past 20 Years

Rates per 100,000 population

Year	Violent crime	Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault
1991	758.2	9.8	42.3	272.7	433.4
2011	385.5	4.7	26.8	113	241
% Decline	49%	52%	37%	59%	44%

That leaves an *estimated* 2 million violent crimes committed against that many people by more than a million criminals. They are evil people who are not deterred by laws or conscience from committing these aggressive acts and Grossman refers to them as "Wolves".

The third group of people whose duty is to protect the sheep from the wolves, are called, "Sheep Dogs". They are the police officers and soldiers equipped to kill like the wolves, and also very aggressive like wolves. But unlike wolves, they love and respect the sheep they are protecting and would never harm even the tiniest lamb.

Law enforcement officers agree that the problem is the sheep don't want the sheep dogs hanging around when no wolves are present because they remind them that wolves exist and will attack them sooner or later. The sheep are in denial and don't want to admit – even to themselves – that the wolves will attack and it will be too late to prepare for them.

### Sheep Need Sheep Dogs!

Col. Grossman says that before the Columbine mass killings, the students kept their distance from the occasional resource officer. They were strong and they weren't bad kids, but they had never had to deal with evil people who were shooting them when there was nowhere to escape to.

Then he described how, "when the school was under attack and SWAT teams were clearing the rooms and

hallways, the officers had to physically peel those clinging, sobbing kids off of them. This is how the little lambs feel about their sheepdog when the wolf is at the door."

### The Enemy is "Denial"

In a May 5, 2010 *PoliceOne* article titled, "Active shooters in schools: The enemy is denial," Editor-in-Chief Doug Wyllie describes how Grossman points out that schools spend billions of dollars on fireproof construction and countless hours conducting fire drills, and not a single kid has been killed by school fire in the last 50 years.

"But you try to prepare for violence – the thing *hundreds of times* more likely to kill our kids in schools – and people think you're paranoid. They think you're crazy. ...They're in denial," Grossman emphasized.

Editor Wyllie stated: "Preventing juvenile mass murder in American schools is the job of police officers, school teachers, and concerned parents. The challenge for law enforcement agencies and officers, then, is to overcome not only the attacks taking place in schools, but to first overcome the denial in the minds of mayors, city councils, school administrators, and parents.

"Grossman said that agencies and officers, although facing an uphill slog against the denial of the general public, must diligently work toward increasing understanding among the sheep that the wolves are coming for their children. Police officers must train and drill with teachers, not only so responding officers are intimately familiar with the facilities, but so that teachers know what they can do in the event of an attack."

The cooperative efforts between local police officers, school teachers and parents in some communities during the past three years have resulted in some remarkable defusing of what might otherwise have been tragic situations. Sadly, instead of most readers hearing about such things as the rescue of juvenile hostages by local police and sheriff's deputies, they read or watch the President of the American Federation of Teachers, the Governor of Connecticut and the President of the United States claim that gun owners and their national groups do not care about our children's welfare.

On April 2, 2013 the *National School Shield Task Force* consisting of 12 nationally recognized security experts headed by Asa Hutchinson, submitted its 225-page report and recommendations. But instead of considering real life solutions from former top ranking officials in Secret Service, Military Intelligence, Homeland Security, Private School Security firms and Police, Ms Weingarten, whose AFT union represents 1.5 million teachers said it was a cruel hoax that will fail to keep our children and schools safe."

The Connecticut Legislature went ahead and passed what they proudly called "the strictest gun control law in the U.S.", and Gov. Malloy signed it – stating that NRA's CEO reminded him of the clowns in a circus.

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# ***PoliceOne's* Gun-Control Survey: Officers Say Checks and Bans Won't Work**

By Woody

In a March 2013 poll conducted by [PoliceOne.com](http://PoliceOne.com), a majority of law-enforcement personnel said universal background checks, "assault weapons" bans, and "high capacity" magazine bans do not make police safer and will not lower violent crime. Armed citizens, on the other hand, do make a positive difference.

Doug Wyllie, editor in chief of PoliceOne, wrote on April 8 that [PoliceOne.com](http://PoliceOne.com) had released the findings from last month's Gun Policy & Law Enforcement survey, which drew more than 15,000 completed responses from verified law-enforcement professionals.

According to the survey results, contrary to what the mainstream media and certain politicians say, police overwhelmingly favor an armed citizenry, would like to see more guns in the hands of responsible people, and are skeptical of any greater restrictions placed on gun purchase, ownership, or accessibility.

## **Highlights:**

71% of respondents said an "assault weapons" ban would have zero impact on violent crime.

--95.7% said a "high capacity" magazine ban would not have an impact on violent crime.

--79.7% said universal background checks would not have an impact on violent crime.

--90% of these law enforcement professionals said "mandatory sentences with no plea bargains" for those who use a gun in perpetrating a crime would reduce violent crime.

--91.3% of respondents supported concealed carry laws for citizens without a felony in their past, "without question and without further restrictions."

--80% of surveyed law enforcement professionals also agreed that casualties at Sandy Hook Elementary would "have likely been reduced" if "legally-armed citizens" had been in the school.

"This survey captures the perspective of an audience that has an intimate professional connection to gun policies in our country, yet is rarely heard from as a group in discussions on the issue," said Alex Ford, CEO of the Praetorian Group, PoliceOne's parent company. "Our standing as the leading online community in the law enforcement market enabled us to gather what we feel is the most meaningful sampling of police attitudes about gun control ever compiled. There is clearly a wide range of opinions regarding this issue nationwide and we believe it's important for our audience's voice to be heard."

Totaling just shy of 30 questions, the survey allowed officers across the United States to share their

perspectives on issues spanning from gun control and gun violence to gun rights.

## **Other findings:**

--92 percent feel that banning semi-automatic firearms, or "assault weapons," would have no effect or a negative effect on reducing violent crime.

--91 percent said the use of a firearm while perpetrating a crime should lead to a stiff, mandatory sentence with no plea bargains.

Respondents were more split on background checks, with 31 percent agreeing that mental health background checks in all gun sales would help reduce mass shootings, while 45 percent disagreed.

--71 percent support law-enforcement leaders who have publicly refused to enforce more restrictive gun laws within their jurisdictions.

--82 percent believe gun buyback or turn-in programs are ineffective in reducing the level of gun violence.

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## **Gun Control – continued from page 14**

On April 2, 2013 a Reuters reporter asked **National School Shield Task Force** Director Asa Hutchison for his opinion of the strict gun, ammunition and magazine control package the Connecticut Legislature was sending to Gov. Malloy for his signature. Hutchinson replied that it would be "totally inadequate" for school safety.

In response to the claim by President Obama and gun control activists in his Administration and Congress, that police officers supported these violations of our Second and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments, **PoliceOne** conducted a survey of officers to find out the truth. The tallied responses from more than 15,000 officers are printed here to set the record straight.

The defeat of all of the federal anti-gun proposals by the U.S. Senate on April 17, 2013 resulted from this survey being presented to them, from a barrage of input from a reported million gun owners during the past week, and from campaigns by the NRA, GOA (Gun Owners of America) and many smaller groups. As this issue goes to the printer, Obama is already campaigning to get gun controls in place one way or another, using the Boston Marathon bombing as a "prop" for gun controls.

U.S. gun owners, and others who value the freedoms we still enjoy, must remember to thank the Senators who voted against ignoring our Bill of Rights. We must continue to insist our elected officials stop tampering with our Constitution, and replace those who ignore us.

## Please Read This Notice

More than a month ago, this was a 12-page issue designed to prove, beyond any reasonable doubt, that our state fish and game agencies are deliberately destroying our heritage of hunting and harvesting wild game. But because I donated nearly five years of my life to the U.S. Army, half of it flying helicopters in Korea and then Japan, I pulled three articles and added six pages of facts about current attempts to sabotage the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights - our Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

1. The first article I pulled explained that Nevada Governor Sandoval had asked Nevada Dept. of Wildlife Director Ken Mayer for his resignation following a letter from former Assemblyman John Carpenter. The article included that letter, telling how Mayer misused dedicated predator control funds and mismanaged Nevada mule deer.

It also described how animal rights groups have forced the name change from "Calif. Dept. of Fish and **Game**" to "Calif. Dept. of Fish and **Wildlife**" and then forced the agency to cancel its predator hunting clinic.

2. In the two prior issues of The Outdoorsman, I have asked why the governors of states with sage grouse populations have allowed themselves to be conned into adopting state sage grouse plans PROVIDED BY THE FEDS, that severely restrict human activity on millions of acres. I'm still waiting for an intelligent answer.

Green activist Idaho Judge Lynn Winmill ordered FWS to have sage grouse management plans in place by 2015 or he would list the birds. Yet Winmill recently ordered the BLM to ignore grazing exemptions in Wyoming's and Idaho's plans and halt cattle grazing.

So Idaho is left without grazing protection – yet it must obey the 149 "Conservation Measures" (i.e. strict restrictions on human activity) that were written into

Otter's Sage Grouse Plan! Again I ask, "Why did Idaho do this to its citizens?"

3. Fish and Game keeps saying it can't afford to pay Wildlife Services to kill enough wolves to halt the demise of our big game herds. Yet IDFG admits that is costing Idahoans up to **\$24 million** every year just in lost revenue from nonresident elk hunters.

So the Idaho Legislature passed House Bill 278, which changed up to \$100,000 of accumulated interest in the Expendable Depredation Account from being added to the \$400,000 that already funds the Access Yes! Program, and added it to the Wildlife Services fund to kill wolves.

After tentatively approving the change, IDFG and its propaganda support group conducted a massive effort to get Gov. Otter to veto the bill after it was too late for the Legislature to override his veto. Later the veto was backdated in the Legislative records.

**All three of these articles will be upgraded and published in the next issue of The Outdoorsman.**

## NOTICE

The Outdoorsman is published six times per year in durable bulletins ranging from 8-24 pages. It is supported entirely by donations to help cover the cost of printing and mailing to donors – plus a free mailing to several hundred officials in several states. We are not affiliated with IFW or any other group except for a personal life membership in the NRA for many decades.

If you would like to be placed on our mailing list for one year, our out-of-pocket cost is about \$25. Please fill out the subscription blank and send gift subscriptions to your friends and associates on a separate sheet.

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