

LOCAL WILDLIFE DOCUMENTARY GETS BIG PRAISE

Local group Predator Defense has devoted a large part of its 25-year existence to putting an end to Wildlife Services, a federal agency that traps and poisons predators. Data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows Wildlife Services killed more than 4 million animals in 2013. Recently Predator Defense's documentary, *Exposed: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife*, which delves into the federal agency Wildlife Services, won high praise from noted primatologist and UN Messenger of Peace Jane Goodall, who writes, "I hope it will be watched by millions."

Predator Defense Executive Director Brooks Fahy says *Exposed* also recently won Best Wildlife Activism at the 2014 New York Wildlife Conservation Film Festival, and plans are in the works to continue showing the film in 2015. The film features several former Wildlife Services and U.S. Fish and Wildlife employee whistleblowers as

well as Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio, who has repeatedly called to audit and defund the agency. DeFazio calls Wildlife Services "one of the most opaque and least accountable agencies I know of."

In her review, Goodall writes that after watching *Exposed*, "two emotions vie with each other: First, horror that cruelty of this magnitude and scale has been perpetrated, for so long, in the name of the American government. And second, great admiration for the brave men who, jeopardizing personal safety and future employment, spoke out against the atrocities that they saw perpetrated, and admitted having perpetrated themselves."

"Millions of Americans" will learn through watching the film, Goodall writes, "of the unforgivable actions of those who have exercised their power to cause untold agony to thousands of innocent fellow creatures on our planet."

Exposed can be seen on the Predator Defense website at predatordefense.org/exposed. Or contact Predator Defense at 937-4261 or info@predatordefense.org to arrange a showing. — Camilla Mortensen

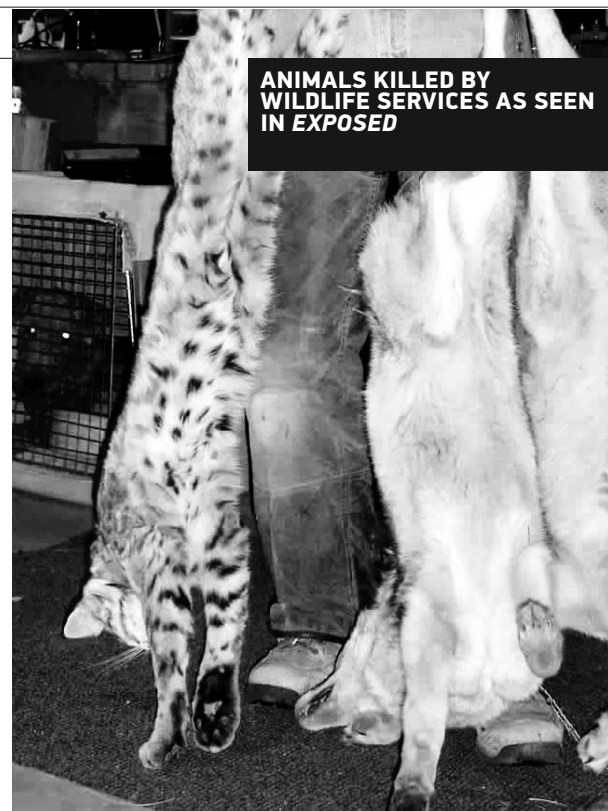


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SLANT

• **Our Give Guide** has expanded from less than a page in years past to the multiple

pages you see this week. Eugene is home to hundreds of nonprofits doing exceptional work locally and around the world, so our list is far from complete. Why are we such a thriving center for nonprofits, much more so than other communities our size? We can credit the university and our public schools, our high number of Peace Corp veterans, our long history of social, artistic and environmental activism — and perhaps most of all, those strong-minded individuals who have gathered here dedicated to creating positive change. It's not been easy, even in times of relative prosperity. Talk to any of the leaders of these organizations and you will hear of their budget woes and other frustrations in trying to do more. What keeps them going is public support, whether it's through volunteering or cash donations. It's the darkest time of the year. Let's brighten it up with our gifts.

• We are blown away by the generous hearts of the people of Lane County. *Eugene Weekly's* appeal for donations to the **Egan Warming Center** has yielded several barrels of big warm sweaters, brand new long johns and cuddly down jackets. Thanks for making this winter a little warmer for those in need.

• There are so many things wrong with *The Oregonian's* recent editorial, "Why 'climate change' will not be on our 2015 editorial agenda." Its logic is convoluted, it's hypocritical and it's flat-out wrong. *The O* writes that despite the many

requests to put climate change on its agenda, "These readers will be disappointed" and admits, "we rarely write about climate change." The editors argue, "climate change policy is best handled at the federal and international levels," not at the local and state levels. Then, in a fit of tortured logic, *The O* proceeds to weigh in on several local climate change issues, from coal export to liquefied natural gas, as an excuse to snark at Gov. John Kitzhaber. Go head, *O*, make yourself irrelevant. *EW* will weigh in on climate change.



• Media on the move: *Newsweek* has announced a round of hires, and in the mix is former *R-G* reporter Winston Ross. Hopefully the local daily is done bleeding talent because we still miss the likes of Serena Markstrom Nugent, Bob Keefer, Sue Palmer and more in its pages.

• Speaking of cheese, which contains salt (warning!), we heard a simple explanation from a local M.D. about why **excess salt raises blood pressure**. She tells us our bodies maintain a salinity level in the blood similar to seawater. If we eat a lot of salt and our blood becomes too salty, our bodies will dilute our blood with water, increasing blood volume. More blood, more blood pressure. Explains why we get thirsty after eating salty foods. The lesson here? If you own a pub, give your patrons lots of free salty snacks, and keep an ambulance company on speed dial.

• The Lane Audubon **Annual Christmas Bird Count** is coming up Sunday, Dec. 28. You can join the outdoor team or report from your backyard feeders. See laneaudubon.org or call 343-8664. Which reminds us, great egrets are back in the valley and have been seen lately in marshy areas of west Eugene and elsewhere. The tall, elegant white birds with yellow bills and black feet are related to herons, but smaller, and are sometimes called white herons. They don't seem to mind hanging out with their cousins. Oregon is about as far north as they go in winter, and some spend their summers along central and Eastern Oregon lakes and rivers, stalking fish, frogs, snakes and crawdads. Marvelous birds with a distinctive croak, and always a welcome sight as they brighten up our gray winter landscapes.

SLANT INCLUDES SHORT OPINION PIECES, OBSERVATIONS AND RUMOR-CHASING NOTES COMPILED BY THE EW STAFF. HEARD ANY GOOD RUMORS LATELY? CONTACT TED TAYLOR AT 484-0519, EDITOR@EUGENEWEEKLY.COM



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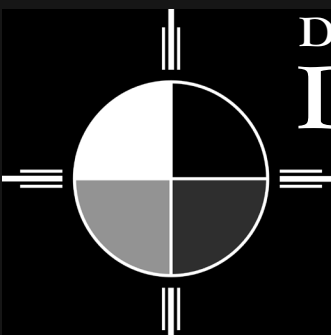
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