

Here are some more articles and replies. In order to simplify, our comments are written in Times New Roman and in block while the letters are in Arial.



Living Planet Report 2014

The Living Planet Report is the world's leading, science-based analysis on the health of our planet and the impact of human activity. Knowing we only have one planet, WWF believes that humanity can make better choices that translate into clear benefits for ecology, society and the economy today and in the long term.

http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/all_publications/living_planet_report/

The Living Planet Report 2014 lead by WWF. No mention however the effects wind-farms might be having, there was no mention of WWF's and other's involvement in the Oil Palm industries, no mention that many organisations these days not only don't campaign against pesticides but positively promote them as beneficial, no mention of the infiltration that's occurring and no mention either of government interference in policy making. Whilst it was right to have made this report, the veritable herd elephants in the room was never mentioned once.

Date: Wed, 24 Sep 2014 09:59:01 -0500
From: defenders@mail.defenders.org
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Subject: Landmark victory for Wyoming wolves!



VICTORY FOR WYOMING WOLVES!

Yesterday, a federal judge invalidated FWS' decision to delist Wyoming wolves!

I am thrilled to report that Wyoming's embattled wolves are once again under the federal protection of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Yesterday, a federal judge invalidated the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) 2012 decision to delist Wyoming wolves. The ruling came as the result of a lawsuit filed by Defenders of Wildlife and other groups in 2012, claiming that the delisting violated the terms of the ESA.

As you know, Wyoming has been a free-fire zone for wolves across most of the state, including along the border of Yellowstone National Park since 2012. Under Wyoming's badly flawed wolf management program, 219 wolves have been killed, including Yellowstone wolves wearing radio collars.

We'll have more to share in the days ahead. Meanwhile, we can't thank you enough for standing by Wyoming's wolves these many months and for your continued support throughout this crisis. This is your victory, too, and we hope you will savor it.

We have much work ahead of us to protect embattled wolves across the Northern Rockies. As you know, the situation in neighboring Idaho is even worse than Wyoming. But yesterday's court ruling makes it clear that FWS violated federal law in carelessly approving a flawed wolf management plan in Wyoming.

It's a good day for wolf lovers!

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely, Jamie Rappaport Clark, President, Defenders of Wildlife

In the meantime the Wolf situation in Idaho.

From: defenders@mail.defenders.org
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Date: Mon, 15 Sep 2014 10:10:19 -0500
Subject: Stop the federal wolf killers for hire

Idaho's war on wolves is about to take a new, gruesome turn.

The federal wildlife kill-for-hire agency misleadingly called "Wildlife Services" just received \$225,000 from Idaho to aid the state's ongoing wolf killing efforts. The money will help pay for aerial gunning, trapping and other lethal tactics.

Tell the Secretary of Agriculture, who oversees Wildlife Services, to direct that agency to stand down in helping Idaho persecute its wolves. It's no secret that Idaho has declared war on its wolf population. But few people realize just how far Idaho has gone in its effort to dramatically reduce that population.

At the end of 2013, it was estimated that less than 20 breeding pairs of wolves survived in the Idaho wild - and that number will almost surely decline if Idaho's War on Wolves continues. Since 2009, the number of breeding pairs has declined by more than 60 percent. Based on these plummeting numbers, the future of Idaho's wolves is increasingly grim.

What's worse, Idaho has contracted with Wildlife Services to help kill wolves in order to boost Idaho's elk population for sport hunters. They will no longer be able to excuse their wolf killing as protecting livestock - Wildlife Services will be killing wolves for trying to live off of their natural prey.

Stop the wolf carnage in Idaho - tell the Secretary of Agriculture to order his agency to stop helping Idaho with its reckless killing of wolves!

Wildlife Services is often indiscriminant with the wolves they kill. Just last week, shooters under contract with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife mistakenly killed the alpha female of the Huckleberry pack in Washington State, throwing that pack's future into jeopardy.

It's shameful that a federal agency within the Department of Agriculture has been allowed to contract with Idaho to help it decimate its population of wolves. Idaho's anti-wolf rampage is out of control. The last thing the federal government should be doing is aiding and abetting in this slaughter.

Tell the Secretary of Agriculture to order Wildlife Services to immediately stand down in Idaho!

Thank you for your passion and your commitment!

Sincerely, Jamie Rappaport Clark, President, Defenders of Wildlife

From: j.mangonon-mcgrath@nhm.ac.uk
To: george.ashleycooper@aol.co.uk
Sent: Mon, Sep 15, 2014 2:47 pm
Subject: RE: Customer Enquiry

Dear George Ashley-Cooper,

Thank you for your email expressing your views with regard to the Real Life Bugs and Insects magazine.

As you might imagine the Natural History Museum has not taken the decision to associate itself with this magazine series lightly, as with any decision to work in partnership. Our entomology department holds over 28 million insect specimens, which have a high research and educational value. If you have visited the Museum you will know how stimulating real specimens are from a public viewpoint. They also provide a vital resource for scientists around the world researching problems such as disease, climate change and the evolution of life on Earth.

One of the key factors in the decision to take this partnership forward was its educational value. There is a very clear purpose for the specimens in that they add significantly to the high quality educational content of this magazine.

It is true that the quality of imagery and computers has seen vast improvements in recent years, however for the study of insects there is real additional value in actually seeing and handling a specimen. Only then do you get a sense of the scale and the detail of the creature's shape and form.

Specimens in resin are less fragile than pinned specimens and so are likely to last a long time without damage and be handled by many more people than those who purchase them. Indeed, this means that specimens in resin are used every day in hands-on learning activities in our galleries. They can also be viewed under a magnifying glass or microscope to reveal more detail at the pace and desired focus of the observer, rather than that of a film, web or book editor.

We make it a strict condition of the Museum association with insects in resin that these are insects bred, farmed or **harvested in a sustainable way**, and that they are used for positive educational value. This partnership was considered to be a worthwhile venture to stimulate genuine interest in natural history among young people and, in doing so, encourage and inspire the next generation to study science.

I hope this explains our position clearly.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours,

David Godfrey, Customer Services Assistant, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, | London SW7 5BD.

Website: www.nhm.ac.uk

Twitter: http://twitter.com/NHM_Visiting

To add our own comments. We have no problem at all with national collections which clearly have an invaluable role to play with classification and all other aspects of study. The wholesale slaughter however to provide the nation on mass with paperweights and other ornaments is a completely different proposition altogether. Living in the real world and knowing what goes on, I suspect entire teams went into a rainforest somewhere, where they were harvested in this 'sustainable' way, probably under some kind of license from a corrupt government, complete with fumigation equipment with the sole purpose of raping the place for commercial gain.

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From: Communications@breckland.gov.uk
To: george.ashleycooper@aol.co.uk
Sent: Thu, Sep 18, 2014 10:50 am
Subject: Stone Curlews

Dear Sir,

Please find below a full response from Breckland Council, following your recent communication regarding stone curlews. You may have previously been sent a separate response by individual Breckland officers or members, as I understand that a number of people at Breckland may have received your email. I hope the full response below helps to clarify things.

Breckland Council has been identified nationally by the RSPB as an example of good practice in preparing Local Development Plans which avoid harm to designated bird sites and Breckland is continuing its work with partners to ensure that planning proposals consider social, economic and environmental objectives in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Birdwatch article incorrectly states that the new development to the north Thetford in the TAAP falls within 1.5 km of the Breckland SPA - it doesn't.

For several years Breckland Council has been active in working with key bodies and neighbouring councils to help adjoining Local Authorities regarding the protection sites designated for protection of birds. These sites include our own Breckland Special Protection Area (- SPA) which is designated for the stone curlew, woodlark and nightjar.

Both Natural England and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) have been involved in the preparation of the Council's statutory planning framework and the emerging Local Plan. Both bodies also input to all relevant planning applications. The Council, as is required by law, ensures that plans or proposals avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the designated sites. Individual proposals which may affect designated sites are all subject to assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations which aim seek to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts.

The Statutory Challenge to the Thetford Area Action Plan (TAAP) by the Shadwell Estate requested review of the Assessment used by Breckland Council. The challenge was dismissed and the TAAP document continues as adopted Council policy.

Breckland Communications Team, Breckland Council
www.breckland.gov.uk | T: @BreckCouncil| Fb: Breckland Council

If anyone wishes to challenge this please either write to them or to us; or even both!

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From: Robert.Kybird@breckland.gov.uk>
To: george.ashleycooper@aol.co.uk>
Sent: Mon, 25 Aug 2014 10:01
Subject: RE: Stone Curlews

Dear Mr Ashley-Cooper,

You may not be aware, but Thetford is Home to the British Trust for Ornithology. As part of Thetford's Great Festival there are two opportunities on 3rd and 4th September to visit A stone-Curlew roost. Booking for the event either 01842 753732 or thebrecks@rspb.org

There are indeed copious policies in Breckland's Local Development Framework that afford protection to designated curlew nesting sites.

Kind regards

Cllr Robert Kybird

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/projects/details/212603-wessex-stonecurlew-project>

An excerpt of this link is give below.

[Wessex stone-curlew project](#)

The decline in stone-curlew numbers was largely due to a the loss of suitable grassland habitat. Stone-curlews traditionally bred on tightly grazed grassland and foraged for invertebrates in permanent pastures, but much of what was once available has now given way to agriculture. As a result, more pairs are nesting in cultivated fields, which can leave the eggs and chicks vulnerable to farming practices.

They are also highly susceptible to disturbance, especially from dog walkers. The population has persisted on Salisbury Plain because it is a military training area, and much of the grassland habitat has been retained. Much of the surrounding landscape contains potentially suitable habitat for stone-curlews as well, and was historically part of the species' range.

By working with farmers and landowners in these areas, the project aims to assist the recovery of the species through the creation and management of suitable habitat.

Project objectives

- The aim of the project is to produce a self-sustaining population of stone-curlews in Wessex.
- This will be achieved by facilitating the provision of suitable habitat, providing informed habitat management advice, and by species protection, including intervention where necessary to improve chick survival
- The project helps farmers to provide suitable habitat through agri-environment schemes

Work planned or underway

Over the last 20 years, conservation efforts in partnership with local farmers and landowners have encouraged the population to spread into the surrounding farmland, and numbers have increased. The RSPB have worked with individual farmers, as well as partner organisations such as the MoD, Natural England, the National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts to create more suitable habitat for stone-curlews, both on military grasslands and in the farmed landscape.

The introduction of set-aside allowed fallow areas within fields that were sometimes suitable as nesting areas, especially if the area could be sprayed to keep vegetation from becoming too thick. Since the withdrawal of set-aside, the work has largely involved creating nesting plots which are managed specifically for stone-curlews. These plots are available under the Environmental Stewardship schemes, and compensate the farmers to manage an area within a field that will encourage nesting stone-curlews safely away from agricultural operations.

Anyone wanting to see the full account please click onto link above. In the meantime I'll refer readers back to the statement below. Source A Case Against the RSPB., our own publication.

My colleagues tell me emphatically that we do not promote spraying for the benefit of wildlife.

From: Gordon.Bambridge@breckland.gov.uk>
To: george.ashleycooper@aol.co.uk>
Sent: Mon, 25 Aug 2014 12:11
Subject: RE: Stone Curlews

Hi George,

Thank you for your mail,

I am not on the planning committee, nor am I a member where Stone Curlews habitually nest, I am however aware of the concerns and some of the requirements of this species. I am also aware of the costs and efforts extended by this council in the protection of the birds. I am certain that all local and national policies are complied with by Breckland Council as this council was instrumental in the making of these policies some years ago.

You seem to have concerns that these are not being complied with and if so please send me fullest details and I will raise matters within council.

It is my understanding, in reply to your penultimate comment that Breckland have the highest standards of protection in place,

Best regards,

Gordon

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From: info@cfsactionfund.org
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Date: Tue, 23 Sep 2014 13:46:07 -0400
Subject: Pepsi spends big to defeat OR labeling bill



Oregon has the chance this November to be the first state to pass a GE food labeling law via ballot – and passing this law would send a strong message to the rest of the country that GMO labeling is possible. But Big Food giant PepsiCo just dropped a quarter million dollars into Oregon to defeat the state’s proposed ballot measure to label genetically engineered foods, Measure 92.

This big influx of corporate anti-labeling cash couldn't have come at a worse time: In one month, voting begins in Oregon – and PepsiCo just seriously raised the stakes. We have to help Oregon and set the stage for other states to pass GMO labeling laws. Can you pitch in \$5 to the Yes on 92 campaign to label GE foods?

PepsiCo is using the massive corporate cash they make from selling food and beverage products – many of which are packed with genetically engineered corn, soy, and other ingredients – to try to stamp out our efforts to label GMO foods in Oregon.

These same big food and agrichemical companies spent nearly \$70 million in California and Washington State to defeat GE labeling initiatives there, and judging by Pepsi's response to Measure 92 we shouldn't expect these companies to stick to the sidelines here in Oregon.

Passing Measure 92 would send a clear signal to the rest of the country that GMO labeling is possible – and PepsiCo knows it.

We know that we can't compete with the kind of money giant food and agrichemical companies like Pepsi and Monsanto can afford to throw around. But we have something they don't have - actual people who care deeply about their right to know.

Help us prove that a grassroots campaign like ours can stand up to a Big Food powerhouse like PepsiCo. Contribute to support the Oregon state GMO labeling law, Measure 92, now.

Thanks,

The Center for Food Safety Action Fund

See the video by Bono.

http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/1881/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=14814

From: act@credoaction.com
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Date: Tue, 30 Sep 2014 13:03:02 +0000
Subject: Sign the petition: Stop the lawsuit against GMO labeling

This May, Vermont passed a historic GMO labeling bill into law, setting the stage for states across the country to follow suit and protect our right to know what's in our food.

But now the law is under attack from the unlikeliest of places. Four of the country's largest organic dairy producers are part of an industry-led lawsuit to overturn Vermont's landmark law and keep people in the dark about what we're eating. 1

Stonyfield Farms, Organic Valley, Aurora Organic, and Horizon Organic all belong to the International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) which has joined the Grocery Manufacturers Association's deep-pocketed lawsuit against the state of Vermont.

We must pressure these companies to end their membership in the IDFA and stand with consumers, not anti-GMO labeling special interests. Sign the petition: Urge Stonyfield Farms, Organic Valley, Aurora Organic, and Horizon Organic to end their role in the attack on GMO labeling.

If this lawsuit to invalidate Vermont's first-in-the-nation GMO labeling law is successful, it will set a dangerous precedent for GMO labeling laws across the country. Not only will other states with pending legislation see their efforts stalled by more special interest lawsuits, but any chance for a national GMO labeling standard could be in jeopardy.

It is worth noting that the four organic dairy producers we're targeting with this campaign have all voiced support for GMO labeling and oppose the IDFA's lawsuit.² But at the same time, the lawsuit states that "Plaintiffs represent manufacturers who are subject to the Act, who fundamentally disagree with the message it forces them to convey..." As long as these companies are in the IDFA, they are participating in the effort to strike down Vermont's GMO labeling act.

Sign the petition now: Tell Stonyfield Farms, Organic Valley, Aurora Organic, and Horizon Organic to end their role in the attack on GMO labeling.

What's more, Stonyfield Farms, Aurora Organic and Horizon Organic were signatories to a July 8 letter to the Organic Consumers Association, which equivocated on support for state GMO labeling initiatives, saying, "while the undersigned companies support the spirit of these state initiatives, we continue to believe that different state standards will make it difficult for national companies to market their products."

Given the Tea Party control of the U.S. House of Representatives and the fact that Republicans are poised to take control of the Senate, there is currently no viable path to a federal GMO labeling standard. As such, these organic companies' role in overturning Vermont's landmark GMO labeling law is working directly against our best opportunity to make progress in the fight to know what's in our food.

These companies can demonstrate their support for GMO labeling and organic food that their customers can trust by taking a stand now and ending their association with the IDFA.

Sign the petition now and urge big organic dairy companies to stop participating in the fight against GMO labeling.

Thanks for fighting for our right to know what's in our food.

Josh Nelson, Campaign Manager
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Please sign the petition below. Thank you.

http://act.credoaction.com/sign/vermont-gmo-lawsuit?sp_ref=58408575.4.8980.o.1.2&referring_akid=.7450678.sLpUZ7&source=clickcopy_sp

Please also note: This zip code box does not recognise UK. post codes so sign the zip code as 1111

Concluding: We print any letters here from all sides of both arguments. So long as it's relevant to subject matters, and provided it's not obscene, we will print it. If you disagree with anything that's said, please write in. This is a public arena so please feel free to have your say.