



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED TO PERMIT EFFECTIVE PREDATOR CONTROL
UNDER STATUTORY ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS

An executive order issued in 1972 that has restricted the use of chemical toxicants on Federal lands and in Federal programs to control livestock losses caused by coyotes and other predators has been revoked, Robert A. Jantzen, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said today.

The President signed Executive Order 12342 January 27 revoking the earlier order to "permit effective predator control with environmental safeguards under Federal statutory programs." The 1972 executive order, 11643, had been amended twice to allow the use of specific toxicants in accordance with restrictions prescribed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The director of the Interior Department agency emphasized that such toxicants remain strictly regulated by EPA, which must first register them before they can be used anywhere. Two toxicant devices have been registered for use on predators since 1972, a cyanide device (the M-44) and recently a carbon monoxide fumigant.

"Rather than amending the old executive order each time a toxicant is approved by EPA, as has been the practice, the Service recommended the revocation of the restrictive order, which was unnecessary and duplicative," Jantzen said.

"The only immediate effect," he said, "is that the carbon monoxide cartridge can now be used on coyote dens by professionals in the Fish and Wildlife Service, who are responsible for conducting animal damage control on all Federal lands. Service policy will limit its use to areas where depredation occurs."

Primarily, the public lands involved are located in the West and are administered by the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I foresee little change with respect to lands managed as national wildlife refuges and national parks," Jantzen said. "Livestock predation is not a significant problem on these lands because there is relatively little grazing on refuges and parks."

The Executive Order revoked by the President (E.O. 11643) was amended in 1975 (E.O. 11870) to allow limited experimental use of the M-44, a spring-loaded device that dispenses sodium cyanide into the mouth of a predator. The order was amended again in 1976 (E.O. 11917) to allow the M-44 to be used in Federal programs and on Federal lands after it was registered for use by EPA. The carbon monoxide gas cartridge was registered November 18, 1981.

Jantzen pointed out that public lands and other natural and wildlife resource are adequately protected by existing laws and regulations, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

"These major laws insure that wildlife and other resources are given proper consideration before any chemical toxicant is approved for use in predator control. As professional wildlife managers, we in the Fish and Wildlife Service welcome this change which will allow for a more effective animal damage control program, a program that will continue to emphasize selective control."

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