

Oregon rancher Sharon Beck has been ridiculed in the press by the defenders of wildlife and ODFW labeling her opinions on the "wolf plan" as "extreme". I don't consider her opinions extreme in the least.

Am I a rancher? No, but I eat beef and enjoy every mouth watering bite, thank you very much. Do I want my steak to come from Canada or Australia? Hell no! Do I want to be able to afford a rib steak once in a while? Darn right, and I want it home grown to boot. I want to watch it getting nice and fat while grazing on the lush feed of Mt. Harris AND Forest Service allotments. The perfect habitat for marbling my steak to perfection.

I'm tired of reading the "extreme" opinions of the tree hugging, three toed frog loving, lets make the world a world for wild animals only, PETA, Natures Conservancy (misnomer), Sierra Club morons. I'm tired of hearing them use the word "pittance" when referring to the price the ranchers pay for allotments. Hell, ranchers should be getting paid for grazing, if anything.

Anyone with half a brain and eyes can clearly see the benefits to the land after cattle have grazed on it. The morons probably don't want to step in poop while in the woods. If they had the common sense to look down they could avoid it, but instead of opening their eyes, they keep them tightly closed while thinking of ideas like having ranchers fence their entire property with "wolf and cougar proof fencing", or having my horse avoid producing horse apples while in the wilderness area to keep from speading a weed that is already there. They will play hell talking "ol smoke" into putting on a diaper, and I'm sure not going to put one on him. I would consider that a blatant example of animal abuse.

Wolves are not only coming, they are already here. I've seen one myself on a ranch near Ironside. I couldn't see hereford hair in its teeth, but you can bet there will be if that's what's available. The last time I was at a friends ranch in eastern Oregon, I saw 6 or 7 hundred cattle, some antelope, and a few coyotes.

Now I know that not many critters without feathers will eat a coyote. Not even a coyote. Antelope can run 60 miles an hour for short distances, but for sure long enough to out run a wolf. That leaves, lets see..... BEEF! Never mind the heifer that the cougar took down. That one could have been in white paper in my freezer.

Speaking of cougars, I will no longer purchase a cougar tag from ODFW. Will I shoot one if I see it? Damn right. I love to hunt, but I'm almost embarrassed to tell anyone that I'm a hunter. It doesn't make sense to support an agency that is using the money that I give them against me. I have been paying them to support animals that will eat the animals that I pay to hunt. That is, if I can draw a tag in the first place. Not many ranchers will let me hunt on their property anymore, and I don't blame them. After all, I support the ODFW by giving them application, license, and tag fees every year.

I will, however, continue to mend the fences that I find down, and pick up the garbage that the

morons leave behind. I think I'll just work some overtime so I can hunt in another state. That way I can continue to hunt while not supporting the ODFW. It will be good for ranchers.

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