

Technologies and Mentalities of Mass Destruction and the ongoing USDA War on Western Wildlife - Thompson, The Land Desk (28 May 2024)

Of all the government agencies and private interests I've felt I had to oppose on not just operational but existential grounds, few have inspired more ire and disgust than USDA-APHIS, the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (by that and, generally speaking, various other names, such as Animal Damage Control, Wildlife Services, etc.).

Although my most direct official contact has been in response to various of the Agency's massive pesticide spray programs for control of Grasshoppers, Mormon Crickets and Medfly (see the links below to my website archive for some of those responses), my most visceral response has been to the Agency's massacre of mammals, coyotes maybe the prime example, for the specific purpose of protecting livestock.

Learning about those massive animal killing programs fifty-some years ago, went a long way — especially when coupled with other massive government programs for so-called "vegetation management" by herbicides — went a long way toward my decision to stop eating meat, wearing leather or otherwise abetting the livestock industry.

Moving to the Southwest and seeing the vast areas of natural biosystems (so-called rangelands) significantly degraded by decades of government-assisted, and condoned, overgrazing, confirmed what became my firm anti-beef position.

These days, watching earth's climate catastrophe response to our civilization's insults against the natural world, I see the government's animal massacre as a kindred action to the bloody livestock industry it caters to and the bloody territorial and resource wars in Ukraine and Palestine.

I am grateful to organizations like Western Watersheds, Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity for keeping up the legal fight against APHIS and the livestock industry, but on this day after Memorial Day, how futile seem all our cries of Stop the Killing against what appears to be a genetic drive of blood lust empowered by industrial and post-industrial technologies and mentalities of mass destruction.

<https://open.substack.com/pub/landdesk/p/the-western-war-on-wildlife-continues>

<https://www.animallaw.info/case/western-watersheds-project-v-usda-aphis-wildlife-services>

<https://www.westernwatersheds.org/2023/07/wwp-helps-stop-massive-insecticide-spraying-project-in-new-mexico/>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-services/about>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_and_Plant_Health_Inspection_Service

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife_Services#:~:text=History%20and%20mission,-Learn%20more&text=Wildlife%20Services%20goals%20and%20objectives,management%20and%20predator%20control%20activities.

"The Medfly, the Government, and Individual Rights (1985) 480"

[https://michaelgregoryaz.net/looking-at-the-planet/#:~:text=The%20Medfly%2C%20the%20Government%2C%20and%20Individual%20Rights%20\(1985\)%20480](https://michaelgregoryaz.net/looking-at-the-planet/#:~:text=The%20Medfly%2C%20the%20Government%2C%20and%20Individual%20Rights%20(1985)%20480)

"On the APHIS Rangeland Grasshopper Cooperative Management Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement as Supplemented 1986 (1986) 501"

[https://michaelgregoryaz.net/looking-at-the-planet/#:~:text=On%20the%20APHIS%20Rangeland%20Grasshopper%20Cooperative%20Management%20Program%20Draft%20Environmental%20Impact%20Statement%20as%20Supplemented%201986%20\(1986\)%20501](https://michaelgregoryaz.net/looking-at-the-planet/#:~:text=On%20the%20APHIS%20Rangeland%20Grasshopper%20Cooperative%20Management%20Program%20Draft%20Environmental%20Impact%20Statement%20as%20Supplemented%201986%20(1986)%20501)

"On the USDA-APHIS Medfly Cooperative Eradication Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement (1993) 526

Medfly Eradication and Public Health: a Fruitless Effort? (1994 542"

[https://michaelgregoryaz.net/looking-at-the-planet/#:~:text=On%20the%20USDA,Effort%3F%20\(1994%20542](https://michaelgregoryaz.net/looking-at-the-planet/#:~:text=On%20the%20USDA,Effort%3F%20(1994%20542)

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