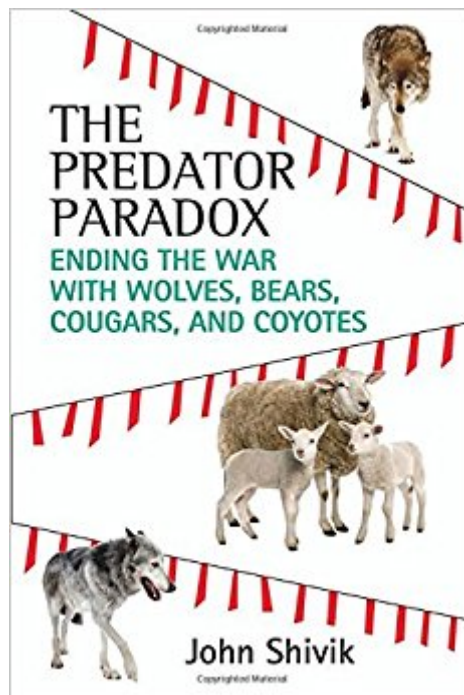




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# The Predator Paradox: Ending The War With Wolves, Bears, Cougars, And Coyotes



## Synopsis

An expert in wildlife management tells the stories of those who are finding new ways for humans and mammalian predators to coexist. Stories of backyard bears and cat-eating coyotes are becoming increasingly common—even for people living in non-rural areas. Farmers anxious to protect their sheep from wolves aren't the only ones concerned: suburbanites and city dwellers are also having more unwanted run-ins with mammalian predators. And that might not be a bad thing. After all, our government has been at war with wildlife since 1914, and the death toll has been tremendous: federal agents kill a combined ninety thousand wolves, bears, coyotes, and cougars every year, often with dubious biological effectiveness. Only recently have these species begun to recover. Given improved scientific understanding and methods, can we continue to slow the slaughter and allow populations of mammalian predators to resume their positions as keystone species? As carnivore populations increase, however, their proximity to people, pets, and livestock leads to more conflict, and we are once again left to negotiate the uneasy terrain between elimination and conservation. In *The Predator Paradox*, veteran wildlife management expert John Shivik argues that we can end the war while still preserving and protecting these key species as fundamental components of healthy ecosystems. By reducing almost sole reliance on broad scale "death from above" tactics and by incorporating nonlethal approaches to managing wildlife—from electrified flagging to motion-sensor lights—we can dismantle the paradox, have both people and predators on the landscape, and ensure the long-term survival of both. As the boundary between human and animal habitat blurs, preventing human-wildlife conflict depends as much on changing animal behavior as on changing our own perceptions, attitudes, and actions. To that end, Shivik focuses on the facts, mollifies fears, and presents a variety of tools and tactics for consideration. Blending the science of the wild with entertaining and dramatic storytelling, Shivik's clear-eyed pragmatism allows him to appeal to both sides of the debate, while arguing for the possibility of coexistence: between ranchers and environmentalists, wildlife managers and animal-welfare activists, and humans and animals. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Both ranchers and predator advocates will have something to learn from Shivik’s survey.” • Publishers Weekly “A fair introduction for the non-initiated reader as well as a resource for those with vested interest in the issue.” • The Deseret News “Shivik’s style makes the science accessible and relevant for general readers. The narrative is carried by the author’s insights, admonitions and the engaging profiles of those working to resolve the predator paradox.” • Kirkus Reviews “[Shivik’s] book is a highly readable review of an extensive body of knowledge on how to behave around predators without killing them.” • James M. Peek, [BioScience](#) “A masterful storyteller and bold critic, Shivik provides realistic, hands-on solutions to help us share the landscape effectively.” • High Country News “Shivik, one of the world’s best practitioners and clearly among America’s top thinkers on wildlife management, has produced a shocking yet remarkable read about the USA’s tense relationship with wonderfully charismatic carnivores. For anyone interested in the present or past (or future) of how we treat wildlife—and, importantly, why—this is the book to read. It has balance, pizzazz, and depth.” • Joel Berger, Craighead Chair of Wildlife Biology, University of Montana, and Senior Scientist, Wildlife Conservation Society, author of *The Better to Eat You with: Fear in the Animal World* “Dr. Shivik artfully blends facts, humor, and his vast personal experience into a thought-provoking read about the reality of living with large carnivores. He blends wildlife science with human and wildlife behavior to examine what coexisting with predators really means in a landscape that we live, work, and play in and raise our children, pets, and livestock. We need to hear his message. It is a well-written, pragmatic, and enjoyable book that I recommend to anyone interested in conservation of human lifestyles, nature, and wildlife.” • Edward Bangs, Wolf Recovery Coordinator, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (retired) “John Shivik and fellow wildlife biologists are trying to solve the predator paradox:

how to preserve predators and save people and their endeavors from them. • Jim Sterba, author of Nature Wars • “This book is for anyone who hates predators, loves predators, or is curious about predators. Dr. Shivik, an expert in predator ecology and management, has woven together an even-handed portrayal of human-wildlife conflicts and a fascinating overview of key behavioral studies along with wonderful sketches of the researchers who are facing this paradox head-on. I expect this beautifully written narrative will increase public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the wild creatures that share our world--and of the people who work on their behalf. • Winifred B. Kessler, PhD, 2012-13 President of the Wildlife Society

From the Hardcover edition.

John Shivik is a recognized leader in nonlethal techniques for predator management. As a federal and university researcher, he has investigated mammalian predators in ecological systems throughout the United States and Europe. His numerous scientific works have been published in the Journal of Wildlife Management, Conservation Biology, and BioScience.

From the Hardcover edition.

An absolutely fascinating fact and study-filled discussion of the issues surrounding the peaceful and not so peaceful co-existence of humans and predator's. Excellent notes. A worthy read!!

This book was way over my head. Bring your dictionary along when reading this literary gem. After reading from cover to cover I was emotionally spent trying to figure out what John was trying to get across to the reader. Just seemed to be a lot of rambling with little to chew on.

John Shivik • “The Predator Paradox” is a well-organized book, and welcome addition to the controversies surrounding the recovery of larger predators within the boundaries of the lower 48 states. Shivik is a man of science with the capability of metaphorical eloquence that makes for enjoyable reading. The Predator Paradox is divided into 10 chapters, which are further subdivided into smaller sections for easy reading and digesting of the subject matter. Shivik's book does not have all the answers, but demonstrates how researchers are teasing apart solutions to the aptly named Predator Paradox, or the desire to have predators on our landscapes, yet, as their populations expand, “their proximity to people, pets and livestock lead to conflict.” The author identifies all of the stakeholders along with the hyperbole and hubris that accompanies the disparate groups. He

IDA's rural concerns where predators exist and their impact is felt, in particular by those who never wanted them as well as the urbanites not impacted by predators who yearned for their return. Very little if any mention is made about those of us who live rural and appreciate the predators that live among us. The driving force of *The Predator Paradox* is the experimentation being done with the use of and timing of preventative non-lethal techniques to dissuade coyotes, wolves, bears and cougars from preying upon livestock and pets and reducing any possible direct threat to people. Shivik shares many stories of both dead ends and successes. In science we find that every question answered leads to a flurry of new questions. Thus far no metaphorical silver bullet for universal non-lethal predator avoidance has been discovered, but the search continues working with animals with as diverse "personalities" as those reading these words. Using two paragraphs from late in the book serve as a wonderful metaphor in the paradox and what is required for movement toward a solution where all stakeholders might find satisfaction. "Perhaps it is too difficult to not take sides in the war. Indeed, people fall too easily into for or against camps, rather than learning from setbacks. We have to accept that something has to give, that we can't enjoy the benefits of predators without accepting the costs and difficulties in managing them. In our experiment, we were intermediate actors, and the wolves were unknowing subjects. They were wolves, so they weren't innocent, but they were wolves, so they weren't guilty. It is the recurring theme of *Wildlife Biology*; managing animals is difficult, but managing people is hell. In our interactions with predators, we will have failures even given our best intentions, and we will have to be as persistent and clever as the animals we are working with. This rather echoes the Mech quote, "wolves are neither saints nor sinners except for those that make them so." John Shivik's *The Predator Paradox* is kindred with Martin Nie's *Beyond Wolves*. Whereas Nie focuses on the social and political components of wolf management with emphasis on the conflicts in values between wolf supporters and opponents, and bringing these polar opposites into dialogue with one another for the purpose of conflict resolution, *The Predator Paradox* identifies stakeholder conflict, and begins to bootstrap together possible solutions in regard to non-lethal deterrents. Shivik is striving to remove "death from above tactics" as the only means of predator management. As technology improves, hopefully people become more willing to work with one another in regard to coexisting with predators such as wolves, coyotes, cougar and bears. The experimentation as depicted in *The Predator Paradox* is a step in that direction.

... For "those" who Loves Wolves , this is "another" masterpiece which tell us the political maneuvering & intense controversy bet humans & Wild Creatures ... Highly Recommended ... Doubtless ...

This books offers up some insights into the war with predators that our country is fighting today.

Happy with the purchase

great book

I felt the topic was important but the writing style was irritating making it difficult to get into the subject matter.

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