

Statement for the Record
U.S. Department of the Interior

House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife

Legislative Hearing

July 21, 2022

The Department of the Interior appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement for the record on H.R. 4951, *Canyon's Law*.

H.R. 4951, Canyon's Law

H.R. 4951 would prohibit preparing, placing, installing, setting, deploying, or otherwise using M-44 devices on public land. The bill defines public land as any Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of a public land management agency. At the Department of the Interior this would include lands under the management jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS or Service), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Bureau of Reclamation. Land under the administrative jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service would also be included.

M-44 devices, which are also known as "cyanide bombs", use sodium cyanide to control predators like coyotes, feral dogs, and foxes. This legislation would require any federal, state, or county agency that has prepared, placed, installed, set, or deployed an M-44 device on public land to remove it within 30 days of enactment. Many states have similarly banned or restricted the use of M-44 devices.

Enactment of H.R. 4951 would have little practical current effect on lands administered by NPS, FWS, or Reclamation because these devices are not used on the lands managed by those bureaus.

The BLM actively partners with States, Tribes, Federal agencies, and traditional communities in managing fish and wildlife resources to ensure populations of fish and wildlife are healthy, sustainable, and conserved for the use and enjoyment of visitors to the public lands it manages. This includes partnering with the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services, to coordinate in carrying out their efforts in animal damage management activities on public lands. These activities may involve the use of M-44 devices as a tool within a suite of predator removal options to resolve wildlife conflicts with other resources and to ensure public safety. If H.R. 4951 were enacted, the BLM would continue to collaborate with Tribes, States and Federal agencies in utilizing other allowable tools in efforts to address depredation of livestock and special status species and mitigate damage caused by, and to, wildlife species.

The Department is concerned that these devices pose a risk of injury or death to unintended targets, including humans, pets, and threatened and endangered species. The Department defers

to the USDA on an Administration position on the bill, but has no technical objections with it and would work to implement the legislation, if enacted.