

@Amelia-Kreuter

2021 VICTORIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

~ Margaret Mead

2021 saw momentous victories that were years, and in some cases, even decades in the making. Notably, Project Coyote helped usher in a new era of human-wildlife coexistence in New Mexico, California and Wisconsin. In March, Roxy’s Law banning traps, snares, and poisons on public lands in New Mexico finally passed into law after a decade of unwavering work from a diverse and dedicated coalition of advocates for the safety of wild and domestic animals.

In August, we celebrated with local advocates after Mendocino County finally terminated its contract with the rogue USDA Wildlife Services program that kills millions of animals across the country every year at the behest of agricultural interests. While we’re focused on national reform for this program, every county that turns this indiscriminate killing mindset down is a victory. We’re now collaborating with the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to implement a modern, effective and science-based non-lethal program. And in October, we blocked an impending wolf hunt in Wisconsin – which would have been an unheard-of second hunt in a single year – with our lawsuit filed with co-plaintiffs and represented by our stellar public interest lawyers at Greenfire Law, PC, Animal & Earth Advocates and Laffey, Leitner & Goode, LLC.

We are collectively closing out the year thankful for the many wolves, coyotes, other wildlife (and even family dogs) that are saved through these vital victories that promote coexistence and make our public lands safer for all.

Our work to expose and end wildlife killing contests continues with Maryland becoming the eighth state to ban wildlife killing contests in April of this year. Additionally, we’ve seen significant progress in states such as New York, New Jersey, Nevada and Virginia. In Nevada, Reno City Council and Clark County Board of Commissioners each passed resolutions condemning wildlife killing contests this year. We are also continuing our public awareness campaign, in collaboration with National Geographic filmmakers, with the release of the documentary, *Wildlife Killing Contests*. This film has already provoked a huge response from across the country and we are confident that momentum will continue through 2022 as even more people are exposed to this egregious practice and speak up in defense of voiceless wildlife.

Our work also expanded to meet evolving needs on two foundation fronts. First, we launched a new campaign *Protecting America’s Wolves (PAW)* to support and coalesce our focused efforts in protecting wolves now that they lost federal protections and state-sanctioned slaughter is renewing the war on wolves. We are striving to protect wolves in every state, for federal emergency relisting and a national recovery plan. Second, we are proud to join colleagues in the creation of Wildlife For All by serving on the nascent group’s advisory committee. This coalition will focus on much needed state wildlife governance reform, progress on which will be integral to all our long-term coexistence efforts.

Project Coyote’s pack continued to grow this year with the addition of Mandy Culbertson as Project Coyote’s new Operation and Outreach Manager, Sarah Killingsworth as our Keeping It Wild Youth Education and Outreach Program, Francisco Santiago-Ávila as Big River Connectivity Science and Conservation Manager, and Kelly Borgmann as our Big River Connectivity Coexistence Coordinator. We’ll also soon be hiring a Carnivore Conservation Advocate to help advance our national Protect America’s Wolves, Coyote Friendly Communities and Carnivore Conservation & Coexistence programs.

Our science, education and advocacy work will continue in 2022 to ban wildlife killing contests state by state and nationally, to fight for wolves across their range, to promote coexistence with coyotes and other wild carnivores and to empower our supporters to speak up in defense of voiceless wildlife.

We are immensely grateful for your continued support! ~ The Project Coyote Pack

EXPOSING AMERICA’S UGLIEST SPORT

WILDLIFE KILLING CONTESTS

Comfort Theory

Wisconsin hunters killed over **216 wolves** in less than **60 hours.**



ProjectCoyote.org

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PROMOTING COEXISTENCE
BETWEEN PEOPLE & WILDLIFE THROUGH
EDUCATION, SCIENCE, & ADVOCACY



CARNIVORE CONSERVATION & COEXISTENCE

- August marked a great victory for Project Coyote and ally, the Mendocino Non-lethal Wildlife Alliance, when the Mendocino Board of Supervisors terminated their contract with USDA's Wildlife Services. Project Coyote has been advocating for termination of this contract since 2014, when they first appealed to county supervisors after information revealed that a federal trapper had killed more than 400 dogs in the county during his course of business as a taxpayer-subsidized federal trapper.
- Roxy's Law, passed in March, protects the approximately 22 million acres of national forest and public lands in New Mexico from indiscriminate traps, snares and poisons.
- In the biggest news for wolf protection in the United States in 2021, a court in Wisconsin issued an injunction on November 6 requiring the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to set the quota at zero wolves for the 2021 wolf trophy hunt.
- In September, the Reno City Council passed a resolution condemning wildlife killing contests. The vote passed 6-1, much to the relief of local residents, scientists, activists, and national wildlife conservation organizations.
- Maryland became the eighth state to ban wildlife killing contests in April this year with the passing of HB293/SB200. The bill put an end to cruel and wasteful killing contests that result in hundreds of animals being removed from the landscape, and countless more being orphaned.
- To support our efforts in protecting wolves in Wisconsin and across their historic range — a new campaign we're calling Protecting America's Wolves (PAW) — we partnered with our friends at Comfort Theory to launch a series of videos promoting the benefits wolves provide to healthy ecosystems.
- Project Coyote, in collaboration with concerned citizens and allied wildlife advocacy organizations, initiated a national billboard campaign to bolster

our efforts to end wildlife killing contests and highlight the plight of wolves via our PAW campaign, beginning with the placement of three billboards in Eau Claire and Rock Counties in Wisconsin through the spring.

- This year saw the release of a gripping new film, *Wildlife Killing Contests*. Project Coyote launched this film in partnership with Comfort Theory, a film production company founded by incredibly talented National Geographic filmmakers.

ARTISTS FOR WILD NATURE

- Project Coyote and the Michigan Technological University's (MTU) College of Forest Resources and Environmental Sciences partnered this year to present *The Spirit of the Hunt*, a multimedia art exhibition. All pieces were generously donated by the artists, including works by Project Coyote's Artists for Wild Nature Monte Deignan and Sarah Killingsworth, renowned photographer Jim Brandenburg, and local Michigan artists Joyce Koskenmaki and Ladislav Hanka.

COYOTE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

- Project Coyote continues to partner with the National Animal Care and Control Association in coordinating efforts to encourage coexistence between people, domestic animals, and our native predators.

RANCHING WITH WILDLIFE

- Ranching with Wildlife Coordinator Keli Hendricks has long been one of Project Coyote's most in-demand speakers. 2021 was no different. Her informative and engaging presentations about coexisting in harmony with our wild neighbors and employing nonlethal methods of predator control always garner enthusiastic responses and no doubt save the lives of countless animals from native carnivores to domestic companion animals.

SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP

- Science Advisory Board members Dr. Adrian Treves and Dr. Francisco Santiago-Ávila published

Quantifying the effects of delisting wolves after the first state began lethal management in PeerJ in July and Modeling concerns confound evaluations of legal wolf-killing in Biological Conservation. They were joined by Science Advisor Dave Parsons and other co-authors on Evaluating how lethal management affects poaching of Mexican wolves in Royal Society Open Science. Dr. Treves joined by Science Advisor Dr. Paul Paquet on Large carnivore hunting and the social license to hunt in Conservation Biology.

- Chris Mowry and colleagues conducted many interviews and published *Interface of Human/Wildlife Interactions: An Example of a Bold Coyote (Canis latrans)* in Atlanta, GA, USA in Diversity.

EVENTS

- Project Coyote continued to engage the public and disseminate our message of compassionate coexistence through multimedia platforms. Notably, we participated in the California Fish and Game Commission online workshops about *Coyotes in the Urban Environment* with Workshop #2 featuring Dr. Michelle Lute as a member of the expert panel. Check out coverage of the workshop in *The Malibu Times*.
- Project Coyote, in collaboration with The Rewilding Institute, implemented a pandemic friendly series of informative and engaging webinars. To date, topics have included (*What's So Funny 'Bout*) *Peace, Love and Coexisting*; *Becoming Wolf: The Eastern Coyote*; and *Predator Photography: An Ethical Approach*. Many members of the Project Coyote pack have been interviewed and featured in podcasts, news articles and other media which can be read here and here. Check out our Webinars and Events pages for past media and news about upcoming presentations.

