

“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

2022 VICTORIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



ProjectCoyote.org

2022 ushered in highs and lows for wildlife and wild spaces across the country due to an out-of-sync governance system that unfortunately adheres to out-dated traditions and minority interests above science and broad public sentiment. However, the consistent theme throughout the year remained Project Coyote’s steadfast voice for wild carnivores. With your support, we steered policy and landed monumental victories through regulatory reform, proactive public education and outreach, grassroots organizing, and litigation when necessary.

Our record of success is growing with our successful lawsuit against Plumas and Sierra counties (CA) countering their failure to properly evaluate the environmental impacts of their U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Services program. This led to a successful moratorium on lethal wildlife control until a full assessment is provided. We also worked in coalition to stop Washington’s proposed spring black bear hunt and saved hundreds of bears and countless bear cubs from being orphaned.

For wolves, this year has been particularly tumultuous. In February, we celebrated a federal district court ruling to relist wolves after the Trump administration removed their federal protections in January 2021, causing expanded slaughter across their range. This ruling reinstates federal protections for gray wolves under the Endangered Species Act across the lower 48 states, except Northern Rocky Mountain wolves in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. In response to the intense, continuous persecution of wolves in these states, Project Coyote launched a billboard campaign in Idaho and Montana, calling for the relisting of wolves in the Northern Rockies. We also filed a lawsuit in Montana State Court alleging that the state’s extreme anti-wolf hunting and trapping policies violate the Montana Constitution and several state and federal laws and secured a temporary restraining order against the brutal killing. We will continue these fights in the new year while pressing for full wolf recovery at the national level.

Project Coyote’s pack continued to grow this year with the addition of Renee Seacor as the Carnivore Conservation Advocate for Project Coyote and The Rewilding Institute, Jane Schuldiner as Project Coyote’s Development Operations Coordinator, Tamara Van Genderen as Project Coyote’s Community Marketing Manager, Jane McBride as Project Coyote’s Illinois Representative, and Christopher Lile as Project Coyote’s Operations & Communications Director.

In addition, Project Coyote’s conservation partnerships are ever expanding and generating positive impacts for wildlife across the country. In conjunction with The Rewilding Institute and the Half-Earth Project, we launched Heartland Rewilding with dedicated new staff to reconnect and rewild at least 9 million acres of Midwestern lands and promote compassionate coexistence across the Mississippi River Watershed through advocacy and education. Our National Coalition to End Wildlife Killing Contests is also growing and successfully helped introduce federal legislation to ban wildlife killing contests on public lands across the country. Project Coyote’s Protect America’s Wolves campaign works tirelessly with the national #RelistWolves coalition among many others. We also helped spearhead a new coalition, Wildlife For All, that aims to reform state and federal wildlife agency governance by pushing for change that reflects diverse values for wildlife, more democratic decision-making and recognition of wildlife as a common good to be conserved for the benefit of all.

Our science, education and advocacy work will continue in 2023 with your continued support! Whether you take action in response to our action alerts, participate in webinars, donate at crucial moments, or sign petitions, your participation in our community makes a difference.

~ The Project Coyote Pack

VICTORY!

“Today is a win for the wildlife of Plumas and Sierra counties, and hopefully the start of a new approach to managing human-wildlife interactions.”

— Michelle Lute, PhD,
Carnivore Conservation
Director for Project Coyote



PROTECT
AMERICA'S
WOLVES



ProjectCoyote.org

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



Heartland Rewilding's vision is to create a thriving Midwestern landscape where people and wild nature flourish.

COYOTE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

- 🐾 Our staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to assist urban communities with non-lethal solutions to human-wildlife conflict by providing Living with Coyotes presentations to local communities across the country, distributing educational resources and signage, and assisting in developing coyote coexistence plans for municipalities. In Iowa, we are working with Des Moines and Urbandale to start development of city wide human-wildlife coexistence plans that protect both humans and wildlife. In Southern California, where wild space is at a premium, we provided community presentations and distributed education resources to share a message of coexistence. And in Dallas, Texas, we worked with city officials and community advocates to reduce fears and conflicts.
- 🐾 We launched our new partnership with the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA) to provide animal control officers (ACOs) with the knowledge and tools needed to foster peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife. Project Coyote and NACA released co-branded, science-based resources in both English and Spanish – including fact sheets, brochures, tip cards, and signage.

CARNIVORE CONSERVATION & COEXISTENCE

- 🐾 In response to continued slaughter of wolves of the Northern Rocky Mountains, we placed billboards in major highway corridors in Montana and Idaho urging people to demand the federal government emergency #RelistWolves. We also launched our Protecting America's Wolves online advocacy campaign and equipped our supporters with weekly targeted actions aimed at protecting our nation's wolves.
- 🐾 In October, we filed suit alongside Wildearth Guardians in Montana State Court arguing that the state's extreme anti-wolf hunting and trapping policies violate the Montana

Constitution, Montana Administrative Procedure Act (MAPA), Public Trust Doctrine, and several federal laws meant to protect wildlife on federally-managed lands. In November, a Montana state court judge granted a temporary restraining order to curb the number of wolves permitted to be killed in hunting and trapping districts adjacent to Yellowstone and Glacier national parks, reduce the annual "bag limit" of individual hunters by 75%, and stop the use of strangulation snares. Unfortunately, the restraining order was lifted but this litigation and our fight for wolves continues into 2023.

- 🐾 In Colorado, where wolves are set to be reintroduced by 2023, we introduced an alternate wolf restoration plan with WildEarth Guardians and 14 other wildlife organizations. We provided this plan to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to offer a science-based alternative to the plan currently being developed.
- 🐾 As a culmination of our ongoing fight to end wildlife killing contests, U.S. Representative Steve Cohen (D – Tenn.) introduced legislation to ban killing contests on federal public lands that garnered 26 co-sponsors. H.R. 7398, the Prohibit Wildlife Killing Contests Act of 2022, was an unprecedented opportunity to take our mission to end wildlife killing contests to the national stage and we will continue that fight with re-introduction of the bill in 2023—in partnership with our allies in the National Coalition to End Wildlife Killing Contests.
- 🐾 We partnered with and encouraged Wisconsin animal advocates to get involved in the Wisconsin Conservation Congress by submitting citizen resolutions and voting in the WCC Spring Hearing. Our efforts contributed to participation in the WCC Spring Hearing more than doubling relative to last year and the successful introduction of resolutions pertaining to ending wildlife killing contests, reducing the use of bait, reducing the hound

training season pursuing the black bear, eliminating compensation for hound owners and banning wolf hounding.

- 🐾 In a major victory for wildlife and their advocates, the California mountain counties of Plumas and Sierra agreed to immediately suspend their contract with the taxpayer-funded USDA Wildlife Services program, which indiscriminately kills wildlife that private parties deem a nuisance. This agreement settled a lawsuit brought by Project Coyote and Feather River Action! to stop Wildlife Services from killing wildlife without a full environmental impact report.
- 🐾 In January, Project Coyote partnered with the Humane Society of the US and BEAR League to galvanize support for a petition asking for a ban of black bear hunting in California. Despite increasing environmental and human threats to bears across the state, the California Fish and Game Commission denied the petition. We mobilized our supporters to attend the September California Fish and Game Wildlife Resources Committee meeting to testify in opposition to trophy hunting and will continue fighting for ethical and scientific bear management plans.
- 🐾 This year we officially launched a bold initiative, Heartland Rewilding, which seeks to create a Mississippi River watershed where humans and nature thrive. These efforts are a partnership of Project Coyote, The Rewilding Institute and the Half-Earth Project.

KEEPING IT WILD ~ Youth Education & Outreach

- 🐾 Project Coyote continues to expand our youth education and outreach program, Keeping It Wild. This past spring we did an assessment of Keeping It Wild to ensure we are providing educators with the tools and resources they need to engage students. The results will assist us in expansion of our educational materials and offerings.