

Coyote Chronicles



PROJECTCOYOTE.ORG | SPRING 2023



**Protecting
America's
Wolves**
**Rewilding the
Heartland**
**Capturing
Coexistence**



Image: Mark Surls

SEASONAL COEXISTENCE TIP

As the weather warms, mated coyote pairs will begin establishing den sites or refreshing previously used dens throughout their territory in preparation for the arrival of pups in April-May. To ensure the safety of these coyote families, we must keep our neighboring coyotes as wild as possible. Although we might wish to “help” coyotes by feeding them, it’s best to clean up any attractants around your yard (clean your grill, regularly pick up fallen fruit, keep bird seed off the ground, keep pet food inside, secure garbage and compost bins) and close off crawl spaces under decks and around buildings where coyotes may den. Coyotes can find their own food and den spaces. Becoming habituated to humans, or reliant on us for resources puts them and their families at risk. If you frequently see coyotes in your yard that are not phased by your presence, you can make loud noises and wave your arms to ensure they don’t become habituated. Learn more about how to [promote coyote coexistence in your community](#) on our website.



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This winter has been a busy season for the Project Coyote pack! Our Protect America’s Wolves campaign has defended wolves in the Southwest and Northern Rockies and strengthened protections for wolves returning to Colorado and the Northeast. We continued to persist in our efforts to end wildlife killing contests on federal lands and state by state, with new states considering legislation to ban these horrific events. Our recently launched campaign, #CaptureCoexistence, is bringing nature photographers and videographers together to help us end wildlife killing contests by fostering appreciation for wild nature and encouraging wildlife enthusiasts to look through a lens instead of the barrel of a gun. In the midwest, our Heartland Rewilding initiative has gained momentum and already positively influenced legislation for wildlife. Although numerous cities across the country have made headlines by reacting to their coyote neighbors with fear, we are working diligently to replace fear with understanding and grow our network of Coyote Friendly Communities through consultations, grassroots advocacy, education and outreach.

In addition to new and expanding campaigns, our team continues to grow. We are thrilled to welcome Keri Duckworth, Project Coyote’s new Social Media Coordinator, to the pack! The dedication and tenacity of our staff, volunteers, and supporters has grown and shaped Project Coyote and I’m excited to announce that we will be celebrating our 15th anniversary on May 21!

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of our *Coyote Chronicles* newsletter and encourage you to share it with others.

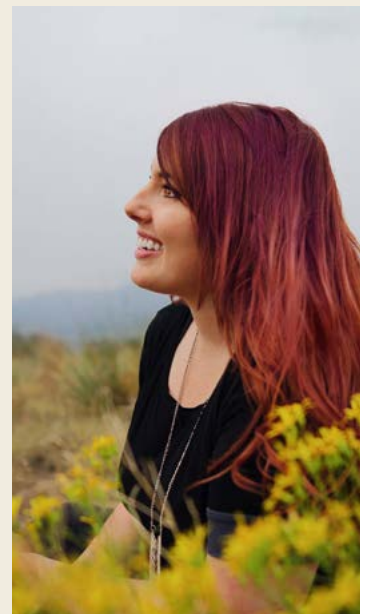
A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Camilla".

For the wild ones,
Camilla Fox
Founder & Executive Director



WELCOME TO THE PACK!

Project Coyote is thrilled to welcome a new member into our pack! [Keri Duckworth](#) joined the team in January as our new Social Media Coordinator. Keri holds a degree in illustration and graphic design, and has years of experience working for businesses and nonprofits in both creative and social media fields. Her penchant for storytelling and passion for conservation will help Project Coyote broaden the reach of our mission and help grow our compassionate, conservation-minded online community. When she’s not advocating for North America’s carnivores, Keri can be found out in the field with her camera, photographing and filming wildlife or managing her illustration and design business.





PROGRAM UPDATES

Project Coyote focuses on six core programs:

- Carnivore Conservation & Coexistence,
- Ranching with Wildlife,
- Coyote Friendly Communities,
- Science & Stewardship,
- Keeping it Wild, and
- Artists for Wild Nature.

You can learn more about these programs [on our website](#). Each Coyote Chronicles edition provides updates on our most current projects and campaigns within these programs.

Image: Monty Sloan

CARNIVORE CONSERVATION & COEXISTENCE

PROTECT AMERICA'S WOLVES

Project Coyote's Carnivore Conservation and Coexistence team has been working hard to protect wolves from across the country. As reported in our last Coyote Chronicles, on October 27th, Project Coyote filed a lawsuit in Montana State Court to stop the state's extreme anti-wolf hunting and trapping policies. On November 17th, a Montana State Court judge granted a temporary restraining order (TRO) granting temporary reprieve for Montana's wolves and curbing some killing. Read more about this court order in [our press release](#). Unfortunately, the TRO was short-lived and liberalized killing continues. But our lawsuit remains and in response to it, Montana Governor Gianforte [ordered an overhaul of their wolf management plan](#). We will continue to update our supporters as the litigation and management plan update proceeds.

Moving south from Montana along the spine of the Rockies, Project Coyote is also advocating for sound science and ethics to inform Colorado's plan to reintroduce wolves. Although [the draft plan was underwhelming](#) and we have concerns about the lack of protections afforded by the proposed [federal designation as 'experimental, non-essential'](#), the final plan does not include potential trophy hunting of wolves once they could be considered recovered.

Even farther south, Mexican gray wolves also need constant advocacy. We were [rooting for Asha](#), the little lobo whose historic journey took her further north and east than any wolf since reintroduction began in 1998. Despite [our call](#)

[to keep her wild and free](#), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [removed her from the wild](#) for simply crossing north of an arbitrary geographic boundary. We also worked to protect lobos and coyotes through [a petition to list coyotes as endangered in parts of Arizona and New Mexico due to the two species' similarity of appearance](#). Unfortunately our petition was denied so we are working with our collaborators on next steps. In the meantime, we [cautiously celebrate the increase in lobo population numbers](#).

Moving on to the Midwest, we recently rallied the public to protect Wisconsin wolves by submitting comments on the new Draft Wolf Management Plan and attending virtual public listening sessions for the proposed plan. Our Midwest team also [submitted comprehensive comments on the plan](#), highlighting ethical and unscientific biases leading to systematic omission of scientific literature and arbitrary prioritization of wolf killing for both conflict management and recreation.

We also continue to forge new ground advocating for the return of the wolf to the Northeast. In collaboration with regional partners, we've begun advocating for increased protections for all canids which will be necessary to protect both potentially dispersing wolves as well as ecologically valuable eastern coyotes. We continue to lead the newly formed Northeast Wolf Recovery Alliance, a coalition of advocates focused on facilitating wolf recovery from New York to Maine.

Legislative Update

Project Coyote co-founded the [National Coalition to End Wildlife Killing Contests](#) and works to end these inhumane events, state by state, with our partner organizations. Wildlife killing contests not only foster cruelty and contempt for native wildlife, but also wreak havoc on ecosystems by decimating local predator populations. Currently, Project Coyote is working to end this bloodsport in [New Jersey](#), [New York](#), [Illinois](#), and [Nevada](#). Your support is helping us end these egregious contests.

Nevadans can help us end these horrific events by supporting [Assembly Bill 102](#), introduced by Assemblyman Howard Watts and Senator Melanie Scheible, which aims to make Nevada the ninth state to ban killing contests. Please consider [writing letters to the editor](#) and [signing up for our E-team](#) to stay informed on AB102 and other campaigns to protect North America's wildlife. If you live outside Nevada but know folks who do, please share this opportunity to take action with them.

In the northeast, New Jersey and New York residents also have the opportunity this legislative session to ban killing contests in their respective states. In New York, [A.2917/S.4099](#) introduced by Assemblymember Deborah Glick and Senator Timothy Kennedy would ban contests such as the [15th Annual Sullivan County Coyote Hunt](#) which resulted in the needless deaths of 124 coyotes this season (which their website proudly touts as a new record). In New Jersey, [A.205/S.2409](#) sponsored by Senator Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez and Assemblymember Daniel Benson would ban barbaric contests such as the 9th annual 24 hour predator hunting tournament which was held last month. We continue to [raise awareness](#) of these cruel and unethical killing contests occurring nationwide to garner public support for their bans from coast to coast.

In Illinois, our midwestern staff and Illinois State Representative, [Jane McBride](#), are continuing to

grow awareness of this issue. In February, our Science & Conservation Manager for Heartland Rewilding, [Francisco Santiago-Ávila](#), and Jane gave a presentation at the 2023 Wild Things Conference in Rosemont, IL, to educate the close to 2,000 environmental and animal advocates in attendance about the occurrence and pervasiveness of killing contests in the Prairie State and how to ban these events through legislation and agency rule-making.

In Vermont, we are supporting our state based partners' efforts this legislative session to ban archaic wildlife trapping practices. [House Bill 191](#) introduced by Representative Larry Satcowitz would ban recreational and commercial trapping of wildlife across the state. Last year, more than 13 domestic pets in Vermont were caught in traps, including one incident that resulted in the death of a beloved companion animal in East Corinth, VT. Cruel and unselective traps have no place on our public lands. Our work to ban trapping in Vermont and beyond continues.

In Iowa, one of our staff members, [Kelly Borgmann](#), recently spent a day at the Statehouse. She talked with legislators, other conservation organizations, and the public about the importance of wildlife, coexistence, and stopping bills that harm nature in Iowa. Kelly's efforts are part of the Heartland Rewilding initiative to expand our wildlife protection work into the Midwest.

KEEPING IT WILD

Project Coyote's Keeping it Wild Program Coordinator and wildlife conservation photographer/filmmaker [Sarah Killingsworth](#) has been busy this spring. She gave a presentation on February 22 about conservation storytelling and compassionate coexistence to the Careers in Science interns at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. The multi-year internship program is for San Francisco Unified School District high school students who come from communities underrepresented in STEAM. Engaged students asked Sarah questions about wildlife photography, coyote behavior and human/wildlife interactions. On March 29, Sarah gave a virtual talk through [Exploring By The Seat Of Your Pants](#), a platform bringing scientists and conservationists into classrooms, about [Coyotes and Urban Carnivores](#). And on April 22, Sarah will be doing a walk and talk at the [Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival](#) about canids and Project Coyote volunteers will be at the family event the following morning with an informational table as well.



HEARTLAND REWILDING UPDATE

In March Heartland Rewilding launched a new campaign to connect humans and wild nature. The campaign, [Connect the Heartland](#), encourages everyone to share what connects them to nature. Featuring a social media challenge, in-person and virtual events, and much more, the campaign highlights the connections between humans, wildlife, and the world around us. You can learn more about Connect the Heartland and how to get involved by visiting [HeartlandRewilding.org](#) and following this initiative on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Our Midwestern staff have been hard at work this winter. During this legislative season Kelly and Fran have been advocating for wildlife via Action Alerts and attending legislative events, speaking at conferences and dinners, and connecting with partners across middle America. Follow their work by subscribing to the [Heartland Rewilding e-team](#), the best way to connect with our work across the Mississippi River watershed.

What is Rewilding?



Rewilding enhances ecosystem resiliency, and increases biodiversity across large landscapes. This may lead to an increase in CO2 sequestration.

Connectivity Webinars

Every month from April to August



How does your program address the impact of civilization itself on the wild?



"We promote ethical coexistence that reduces harms to both human and non-human life, question human domination over wild lives, and respect non-human autonomy, agency and wellbeing."

SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP

We recently collaborated on a review of the evidence for the accuracy, precision, and sensitivity to changing conditions for Wisconsin's new 'scaled occupancy model', used for estimating the state's wolf population. The study concludes: ***"Overall, Wisconsin's method for estimating wolf abundance shows significant departures from best practices in scientific measurement. Verification will require independent replication and unbiased tests at multiple scales in multiple habitats under different human-induced mortality rates, and peer review before the new methods are considered reliable."*** The study is currently under review and the pre-print is [available online](#).

Our scientists also led the drafting of a [scientists letter to Colorado Parks & Wildlife](#) with comments on the agency's draft Wolf Restoration and Management Plan. The letter details numerous ethical and scientific shortcomings and errors, including systematic omission of scientific literature on various topics, arbitrary prioritization of policy objectives, and the promotion of biased perspectives on wolves, interventions and impacts which result in a prejudiced and unscientific plan.



COYOTE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COYOTE SUMMIT

In February, Project Coyote organized the Southern California Coyote Summit in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA). We brought together leading professionals who work on human-wildlife coexistence across California to provide science-based information on best practices for living with coyotes. If you missed the live summit, you can [view it here](#)! Please feel free to share far and wide, as it provides the resources needed to educate communities on how to effectively and safely coexist with coyotes.

LIVING WITH COYOTES PRESENTATIONS

Our staff, state representatives, and educators frequently share our Living with Coyotes presentation to communities and coalitions interested in learning to coexist with their wild neighbors. [John Maguaranis](#), Project Coyote's Massachusetts State Representative, presented in Ashburnham in September 2022, in Essex, MA in November 2022, and at the virtual Wildlife Rehabbers Association of Massachusetts in March 2023. [Keli Hendricks](#), Project Coyote's Ranching With Wildlife Coordinator, provided multiple Living with Coyotes presentations in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond for cities, agencies and partnering organizations. She was also a featured guest speaker for our Southern California Coyote Summit. [Chris Schadler](#), Project Coyote's New Hampshire & Vermont Representative and Wild Canid Ecologist, recently presented to the New England Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting and will be giving [upcoming presentations](#) to Elkins Public Library, Prospect Mountain High School, and the New Hampshire Farm, Forest, and Garden Expo. [Rob Ruiz](#), Project Coyote Wildlife Educator, recently presented in Rossmoor, CA as well.

PROMOTING COEXISTENCE IN NEW CITIES

The city of Belvedere has [made headlines](#) for [considering hiring the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rogue Wildlife Services program to kill coyotes](#) in their small town. Project Coyote immediately stepped up to offer advice and support for a humane alternative. We presented at a council meeting where our Ranching with Wildlife Coordinator [Keli Hendricks](#) shared information on peaceful coexistence strategies. We organized local advocates for a workshop (*Living with Coyotes in Belvedere/Tiburon – A Community Gathering of Advocates for Non-Lethal Solutions to Human-Coyote Coexistence*) co-sponsored with Marin Humane. Project Coyote Advisory Board Member [Gina Farr](#) and Keli Hendricks provided information on hazing, reducing coyote attractants, and proper companion animal safety. [Camilla Fox](#), Project Coyote's Founder & Executive Director, also spoke to Dan Noyes of ABC Channel 7 News and [The Pacific Sun](#) to highlight the issue. Our rapid response to this situation is [helping shift the city of Belvedere's plan of action](#) as our collective coalition's voice breaks through the vocal minority. Belvedere is now positioned to become a national model, should they choose, for implementing science-based, humane coexistence policies and practices with our wild neighbors.

In Wisconsin, our team has been collaborating with local organizations on putting an end to senseless coyote policies that place coyotes and companion animals at risk. Our team recently [joined forces with local activists from Direct Action Everywhere and the Milwaukee Animal Rights Network](#) to protest the city of Wauwatosa's recent decision to indiscriminately trap coyotes in response to conflicts, and to demand improvements to the city's coyote management plan that focus on non-lethal methods, reflecting public ethics and the latest science.





Image: Susan Vickery

ARTISTS FOR WILD NATURE

CAPTURE COEXISTENCE



We are thrilled to announce the launch of a new campaign, [#CaptureCoexistence](#), which aims to leverage the power and influence of the nature photography and videography industry to help end wildlife killing contests! Through a show of solidarity across the nation by those who photograph and film wildlife and wildlands, we are calling for an end to this indefensible bloodsport that destroys ecosystems, violates fair chase principles of hunting, contravenes modern science-based management principles, and degrades the value of individual animals. Photographers and videographers dedicate immense effort to share rare and beautiful glimpses of wild nature. In contrast, killing contests use high-tech equipment to enable cheap, quick kills, which run counter to the photographer's ethos and countless hours they spend in blinds, installing trail cameras, and learning the patterns of their focal species. Killing Contests erode the industry's ability to find and document wild animals thriving in wild landscapes and to share these encounters with the world. We urge all wildlife photographers, from amateur to professional, to [sign our petition](#) and join our efforts to end these cruel and senseless contests nationwide.

KEEPING THE PACK HOWLING



Coyote packs engage in chorus howls when the pack unites for social bonding. To the individuals, businesses, and foundations that join our chorus; we are immensely grateful. Your support sustains Project Coyote's vision of compassionate carnivore coexistence.

MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

We are very pleased to share the fortunate news that we exceeded our year-end fundraising goal! Thanks to the generosity of three long-time supporters, Diane McEwen, Carolyn King, and Ruth Feldman, every dollar of our campaign was matched up to \$100,000. This is the first time Project Coyote has offered a matching gift campaign of this size and we were humbled that your belief in our mission helped us meet this goal – providing essential funds to sustain and grow our work for wildlife through 2023 and beyond. Thanks to all who donated and who continue to support our work for North America's beleaguered wild carnivores.

DAUGHTERS FOR EARTH GRANT

Recently, Daughters For Earth announced its latest funding round, which includes 26 women-powered projects that are protecting and restoring lands and waters in 17 different countries and regions from the Arctic to Madagascar. We are thrilled to announce that Project Coyote's work to "Protect Wolves through Compassionate Conservation in the Northern Rockies" is among the funded projects! We are proud to stand up for our beautiful Earth and alongside all of the Daughters who are rising for her. Visit the Daughters For Earth website to learn more about their [2022 funding round](#).

IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING JOAN LAMPHIER



It was with deep sadness that we learned of Project Coyote Advisory Board (AB) member Joan Lamphier's passing in late November. Joan served on Project Coyote's Advisory Board for close to a decade, bringing a suite of skills and experience to the organization.

Joan was an urban planner specializing in environmental review in Northern California and a founding principal of Lamphier-Gregory – a consulting firm that specialized in planning and implementing the California Environmental Quality Act. As a result of that work, she had extensive knowledge of habitats and rare and endangered species. In addition to serving on Project Coyote's Advisory Board, Joan was also involved with several environmental organizations as a long-term volunteer, including the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (Hawkwatch), Farallones Marine Sanctuary (Beach Watch), Point Reyes National Seashore (Seals, Tule Elk Docent), Marin Agricultural Land Trust and Audubon Canyon Ranch (Heron Nesting Survey). These long-term commitments provided the opportunity to contribute to long-term data monitoring of specific species. Rest in Peace, Joan Lamphier. You will be missed by many and remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing you. Read the [full tribute by Camilla on our website](#).

IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING DAVE FOREMAN

By Camilla Fox



Sitting on a plateau
Overlooking the Jemez, Ortiz
and Sangre de Cristo Mountains
Cottonwood trees blowing in the evening breeze
Crickets pulsing
The big dipper – Ursus Major appearing over the dark
night sky.
And I take in the message I have just received—
Dave Foreman has left this world.
I was to see him yesterday,
— to say my goodbyes in Albuquerque.
But he was going down, not feeling well.
I thought about what I would say to him,
My gratitude for his vision, his courage, his singular
focused passion and dedication
To rewilding this continent.
To raising awareness, consciousness, action
For Earth First
For Wilderness
For the Wild Ones.
He set the course for so many of us
Who carry on the fight
To re-wild North America
To bring back apex predators,
To reconnect broken landscapes,
To bring back the wild.

And as I write these words
An eruption of coyote song,
A coyote serenade in the Pinyon pine juniper savanna in
Cerrillos, New Mexico.
How fitting,
The call of the Wild
For Dave- in his homeland.
A reminder that the wild will persist
Will keep resisting persecution,
Destruction.
They and we “Wildeors” will carry on your legacy,
Will keep howling & fighting for
Big, Wild & Connected
Continental Conservation
—your bold vision of
A fully functioning, healthy & diverse
Wild Earth.

RIP Dave - now united with Nancy & Crumbo.
9.19.22

This poem will also be printed in a forthcoming book:
“Wildeor” edited by John C. Miles and Susan Morgan.
Additional tributes to Dave Foreman can be found on
[The Rewilding Institute's website](https://www.rewildinginstitute.org/).

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PRESS, & WEBINARS

[Dr. Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila](#) and [Jane McBride](#)

- February 25, 2023. Ending Wildlife Killing Contests in Illinois. Wild Things Conference, Rosemont, IL.

[Dr. Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila](#)

- August 13, 2022. [Respecting Otherness: From Wolves to All Animals](#). Keynote webinar for the Speak for Wolves Conference.

[Dr. Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila](#) and [Dr. Adrian Treves](#)

- August 13, 2022. [Respecting Otherness: From Wolves to All Animals](#).
- 2023. [Estimating wolf abundance with unverified methods](#). Pre-print (in review).

[Kelly Borgmann](#)

- Feb 28, 2023. Reconnect, Rewild, Coexist. Presented at Izaak Walton League of Des Moines

[Renee Seacor](#)

- Feb 23, 2023. [Wildlife killing contests in New Jersey must come to an end](#). Insider New Jersey.
- March 3, 2023. Panel with Amaroq Weiss. Recovery for Wolves in the Northeast? Past/Present/Future. Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, Eugene, OR.

[Dr. Michelle Lute](#)

- March 15, 2023. [Bill to prohibit wildlife killings in Nevada heard by committee](#). ABC13 KTNV Las Vegas.
- March 5, 2023. Panel with Jessica Blome, Clarie Loebs Davis, Lizzy Pennock, and Melissa Smith. State Wildlife Litigation: Wolves as a Case Study. Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, Eugene, OR.
- Feb 19, 2023. [Unpacking wolf planning: Where reintroduction stands, 10 months before first release](#). The Daily Sentinel - Grand Junction.
- December 13, 2022. [Conservation groups ask for federal protections for coyote to protect Mexican wolves](#). New Mexico Political Report.

[David Parsons](#)

- March 8, 2023. [Celebrating 25 Years of Mexican Gray Wolves \(el Lobo\) in the Wild](#). Notes From The Field, Project Coyote.
- March 16, 2023. [The Saga of El Lobo: Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Return of the Lobo to the American Southwest](#). Webinar, Project Coyote.

[Heather Camissa](#)

- Feb 5, 2023. [Homecoming for Colorado wolves and preparing to coexist](#). The Daily Sentinel - Grand Junction.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Project Coyote Founder & Executive Director, Camilla Fox, received the prestigious Pegasus Wings award on December 8, 2022, from The Pegasus Foundation. This award recognizes outstanding individuals that have made a significant difference for wildlife, habitat protection, and animal welfare. Camilla joins past recipients, including Jane Goodall, in accepting this honor.

