

# Coyote Chronicles



PROJECTCOYOTE.ORG | SUMMER 2023

**Celebrating 15 Years  
of Compassionate  
Coexistence**

**Protecting Great  
Lakes Wolves**

**Ending Wildlife  
Killing Contests:  
New York & Illinois**

**Reforming the  
Wisconsin  
Conservation  
Congress**

Andrew Lincoln,  
#CaptureCoexistence Contributor



Photo by Sheryl Hester: Coyote keeping an eye on dog walkers passing through their territory

## SEASONAL COEXISTENCE TIP

Have you experienced a coyote following you as you walk? Why is the coyote doing that? At this time of year, a coyote following you is simply being a good parent! It's baby season, and parent coyotes will "escort" humans away from their families by following them until they feel secure - especially if you have a dog; coyotes may see dogs as threats to their young. If a coyote follows you, be sure your dogs are leashed and calmly continue walking away. If you feel that the coyote approaches too closely, you may use [humane hazing techniques](#).

You also may see larger groups of coyotes at this time of year. Coyote mothers typically have 3-7 pups. But the exact number is influenced by resource availability and competition. In response to population drops and disrupted social systems due to intentional killing, including trapping, hunting, and killing contests, coyotes have a unique adaptation to produce larger litters. Therefore, in areas that experience high amounts of indiscriminate killing, larger numbers of coyote pups may be born and survive to adulthood due to increased resources following brief population decline. However, the mortality rate of pups usually rests between 50-70% in their first year. With your help, we are protecting coyote populations from exploitation, especially trapping and wildlife killing contests, so they can [naturally self regulate their populations](#). You can do your part to help coyote families this summer by learning how to [promote coyote coexistence in your community](#), keeping your distance from known coyote dens, and keeping your dogs on leash while walking or hiking.

## NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I recently testified before the Pasadena City Council regarding a proposal to allow for the brutal and unconscionable snaring and killing of coyotes within city limits. In our comments and testimony, we made the case for a nonlethal approach to living with coyotes. Dozens of residents and wildlife advocates testified – including representatives from several national and local organizations including PETA, HSUS, In Defense of Animals and the Pasadena Humane Society. Ultimately, the city council voted unanimously in support of an expanded nonlethal program emphasizing public education and humane conflict mitigation solutions while rejecting a lethal control program. City council members expressed their gratitude to those who sat through the four-hour meeting and to the organizations that offered assistance to the city in crafting an augmented public education and outreach program.



It gave me tremendous hope to see both residents and city council members respond to science, ethics, and reason. As Project Coyote has argued since our inception – killing is not the solution to resolving real or perceived conflicts with our wild neighbors. As you'll read below, all of our programs and campaigns focus on protecting North America's wild carnivores from cruel and unnecessary killing while providing concrete solutions for how we can live with them in both urban and rural areas.

As we celebrate 15 years of defending North America's wild carnivores and helping communities understand and appreciate their ecological and intrinsic worth, I hope you will continue to support Project Coyote and help spread our message of compassionate conservation and coexistence.

Thank you – and enjoy this summer edition of Coyote Chronicles!

For the wild ones,  
Camilla Fox  
Founder & Executive Director



# 15 Years of Compassionate Carnivore Coexistence

Photo by Trish Carney



## CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF COMPASSIONATE COEXISTENCE

*Note from Project Coyote Advisory Board Member,  
Peter Coyote:*

I've been a dedicated supporter of this small but mighty nonprofit organization for more than a decade. I also serve on their advisory board giving my voice to help this organization grow – and to reach new audiences through film and video.

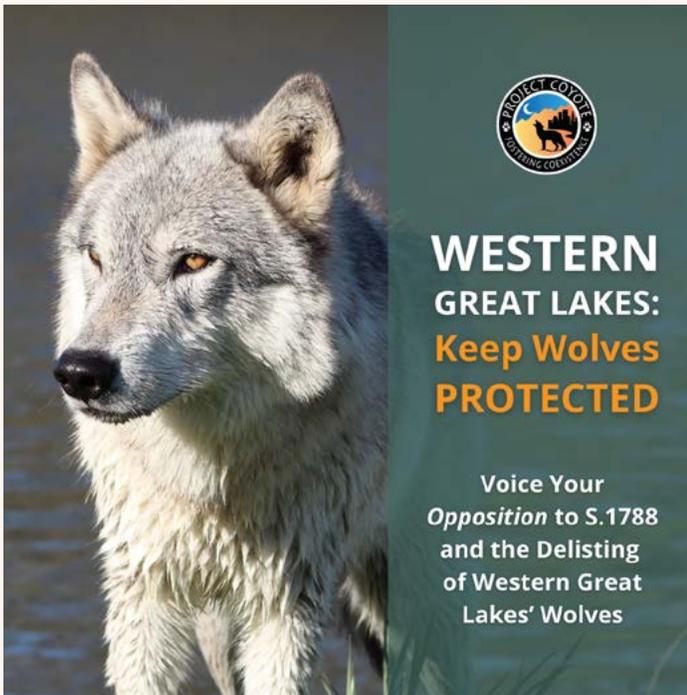
May 21st marked Project Coyote's 15-year anniversary; and in this relatively short period of time, Project Coyote has scored an impressive list of achievements for wildlife. You can view a list of some of these victories and highlights [here](#) and learn more in the video below.

At its core, Project Coyote is grassroots – working with communities across the country to educate and advocate on behalf of North America's most maligned, misunderstood and persecuted wild carnivores. While education undergirds all of our programs, we also advocate directly on behalf of wolves, coyotes, bears, mountain lions, bobcats, and other wildlife in legislatures, wildlife commissions, and in the courts.

All of this advocacy and education necessitates funding. **That's why I hope you'll join me in celebrating this milestone, 15 years of accomplishments for wildlife, by supporting Project Coyote.** Whether you're an existing donor or you're just learning of Project Coyote's dynamic work, please consider a gift in whatever amount you can afford; your generosity is vital to sustain our work for wildlife for another 15 years.

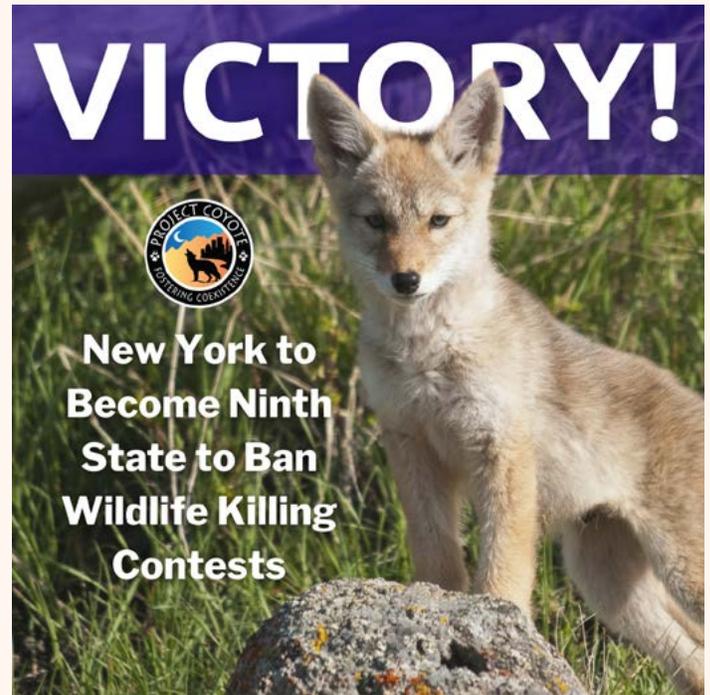
With gratitude –  
for the Wild Ones,  
Peter Coyote  
Advisory Board Member,  
Project Coyote





**WESTERN  
GREAT LAKES:  
Keep Wolves  
PROTECTED**

Voice Your  
Opposition to S.1788  
and the Delisting  
of Western Great  
Lakes' Wolves



**New York to  
Become Ninth  
State to Ban  
Wildlife Killing  
Contests**

## Protecting Great Lakes Wolves

Wolves in the Western Great Lakes are again under attack! Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) recently introduced federal legislation (bill S.1788) that would force the removal of Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for wolves in the Western Great Lakes. This proposed legislation completely disregards both the will of the broad public (the majority of voters support protection for wolves under the ESA) and Tribal support for wolves. Such delisting ignores all of the best scientific knowledge, which supports Endangered Species Act protections for wolves! It is telling that the bill is endorsed by various Wisconsin 'Big Ag' and canned hunting organizations, while no Tribes or conservation organizations were consulted prior to the bill's introduction.

The introduction and potential passing of this bill raise grave concerns for both wolves and ESA decision-making. The bill mirrors the success of using legislation to remove protections for Northern Rocky Mountain (NRM) wolves and complements another bill, introduced by Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) barring any judicial review of that delisting decision (also co-sponsored by Sen. Baldwin). Given how Wisconsin has previously decimated wolves while their wolves were delisted from ESA protections, we know these bills will open the door to the same state-sanctioned, indiscriminate slaughter of wolves that has led to their decimation in the NRM. For example, in 2021, when wolves were federally delisted, Wisconsin authorized two killing seasons in one year, even after the first one resulted in over 200 wolves killed in less than 3 days – 30% of the entire state's population (the second killing season that year was only halted through litigation by a coalition of advocacy organizations, including Project Coyote).

We have been coordinating with other wolf advocacy organizations, including the Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance, to oppose these efforts. Check out a [recent opinion piece](#) in the Chicago Sun Times co-authored by our Science & Conservation Manager [Dr. Francisco Santiago-Ávila](#). For more information, and to take action, please see our

recent [action alert](#) and [talking points](#), and stay tuned for additional updates as we continue to advocate against this anti-wolf bill.

## Ending Wildlife Killing Contests: New York & Illinois

New York legislators recently [took bold action](#) to protect wildlife and ecosystems by passing a bill ([S.4099/A.2917](#)) to ban wildlife killing contests in New York – events in which participants compete for cash and prizes by killing the most, largest, or smallest of targeted wildlife species including coyotes, foxes, squirrels, and raccoons. Thanks to bill sponsors Assemblymember Glick and Senator Kennedy for their leadership on this critical issue. We are urging Governor Hochul to sign the bill into law, which will position New York as the ninth state to ban these egregious and ecologically destructive contests. [Join Project Coyote](#) in support of our efforts to reform wildlife management and to ban wildlife killing contests state by state.

As part of our ongoing state campaign in Illinois, Project Coyote, The Rewilding Institute and the IL Sierra Club have jointly [petitioned](#) the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to ban wildlife killing contests via rulemaking, as done by five other states. A growing coalition of organizations support this effort, including Prairie Rivers Network that recently submitted a letter to the IDNR in support of the petition. Illinois hosts at least 20 killing contests, often held yearly, throughout the state, mostly targeting coyotes but also other wild animals including raccoons, foxes and crows. For the past year, our ongoing campaign to end wildlife killing contests in Illinois has focused on education and outreach through social media, providing the IDNR with the relevant data and science, presenting at environmental conferences, and promoting the involvement of other state conservation organizations. We will continue to increase pressure on the IDNR through our recent petition and prepare the public for subsequent legislative efforts. Visit our [state campaign website](#) for more information, resources and ways you can help.

## Reforming the Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Project Coyote has been deeply involved in a multi-year campaign by Wisconsin wildlife advocates to reform the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC). While the vision for the WCC was to be impartial, democratic, and inclusive – “to strengthen and enhance our ability to gather and convey the wisdom and influence of Wisconsin citizens in the formation of natural resource policy, research, education, and conservation”, **it actually operates at the behest of recreational hunters and trappers, without regard for ethics, science or public values.**

But, although there’s much more work to do, **our coalition’s efforts for reforming the WCC are bearing fruit.** Our recent **action alerts** and **public opinion pieces** are contributing to external and internal pressure for change, including coalition support to **withhold funding from the WCC** if it continues to operate in an authoritarian and anti-democratic manner. First, new voices on many WCC committees are committed to respecting and coexisting with wildlife, democracy, inclusivity, and science-informed wildlife policy. Second, some WCC county delegates are increasingly holding WCC leadership accountable, and are **publicly challenging the latter’s proposed anti-democratic processes** and procedures which are intended to dismiss any wildlife-friendly resolutions and advocates. These are all meaningful and positive signs that the public is increasingly paying attention and becoming involved. We urge all Wisconsinites to continue applying pressure by **signing on to a letter to hold the WCC accountable.** Stay tuned for more updates and alerts this Fall, as the citizen resolution process resumes through WCC Advisory Committee meetings.



## Wildlife Crossings Bill

In May, Project Coyote’s Carnivore Conservation Advocate **Renee Seacor** helped organize a lobby day at the New York state capitol in support of the New York Wildlife Crossing Act (**A.4243 / S.4198**). This bill would have identified priority locations for wildlife crossings structures across the state to increase public safety and improve habitat connectivity. Unfortunately, lawmakers ran out of time to vote on this critical legislation. Big thanks to our partners The Rewilding Institute, Wildlands Network, New York Nature Conservancy, and The Adirondack Council for their strong advocacy for New York’s wildlife and wildlands.



Lisa Antell,  
#CaptureCoexistence Contributor



## #CAPTURECOEXISTENCE

In March, Project Coyote launched our **#CaptureCoexistence** campaign, which has proven wildly successful. Over 2,600 wildlife photographers and videographers signed our petition and over 40 contributors generously lended their words, photos, and videos to elevate the campaign. These numbers continue to grow as we share weekly #CaptureCoexistence Contributor photos on our social media channels. By leveraging the power and influence of the nature photography and videography industry to help end wildlife killing contests, we showcase one of the many diverse populations who oppose the ecologically damaging blood sport that is wildlife killing contests. Our New York signatories of the petition were an instrumental piece of our advocacy for the recently passed (**S.4099/A.2917**) to ban wildlife killing contests in their state. As we advocate for banning wildlife killing contests state by state, our #CaptureCoexistence community will continue to bolster these efforts by demonstrating that wildlife are worth more when shot through a camera’s lens than by a gun.



Promoting coexistence  
between people and  
wildlife through education,  
science, and advocacy

# Community Action Network

by Project Coyote



## LAUNCHING PROJECT COYOTE'S COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

We are thrilled to announce the launch of Project Coyote's Community Action Network (CAN) in Marin County, CA. This communication network was created through the Circle platform for communities to foster connections with one another and to promote humane, science-based wildlife coexistence solutions. The platform was launched in Marin County, CA in response to the city of Belvedere's recent [plan to hire sharpshooters to eliminate the local coyote population](#) due to a small but vocal and powerful minority of residents. In response, we organized a Coexisting with Coyotes workshop in Belvedere in partnership with Marin Humane. Members of the Belvedere City Council coyote task force attended and realized that most citizens do not want wildlife to be vilified and killed for the crime of simply existing. Thanks to this quick response and the mobilization of compassionate members of the

community, the town reversed course and is [now pursuing the creation of a wildlife management plan](#).

Many supporters asked us for a digital platform to meet other wildlife advocates and neighbors, to share important coexistence information and empower one another to promote a more compassionate, humane, and sustainable community. Thanks to the generous support of a passionate, local donor, we launched our Community Action Network and will be expanding our invitation to other communities, states, and regions in the near future. Keep your eyes out for an invitation to this platform as we grow this community! With your help, we will replace fear, misunderstanding, and killing with compassion, appreciation, and coexistence through nonlethal solutions.

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

(Photos: Left. Dan De Vries sharing the message of coexistence at the Martinez Beaver Festival. Right. Keli Hendricks at the Dominican homeowners association in San Rafael, California)



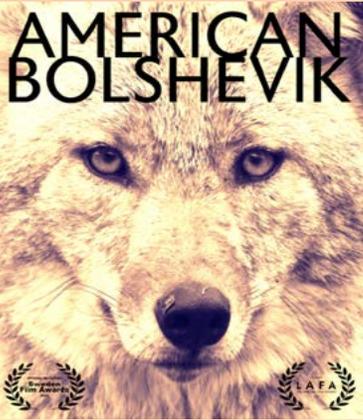
**As always, Project Coyote's staff and representatives are keeping busy with engaging education and outreach programs.**

Ranching with Wildlife Coordinator Keli Hendricks has given numerous "Living with Coyotes" presentations the last few months throughout the Bay area.

Keeping it Wild Coordinator Sarah Killingsworth recently joined the [All About Animals podcast](#) with host Staci-lee to talk about coyote coexistence as well as provided the [Redwood City Rotary Club with a Living with Coyotes presentation](#).

Longtime volunteer and wildlife educator [Dan De Vries](#) and Project Coyote's Executive Operations Coordinator [Tamara VanGenderen](#) joined the Martinez Beaver Festival to share coexistence materials with festival attendees.

In the last several months, we have hosted four webinars as part of our Connect the Heartland campaign. Through these webinars, we have shared information on coexistence and the value of wildlife in the Midwest with more than 400 different live attendees, with hundreds more watching the recordings at a later date. You can still [register for the last webinar](#) in this series, which will focus on wolves in the Great Lakes.



## ECOSYSTEM ALLIES: LARGE CARNIVORES & HOW THEY BENEFIT US ALL – A NEW PROJECT COYOTE SHORT FILM

With gracious and generous support from The Schwemm Family Foundation and The Volgenau Foundation, we produced a new educational video – **Ecosystem Allies: Large Carnivores & How They Benefit Us All** – to inspire people about the importance of carnivores and the threats they face. Since the rise of humans as the dominant species on the planet, wild mammals have declined by 85%. To combat this crisis, we encourage citizens to stand up for wild carnivores in their own communities. The filmography, photography, and strong messaging embedded in this film will inspire new and steadfast supporters to reflect on the interconnectedness of our ecosystems. This video will be integrated in educational presentations, emails, social media, classrooms, and more. Be the first to see the full 10 minute video by [joining our e-team](#) and [watch a teaser on social media](#).



Photo: Chris Shadler, Project Coyote NH & VT State Representative, being interviewed for Ecosystem Allies.

narration and to Sarah Gorsline, Project Coyote’s Multimedia Associate, and all of our contributors for creating this incredible video!

## AMERICAN BOLSHEVIK

If you haven’t already seen American Bolshevik, this is your reminder to watch this recently released award-winning documentary. The film [tells the story of how the most maligned animal in America \(the coyote\) not only survived a century of persecution, but thrived](#) and expanded their range. Several members of the Project Coyote team including [Chris Schadler](#), [Dan Flores](#), and [Camilla Fox](#), are featured in the documentary. Find American Bolshevik on Amazon, Apple TV, Google Play, and VUDU. Thank you to Julie Marron at Lemon Martini Productions for dedicating her time and resources to the production of this documentary. Shortly after its release, we provided a private, virtual film screening to our donors and key collaborators with a post-film screen discussion with Chris Schadler, Dan Flores, and Camilla Fox. For exclusive invitations to educational opportunities like this, [join our growing community of supporters](#) across the nation.



### WELCOMING TOM TO OUR ADVISORY BOARD

It is an honor to introduce Tom Bilello as Project Coyote’s newest Advisory Board member. Tom is Vice President and Associate General Counsel at Pacific Life Insurance Company, where he is responsible for overseeing legal, compliance, and risk management. He has provided pro bono legal services to various animal charities and plant-based food businesses. Tom’s primary interests lie in better understanding and articulating the duties we owe to animals. He received a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from UCLA, a Masters in English from UCI, a law degree from Harvard Law School, and a Masters in Animal Law from Lewis & Clark Law School.



### WELCOMING TAMARA TO OUR STAFF

We couldn’t be happier to welcome Tamara Van Genderen to Project Coyote’s team as our Executive Operations Coordinator. In this role, Tamara assists the team in planning and implementing events as well as fund development and grant management. As a lifelong animal lover, Tamara has been a long-time volunteer in domestic animal and equine rescue and is excited to support Project Coyote’s mission of compassionate coexistence with carnivores.



### SUMMER INTERNSHIP COHORT

With immense gratitude, we welcomed seven talented individuals to our 2023 summer internship cohort to work on projects ranging from legislation to social media – all to support our work for The Wild. Meet these dedicated wildlife advocates on our website’s [Our Team](#) page. We look forward to sharing each intern’s work through social media posts and upcoming [Notes from the Field](#) blogs.

## PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PRESS, & WEBINARS

### DR. FRANCISCO SANTIAGO-ÁVILA

- April 04, 2023. [The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is Broken](#). Wisconsin Examiner.
- May 04, 2023. [Justice For All](#) (Part 1). Interview with PanWorks.
- May 15, 2023. [Justice For All](#) (Part 2). Interview with PanWorks.
- May 30, 2023. [Justice For All](#) (Part 3). Interview with PanWorks.
- June 26, 2023. [Don't take away gray wolves' protection under Endangered Species Act without proper discussion](#). Chicago Sun Times.
- July 19, 2023. [Wolf Stories: Sustaining the wellbeing of people, animals, and nature \(Part 1\)](#). Raincoast Conservation Foundation.
- July 25, 2023. [Wolf Stories: Sustaining the wellbeing of people, animals, and nature \(Part 2\)](#). Raincoast Conservation Foundation.

### KELLY BORGMANN

- June 02-03, 2023. Introducing Heartland Rewilding. Loess Hills Prairie Seminar.
- June 18, 2023. Native Prairie Plants and Pollinators. Iowa Science Festival Trail in West Des Moines, IA.
- June 21, 2023. "You, Me, and Nature". South Side Public Library in Des Moines, IA.
- June 29, 2023. "You, Me, and Nature". Franklin Public Library in Des Moines, IA.
- July 01, 2023. Reshaping the Midwest: Heartland Rewilding and Compassionate Coexistence. Animal Culture Magazine.
- July 18, 2023. "You, Me, and Nature". East Side Public Library in Des Moines, IA.
- July 21, 2023. "Wild Iowa: Discovering Nature in Our Backyard" Kids program. East Side Public Library in Des Moines, IA.

### RENEE SEACOR

- March 15, 2023. [The evidence is wild in ongoing wolf saga](#). Adirondack Explorer.
- April 18, 2023. [Government Agents Kill Endangered Mexican Gray Wolf Threatening Pack's Survival](#). Los Alamos Daily Post.
- June 22, 2023. [State Legislature passes ban on wildlife killing contests](#). Adirondack Explorer.
- June 26, 2023. [New York Is One Step Closer To Becoming The 9th State In The U.S. To Ban Wildlife Killing Contests](#). World Animal News.

### RENEE SEACOR AND JOHN MAGURANIS

- April 04, 2023. [Coexisting with coyotes takes a consistent community response — not sharpshooters](#). Greenfield Recorder and The Daily Hampshire Gazette.

### MELISSA GROO

- May 02, 2023. [Put an end to wildlife killing contests](#). Times Union.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

[Dr. Francisco Santiago-Ávila](#), Project Coyote's Science & Conservation Manager, was recently named a recipient of the 2023 Rising Star Alumni Award from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This honor is awarded to alumni who are making a difference in the world. As an advocate for carnivore coexistence and a thought leader in multispecies justice, Fran is truly making a difference for wolves, coyotes, and other wild lives across the country. We invite you to [read more about Fran's journey](#) and join us in congratulating him on this award.



### RECENT WEBINARS:

- May 11, 2023. [Coexisting with Coyotes](#). Project Coyote, Marin Humane, City of San Rafael, University of California Cooperative Extension, California Department of Fish & Wildlife.
- May 25, 2023. [Midwest Mountain Lions](#). Project Coyote & The Rewilding Institute's Heartland Rewilding Initiative with Wildlands Network and Mountain Lion Foundation.
- June 13, 2023. [Coyotes & Coexistence Webinar](#). Project Coyote & The Rewilding Institute's Heartland Rewilding Initiative with the Atlanta Coyote Project.
- July 17, 2023. [Connecting the Dots: How Bison Promote Rewilding](#). Project Coyote & The Rewilding Institute's Heartland Rewilding Initiative with American Prairie.

### RECENT NOTES FROM THE FIELD BLOGS:

- May 01, 2023. [Red River War: An Instrumental Journey Through the Last Major Conflict on the Southern Plains](#). M. Walker.
- May 30, 2023. [Just The Messenger](#). Sheryl Hester.
- June 29, 2023. [Qualities and Virtues Wolves and Humans Share](#). Dr. Michael W. Fox.