

Coyote Chronicles



Progress on legislation
to ban Wildlife Killing
Contests in Illinois

Introducing our new
Model Coyote
Coexistence Plan

Celebrating growing
advocacy efforts
across the country

And more!



Note from the Director

As our country navigates deep political divisions, Project Coyote remains steadfast in our mission to protect wild carnivores and advocate for a world where coexistence with wildlife becomes the norm. In times of uncertainty, our commitment to science-based conservation, ethical advocacy, and defending the most persecuted wildlife has never been stronger. We want to assure our community that we will be relentless in standing up for the underrepresented and in safeguarding the ecosystems that sustain us all.

To that end, we are intensifying our efforts to ban Wildlife Killing Contests in Illinois and other key states, strengthening wildlife trapping regulations in Vermont and Colorado, and pushing for other key wildlife protections at both state and federal levels. Our advocacy is gaining momentum, and with your support, we can make critical strides in ensuring that our laws reflect respect and protection for our wild neighbors.

We're also thrilled to introduce a new 2025 webinar series, Nourishing Earth, Nourishing Ourselves, hosted by our Artists for Wild Nature Ambassador, Vanessa Chakour. This series will explore how caring for the natural world nourishes us in return. Our first webinar on February 18 featured journalist and author Brandon Keim, who stewarded a discussion on animal personhood and compassionate coexistence — an essential conversation in today's wildlife policy landscape.

Additionally, we are proud to announce the release of our Model Coyote Coexistence Plan. This timely resource provides science-backed strategies for preventing human-coyote conflicts, along with guidance for city officials on fostering ethical, education-based approaches to coexistence. Now available for download, this plan is a vital tool for communities nationwide seeking to live in harmony with urban wildlife.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support and engagement. With you by our side, we remain unwavering in our fight for justice and coexistence. Thank you for being part of this movement—we are honored to share this edition of Coyote Chronicles with you.

With gratitude and determination,



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Camilla H. Fox". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the name of the person in the portrait.

Camilla Fox Founder &
Executive Director

Protect

Project Coyote uniquely advocates for a compassionate, ethical, and science-based approach to wild carnivore protection. We shift federal and state-based wild carnivore policy away from current lethal management policies to a framework centered on human-wildlife coexistence. In partnership with renowned experts from diverse academic fields, we seek to integrate ethics and science to ensure that both humans and wild carnivores can flourish in our multispecies communities.

Protecting America's Wolves

Despite efforts by the agricultural industry to halt the continued restoration of wolves into Colorado, in January, Colorado Parks and Wildlife released fifteen wolves translocated from British Columbia into the state. In addition, five members of the Cooper Creek pack who were previously trapped and placed in captivity for being implicated in farmed animal losses were released back into the wild. In a heartbreaking update, a necropsy revealed that the father of the Cooper Creek pack died from complications caused by a gunshot wound. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is now seeking information regarding the illegal killing of this gray wolf. As wolves continue to return to Colorado's landscapes for the first time in nearly a century, it is critical that ethical and science-based coexistence strategies be prioritized to ensure wolf individuals remain safe from persecution.

In troubling news for wolves of the Pacific Northwest, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) approved the lethal removal of wolves from the Columbia Pack, citing livestock conflicts. However, manipulated depredation data were found to have exaggerated these conflicts, falsely inflating the number of farm animal losses attributed to wolves. This decision signals a shift away from science-based, ethical wildlife management, favoring narrow special interests over ecological balance. Public trust in Washington's wolf conservation efforts is at risk as the state prioritizes politically motivated lethal removals over proven non-lethal coexistence strategies.



PROTECT

Fortunately, wolves in the Great Lakes received a reprieve when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) rejected multiple petitions from hunters seeking to weaken Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for certain gray wolf populations in the Western Great Lakes and West Coast regions. Petitioners attempted to designate a “Western Great Lakes” and a “West Coast States” distinct population segment—which could have fragmented protections—part of a broader attempt to downlist gray wolves across the lower 48 states. This decision keeps vital federal safeguards in place, but ongoing legal and legislative battles continue to threaten wolf protections.

Red wolves received some good news recently as well! With fewer than 20 red wolves remaining in the wild, this critically endangered species faces an uphill battle for survival in eastern North Carolina. A \$25 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration was announced to fund wildlife crossings—a crucial step in reducing vehicle collisions, which are the leading cause of red wolf deaths. The crossings will also benefit other local wildlife, marking a significant investment in ecological connectivity and species protection.



Wildlife Killing Contests

Illinois

The 2024 legislative session marked a historic milestone in our campaign to ban wildlife killing contests across Illinois. For the first time since its introduction, the bill to ban wildlife killing contests passed the Illinois House of Representatives with a 62-45 vote. While we were hopeful to advance the bill during the post-election session in early January, unfortunately, the bill was not brought forth in time for a vote. However, we're back and more determined than ever to get this critical legislation passed in 2025! Senator Linda Holmes has introduced a new bill to ban wildlife killing contests this session, SB256. In the coming weeks and months, we will be calling on our Illinois supporters to join us in advocating for an end to these egregious contests.



State Campaign Updates

Vermont

Project Coyote submitted input on behalf of our Vermont constituents for the Vermont 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan and Species of Greatest Conservation Need list. Our input included both species listing and designation recommendations, and suggested changes to hunting regulations to protect species considered at-risk in the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan and who continue to be at risk in 2025. As Project Coyote's Vermont representative, Sarah Gorsline continues to engage in conversations with Vermont legislators at the Vermont statehouse on a weekly basis during the legislative session, January-May, about wild carnivores and legislation to protect them.

New Hampshire

Our New Hampshire State Representative, Chris Schadler, in partnership with the New Hampshire Wildlife Coalition, successfully advocated for the introduction of a critical wildlife protection bill. House Bill 589, sponsored by Representative Kristina Schultz, was introduced in January and would prohibit wanton waste of wild animals as well as prohibit wildlife killing contests from occurring statewide. The bill was scheduled for a hearing on February 12th and we are activating our New Hampshire supporters to testify in support of this critical legislation.



State Campaign Updates

Nevada

Last October, our colleagues at Nevada Wildlife Alliance, Mountain Lion Foundation, and WildEarth Guardians submitted a petition to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners requesting changes to trapping regulations to better protect mountain lions from incidental take (i.e. accidental trapping). Despite mountain lions being protected from recreational trapping, lenient regulations and records from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) show that mountain lions in the state have been regularly trapped for years, leading to avoidable suffering, injuries, and fatalities for countless individuals. Approximately one in every six lions examined by NDOW staff in the last 20 years displayed abnormalities—such as issues with toes, paws, or teeth—indicative of prior encounters with traps or snares. Disappointingly, on January 24, ten commissioners representing hunting and agriculture interests voted against the petition, denying these requested changes to better protect the state’s mountain lions despite overwhelming evidence showing continued harm. Project Coyote continues to collaborate with partner organizations to push for stronger wild carnivore protections in the state.



Coexist

Project Coyote advocates for coexistence with North America's wild carnivores by promoting proactive public education to reduce negative interactions, as well as replacing shortsighted and ineffective lethal control with non-lethal strategies to address human-wildlife conflicts. We work across both urban and rural communities, partnering with diverse stakeholders to disseminate science-backed coexistence strategies, fostering effective coexistence with our wild carnivore neighbors.



Scarlet's Second Chance: A Coyote Pup's Journey to Safety

In this heartfelt [Notes from the Field](#) blog, Project Coyote's Texas State Coordinator, Karin Saucedo, shares her firsthand experience in wildlife rehabilitation, including her recent journey helping a young coyote she named Scarlet. Stories of individual animals like Scarlet remind us of the challenging lives our wild neighbors live and their resilience in the face of rapid change.

In late June, I was driving back from transporting a coyote pup to a long-term wildlife rehabilitator when I received an urgent text about another displaced coyote pup.

The tiny pup, barely distinguishable from the shadows in the kennel had been found scarfing down cat food left out for stray animals. Initially mistaken for a chihuahua, the finders soon realized this was no ordinary stray. They named the coyote Rusty. When I met them in a shopping center parking lot, Rusty was being transported in the back of a pickup truck in 100° heat. They seemed oblivious to any sensory overload or shock the coyote might have experienced during the transport, but they were kind and generously provided a donation for the pup's care.

The moment I looked into the coyote's sunken, glassy eyes, my heart melted, and I knew I had made the right decision. Rusty, whom we renamed Scarlet when we determined she was female, had likely been without her mom for several weeks and was surviving on cat food and handouts from her compassionate finders. Feeding coyotes and other wildlife can encourage coyotes' association of humans with food sources, potentially leading to problematic interactions. We recommend never feeding wildlife but rather contacting a permitted rehabber if you find an injured or orphaned animal.

Reuniting Scarlet with her family wasn't an option. The neighboring property where she was found is a night hunting outfitter, making it likely her mother had been killed. Scarlet's tiny five-pound body was covered in wounds, insect bites, and a hookworm infestation. She was extremely weak, anemic, dehydrated, and covered in ticks and fleas. The crate she was delivered in was filthy, filled with feces, flies, and roaches. She would not have survived much longer without intervention.

[Read the full blog here.](#)





COEXIST

Seasonal Coexistence Tip:

While black bears and grizzlies are still in snooze mode, it's the season of love for many other North American wild carnivores. A number of species—including raccoons, bobcats, foxes, wolves, and coyotes, are eagerly looking for, or reuniting with, mates and preparing their dens.

Coyotes become more active during this season, marking and vocalizing to defend their territories, protect their pack, and successfully raise pups in the spring. Contrary to what many people think, when you hear a series of yips and howls at night—or even during the day—it's likely not a pack of coyotes on the hunt, but rather packs staking out their territories or calling to family members. Coyotes rely heavily on their mates for survival and form strong social bonds with each other. These pairs are profoundly family-oriented and often mate for life.

Wolves are more active in winter too. In fact, the January full moon is called the Wolf Moon because wolves have often been observed to howl more often at this time of year. Gray wolf pairs mate for life; they form deep bonds by grooming each other, licking their faces, and the dominant (breeding) males perform special mating dances. A breeding pair will stay together to raise their pups in late spring.

[Learn more about coyotes and other wild carnivores](#), plus [download free resources](#) to learn how to peacefully coexist with our wild neighbors throughout the year.



Coyote Friendly Communities: Introducing our new Model Coyote Coexistence Plan

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our model urban Coyote Coexistence Plan!

In January, Project Coyote released the plan, a free, comprehensive guide to help communities safely and humanely live alongside our wild coyote neighbors!

This extensively peer-reviewed plan reflects the latest research and incorporates practical, science-backed solutions for preventing conflicts with coyotes. It also includes resources for city officials on holistic (ethical and scientific) education to foster greater understanding and appreciation of coyotes, and best practices for guiding municipalities on urban wildlife coexistence. The plan is open-access and now available for download and use by communities nationwide.

Through our Coyote Friendly Communities program, we partner with local stakeholders and municipalities to develop non-lethal conflict avoidance models emphasizing coexistence education, proactive public outreach, agency collaboration, and community empowerment. This new plan offers a roadmap for communities seeking science-based information and guidance for how to live safely and humanely with our unique, adaptable, and highly intelligent song dogs. Check the plan out for yourself and encourage your community leaders to use it as a resource for coexistence planning.

[Download the free coexistence plan](#)



COEXIST

Dive into the Coexistence Plan and Celebrate Coyote Awareness Week

On Monday, March 17th, at 12 p.m. PT / 3 p.m. ET we will host a webinar to introduce our new model coyote coexistence plan, share tips for advocating for its adoption in your community, and provide additional resources currently in development. Celebrate Coyote Awareness Week with us and learn actionable steps to foster coyote coexistence where you live!

[Register for the webinar here.](#)



Inspire

Project Coyote collaborates with artists, creatives, and educators to inspire diverse new audiences to appreciate their wild neighbors, raise awareness about the importance of wild carnivores to thriving ecosystems, and inspire communities to choose coexistence with wildlife.





© Photo by Kristen Weiss

Confronting language to shift our cultural relationship with wildlife

In this recent [Notes From the Field](#) blog, Project Coyote's Public Engagement Coordinator Kristen Weiss explores this existential topic of how language can either create and perpetuate apathy, fear, and violence against wildlife or foster compassion and coexistence. Kristen shares her personal experiences and observations, highlighting the disconnect between how we treat some animals with affection and others with indifference or cruelty. We hope this [thought-provoking piece](#) will help you feel empowered to begin reframing your own language and gently shift the perceptions of those around you.

It is no secret that humans are walking contradictions. We are whiplashed with cognitive dissonance, hyper-rationalization, and sometimes willful ignorance, which help us defend our arbitrary moral boundaries even in the face of conflicting evidence or viewpoints. Our colonial-capitalist Western society simultaneously encourages us to spend thousands of dollars to spoil our dogs and cats while turning a blind eye to the mass murder of millions of cows, chickens, pigs, and sheep. Leaving your dog outside in winter could put you in jail; so, too, could rescuing a sick, mutilated calf from a factory farm. We kill wild carnivores to protect deer or cattle so that we can kill those animals ourselves. We name revered

sports teams after panthers, wolves, and even coyotes—presumably out of respect for their remarkable prowess and innate survival abilities—while also demanding that these species be eradicated as “problem animals” for those very same characteristics.

The dissonance in our actions is not always due to maleficent intent; much of it stems from an obfuscation of language surrounding violence and death. We've been trained to think of hunting as “recreation” and killing as “sport,” rather than a traumatic, terrifying experience for a hunted animal and his or her family members or herd mates. The butchering of millions of animals that end up on our dinner plates are “livestock” that have been “harvested,” rather than caged, tortured, drugged, and abused souls who have strong emotional bonds with their parents and children.

I understand the false sense of security and validation this abstraction provides, but I want to work towards dismantling it through a more conscientious approach to language. I think we owe it to ourselves to engage in deeper conversations about how we can and should interact with wildlife and domestic animals—and with other humans, for that matter.

[Read the full blog here.](#)

New Webinar Series: Nourishing Earth, Nourishing Ourselves, with Project Coyote Ambassador Vanessa Chakour

Project Coyote is honored to introduce a special webinar series to our 2025 lineup — Nourishing Earth, Nourishing Ourselves. Hosted by Project Coyote Ambassador Vanessa Chakour, this series welcomes guests and discussions that will guide us towards everyday actions we can take to nourish the earth around us, in turn nourishing ourselves and our communities.

We think the timing couldn't be better to discuss the pressure of productivity and the necessity of play, the release of creative expression and feeding that expression with nourishing input, and how to find balance between meaningful action and meaningful being. In our current culture of excessive extraction and consumption, it is a radical act to pause and turn inward to reflect on what nourishes our wellbeing.

Join us for the second webinar in this series on April 8, 2025. Vanessa will lead an interactive conversation with landscape designer [Owen Wormser](#) (author of *Lawns into Meadows: Growing a Regenerative Landscape*) about how to cultivate vibrant multi-species communities by growing wildflowers and native grasses that enhance sustainability, regeneration, and beauty. The event will allow time for participant questions and an interactive activity. We look forward to having you join!

[Register for April 8 webinar](#)

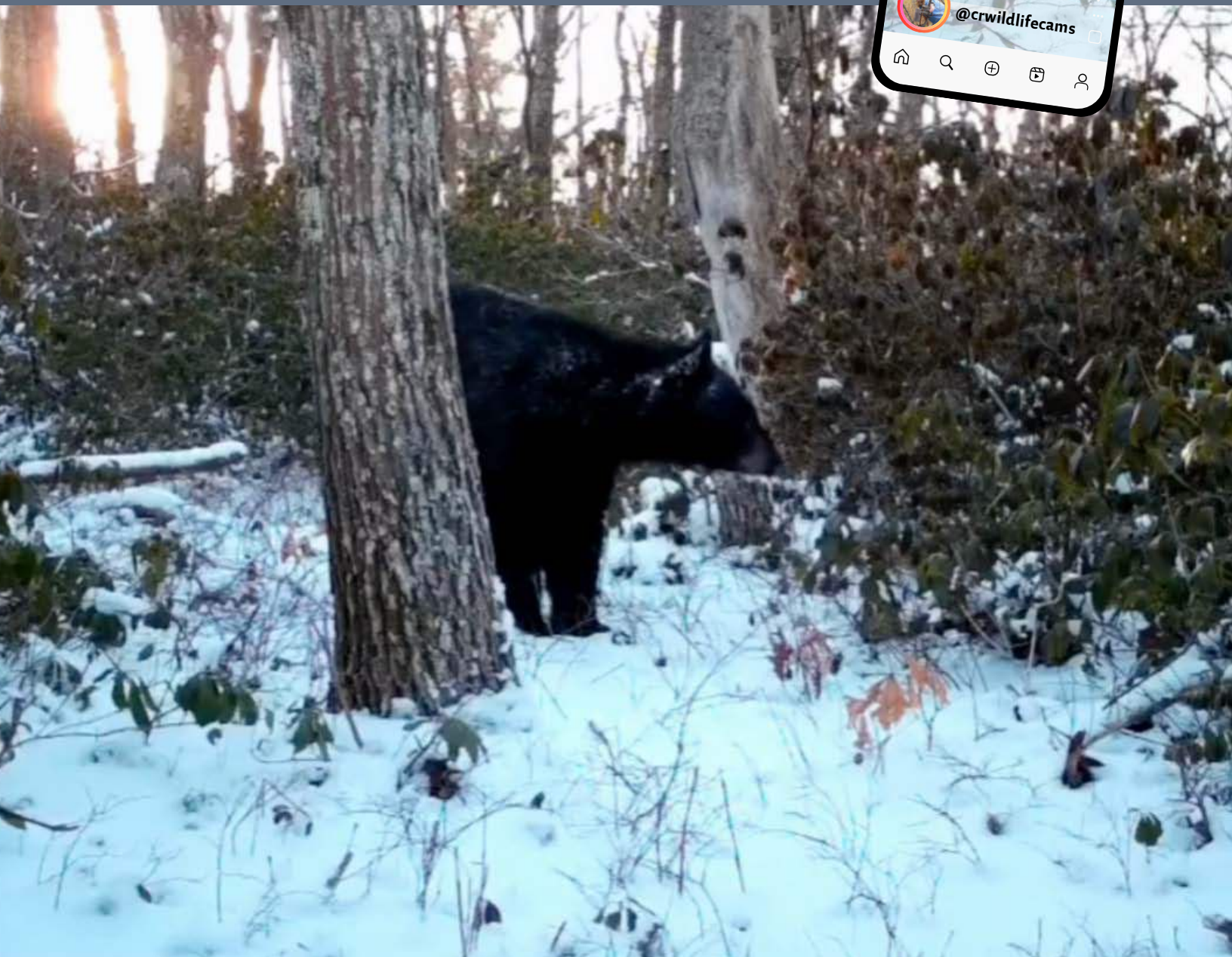
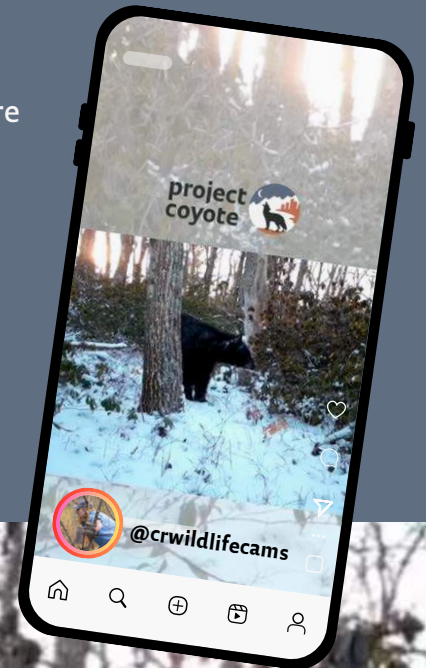


INSPIRE

Spotted in the Wild

There's nothing quite like an adorable animal video to cheer you up when things are overwhelming. Each week on our social channels we feature eye-catching trailcam footage from members of our community. Recently we [shared this video](#) of this un-bear-ably cute black bear getting his tree-scratch on in the winter weather in the Berkshires, MA! Sally Naser of (@crwildlifecams on Instagram) shared, "Definitely wasn't expecting this guy to visit ... on such a bitter day as the sun was setting in the southern Berkshires, not far as the crow flies from the Appalachian Trail corridor."

Be sure to [follow us on Instagram](#) to see all of our wildlife posts.





Our Pack Is Growing!

New Colorado State Coordinator: Mark Surls

Project Coyote is excited to welcome Mark Surls as our new Colorado State Coordinator. A skilled photographer and passionate wildlife advocate, Mark has been instrumental in Colorado's wild carnivore protection efforts, serving as the State Volunteer Coordinator for Cats Aren't Trophies and as a dedicated volunteer with Project Coyote. With Mark now on staff, we look forward to enhancing our campaigns in the state, including advocating for the protection of newly introduced wolves.

Mark's journey has taken him from stock trading to the Peace Corps in sub-Saharan Africa, to wildlife advocacy and being a stay-at-home dad. Along the way, he discovered that open communication is key to ensuring a thriving planet for future generations. Through art, particularly photography, Mark has inspired compassion for wildlife, contributing to Project Coyote's Capture Coexistence Campaign and publishing his book *Coyote Conversations* to highlight the often-mistreated coyote. His passion for protecting America's carnivores has led him to advocate for policy reforms and tackle the most pressing challenges facing these animals today.



Fundraising Updates

The Project Coyote team is humbled by the success of our 2024 end-of-year matching gift campaign! Thanks to our dedicated supporters, we unlocked an additional \$85,000 in funds to meet the urgent needs of wild carnivores.

Collectively, we have set a foundation for an optimistic new year for wildlife advocacy and program momentum, like introducing a new K-8 school curriculum for classrooms nationwide through our Keeping It Wild: Youth Education program and funding critical legal battles to protect wolves and other threatened wild carnivores.

Thank you for being in our pack. Together, we are making a huge difference for wild lives!



State Advocates in Action

Celebrating Conservation Champions: Project Coyote Advisors Pam & Will Harte



We're thrilled to share that Project Coyote Advisory Board members Pam and Will Harte are being honored as Conservationists of the Year at the Harvey Weil Sportsman Conservationist Award Dinner on March 29, 2025. As dedicated advocates for coexistence between humans and wild carnivores, Pam and Will champion ethical land stewardship in South Texas, ensuring all species are valued and protected.

This prestigious award, presented by the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi, celebrates their outstanding contributions to conservation while supporting research and education in nature preservation. We couldn't be more proud!

Also, on March 29th, Pam will moderate a thought-provoking panel at the Harte Research Institute: *Apex Predators by Land and Sea — Their Ecological Importance and the Challenges They Face*. The event features an impressive group of panelists, including Mission Blue founder and Project Coyote Ambassador Dr. Sylvia Earle, HRI Associate Research Scientist Dr. Kesley Banks, and three Project Coyote team members: Executive Director Camilla Fox, Carnivore Conservation Director Renee Seacor, and Texas State Coordinator Karin Saucedo. Panelists will discuss the unique ecologies of terrestrial and marine wild carnivores and how we can support coexistence strategies across ecosystems.



State Advocates in Action



TOP: Sarah Gorsline, Project Coyote Vermont State representative, has been actively lobbying Vermont legislators to strengthen wild carnivore protections in the state. In January, she tabled at the State House card room on behalf of Project Coyote, with representatives from Green Mountain Animal Defenders and Protect Our Wildlife, to answer legislator questions about wild carnivores and wildlife coexistence strategies.

LEFT: Karin Saucedo, Project Coyote Texas State Coordinator, and her husband, Roberto, represented Project Coyote at the Texas Animal Control Association's annual training conference in November 2024. They spoke with hundreds of attendees to raise awareness about opportunities to engage with wild carnivore coexistence strategies. (Photo by Roberto Saucedo)

RIGHT: Chris Schadler, wild canid ecologist, and Project Coyote's New Hampshire State Representative presented "Real Talk about Coyotes and the Wolf" to a packed room at Aldrich Public Library in Barre, Vermont, in December 2024. (Photo by Sarah Gorsline)

Publications, Presentations, Press, & Webinars:

Camilla Fox advocates for wildlife policy reform in CounterPunch feature story

Project Coyote Executive Director, Camilla Fox, wrote a feature for CounterPunch titled *Americans Demand Protection for Wild Carnivores; Will Wildlife Agencies Finally Listen?*, published in November, 2024. The article highlights the rift between how the public values wildlife versus how policy makers manage wildlife—leaving wolves and other misunderstood species like coyotes, foxes, and bobcats vulnerable to outdated practices that defy public sentiment and scientific understanding. Camilla describes how a nationwide survey conducted by Project Coyote and the Animal-Human Policy Center at Colorado State University shows that the public strongly supports a variety of animal protection policies, especially policies that reduce suffering among wild carnivores, and that policy makers need to act in the public's interest by strengthening wildlife protections.



Publications, Presentations, Press, & Webinars:

Project Coyote In the News

- [Wildlife killing contests with big money prizes spread from U.S. to Canada](#) | Animals 24-7
- [What to do if you see a coyote on a trail](#) — or in your backyard | Los Angeles Times
- [As Coyote Sightings Rise, City Advocates Coexistence, Avoidance](#) | Portero View
- [Coyote sightings increase in Michigan as breeding season leads to more suburban encounters](#) | Mid-Michigan Now

Additional Publications, Presentations, & Press

Karin Saucedo

- “Coyote Coexistence: Living in Harmony With America's Song Dog,” presentation for Friends of Spring Creek Forest Preserve, Garland, TX, Jan 7 2025
- “Mammals of North Texas,” presentation (given by Roberto Saucedo) for Town Center Council Chamber, DeSoto, Texas, Jan 30 2025

Chris Schadler

- “Real Talk about Coyotes and the Wolf,” presentation at the Aldriche Public Library, Barre, Vermont, December 2024
- “Becoming Wolf: The Eastern Coyote in New England,” presentations given across New England, including for Pope Memorial Library in North Conway, NH; Enfield Shaker Museum in Enfield, NH; and the Peterborough Town Library in Peterborough, NH

Renee Seacor

- “Wild Canids in the Northeast,” presentation for the Sierra Club Susquehanna Group, New York, Nov. 19, 2024

Mark Surls

- “Coyotes in the Neighborhood: Education for Peaceful Coexistence,” online presentation for Wild Aware, Feb. 11, 2025



**Protecting Wild Carnivores,
Fostering Thriving Ecosystems**

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**Scan to grow
our impact for
wild carnivores.**

