

TRACKS

SPRINGTIME, AGAIN

Steve Primm

The phone rings on a sunny spring afternoon; it's my neighbor at the ranch across the highway. "The bears were at the pond up top this morning when I was up plowing snow," he explains matter-of-factly. "You can head up there and see what they were up to, if you want."

Do I want? You bet. I grab my pack, bear spray, camera, and good dogs, and head out. It doesn't take long to figure out where the bears have been – in fact, the first order of business is making sure we don't find tracks with bears still in them. It's a family of grizzlies – Mom and a pair of 2-year old cubs. They've strolled all over this secluded little basin in the Madison Range foothills, eating a little green grass at the edges of big drifts, then up onto the lawn of an unoccupied house to dig rodents out of the snowpack.

We circle the empty house, making sure the bears didn't try to find a way in or discover any unnatural food rewards. If this is the same grizzly mother we've seen many springs before – or perhaps a couple generations descended from her – we expect that she probably ignored the quiet building, and was only interested in the tiny prey animals that inhabit the yard. We're relieved to find out that's the case again.

The big-bear and little-bear tracks interweave, with the big ones on a more determined course. Their skein of tracks cuts across the finger of coniferous forest, down into a ravine, and back up a sagebrush slope. The grizzlies lingered on this hillside to dig anthills and gopher tunnels. The dogs sniff along their trail, alert and curious. At one point, the wind shifts, and the dogs' hackles go up. I get the bear spray ready, in case the bears have rambled back this way. But they don't appear.



Westone Images



PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES

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I am always keen to go see grizzlies, to follow their tracks and see what they've been doing. Springtime is especially sweet, though, with its unhurried, easing-into quality. Bumper-to-bumper tourists, forest fires, and the imperative to put on next winter's fat reserves are still months away.

I imagine grizzlies, as they emerge into the vernal world, feeling pretty clever about choosing to spend the harsh frozen months in a well-built den under the snow. They walk out into a world that is returning to abundance, just waking up itself. There is so much work to be done for grizzly bears in the Northern Rockies. We recognize how fortunate we are that we get to see their tracks again every spring.

A friendly reminder that it's time to take the bear spray out of the closet and be prepared for bears in the backcountry!

STAFF



Lisa Upton - Executive Director
Hannah Rasker - Development Coordinator
Steve Primm - Conservation Director
Matt Barnes - Rangeland Field Director
Martha Sellers - Grants/Communications Associate

And our awesome contractors:
Exchange Project: **Bryce Andrews**
Bookkeeping: **Paula Posey**
Graphic Design: **Colin Tuttle**

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friends of people and carnivores –

I hope your 2016 is going well. Ours is going well, thanks to you!

Over the winter months while grizzly bears were almost-sleeping and having cubs, we continued to push forward our field and other projects. This year we will work on conflict prevention projects in two areas of Wyoming, the Montana Rocky Mountain Front, and all across the High Divide of Southwest Montana in several watersheds.

We are especially excited about our new project, the Coexistence Exchange project, which will connect community members in one area who are practicing conflict prevention with others doing similar work elsewhere or with those who would like to try implementing new tools or practices. Coexistence work is highly contextual – there is no set of tools that will work in every location. Our goal with this project is to facilitate sharing and learning between people who are figuring out how to live with wolves, bears, and mountain lions on a daily basis. Every landowner working to prevent large carnivore conflicts is notable, but when communities come together for this purpose, coexistence can reach a meaningful scale – not only for the communities but for large carnivores whose home ranges might cover an entire valley.

A heads up for the summer: We are going to send out a survey to our supporters to learn from you what's important to you in our work, and what suggestions you have. We're excited to hear your feedback!

Thank you again for all your support!

Lisa.

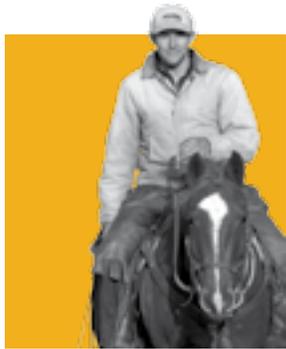
lupson@peopleandcarnivores.org

WELCOME OUR NEW PEOPLE!

We are thrilled to introduce two new part-time People and Carnivores team members:

Bryce is leading our exchange project, connecting people across Southwest Montana to share and learn conflict prevention tools and practices at work in communities (see above, Director's Letter, and on page 3). Bryce has worked for a decade as a ranch manager and land steward in Montana. He has written and spoken extensively on issues related to coexistence and sustainable agriculture. His first book, *Badluck Way*, was published by Simon and Schuster in 2014. *Badluck Way* deals with the complex, challenging realities of ranching on the edge of Yellowstone National Park, and the book has won regional and national awards.

Martha Sellers is an experienced professional who works in communications, fundraising, and the programs. Martha is originally from Minnesota, worked in Yellowstone National Park in the early 90s and then moved to Bozeman. She worked at Montana State University for 18 years on a multitude of projects; most recently she mentored undergraduates from many science and engineering disciplines. Martha holds a Master's of Public Administration from MSU and a BA in News/Editorial Journalism from the University of St. Thomas.





Matt Barnes

RANGE RIDERS: WHAT EXACTLY IS A RANGE RIDER?

Matt Barnes

As wildlife populations including large carnivores have returned to the West in substantial numbers, the role of the range rider has once again risen to prominence. But what exactly does a range rider do in the modern West? People use the term “range rider” to mean different things, all of which generally fall into three categories: those who are primarily herders, those who are primarily wildlife technicians, and those who periodically check on and doctor cattle. The first category more closely matches the original concept of the range rider, and is what we at People and Carnivores generally mean by the term.

In our view, the best range riders are those who proactively manage livestock, by combining stockmanship with knowledge of local carnivore presence. These riders do several important things. They serve as a human presence with livestock; they find carcasses, which must happen quickly so as not to attract carnivores. The best riders also herd and move the cattle

around to manage grazing, avoid predators, and to rekindle the herding instinct in the livestock. Conventional management scatters livestock across a landscape, which makes the animals vulnerable and can contribute to land degradation. Proactive grazing management involves gathering cattle into relatively large herds and then moving the herd. This can take advantage of the natural behavior of grazing animals: herding up for safety in numbers. Herding and moving the cattle is a good strategy on its own to reduce carnivore conflicts, but concentrating the cattle also makes non-lethal tools such as guardian animals and scare devices more effective.

Range riders doing all of the above have the best chance of reducing livestock-carnivore conflicts. The information provided by other riders or wildlife technicians tracking wildlife can also lead to better decisions, but in our experience a more active range rider considering both livestock and wildlife can have a more beneficial effect on people, land, and wildlife.

INTRODUCING THE COEXISTENCE EXCHANGE PROJECT

Bryce Andrews

In January of 2016, we began reaching out to landowners, wildlife managers, and others throughout the Northern Rockies, asking questions about the challenges and nuances of living, recreating, farming and ranching in proximity to large carnivores. Our goal is to share and celebrate the most promising coexistence techniques being used today, while developing a network of interested residents, land stewards and other professionals.

We’re working hard to connect people throughout the region, and we could use your help. If you’re sharing the landscape with bears, wolves or mountain lions, we want to know how it’s going. If your neighbors and friends are involved in the complex and rewarding work of coexistence, we want to hear their stories. Please feel free to reach out to us at info@peopleandcarnivores.org or by calling 460-587-3389.



ORGANIZATIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015

Our revenue totaled **\$201,047**, broken down as follows:

Individual Contributions: **\$73,797**

Grants & Foundations: **\$103,744**

Contract: **\$22,167**

Other (in-kind, interest): **\$937**

Our expenses totaling **\$200,551**, broken down as follows:

Program: **79%**

Fundraising: **12%**

Administration: **9%**

We began the year with a robust surplus. For roughly half of Fiscal Year 2015, we were in the merger process. Because we did not directly receive funding from the former People and Carnivores' funders and contributors until FY2016, the above information does not reflect the full amount of revenue of both organizations.

**“YOU ARE DOING WONDERFUL
WORK! KEEP IT UP.”**

- Mimi McMillen, supporter since 1998. Thanks Mimi!

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CONSIDER A PLANNED GIFT TO PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES

Leave a Lasting Gift for Carnivore Conservation

Planned giving comes in many forms and gives supporters a way to make regular or lasting gifts to a cause they believe in.

Designating People and Carnivores as a recipient of a part of your estate provides you and your family a sense of satisfaction and pride knowing your contribution continues to make a difference for wild carnivores and western lands. Naming People and Carnivores as a beneficiary of a trust, an annuity, or an Insurance or retirement account is another option.

Please let us know when you include People and Carnivores in your estate or other plans, so that we can thank you properly for your generosity. Also let us know if you have made any planned giving arrangements under our previous name Keystone Conservation. With information or questions, please contact Hannah Rasker, Development Coordinator at 406-587-3389, hrasker@peopleandcarnivores.org, and/or talk with a tax advisor or financial planner for further information.

As always, donate online through our website, use the donation envelope within this newsletter, or call 406-587-3389. Remember that at any time you can also set up automatic monthly donations so that you don't have to write a check for each donation just provide us with your credit card account and we will debit your account monthly at an amount you feel comfortable with. Thank you for your generosity!

Reminder ... Don't wait for our Annual Drawing to donate this year. We have put the drawing on hold, as it has become very expensive and time consuming. Thanks to everyone who contributed in the past.

GIVING THANKS

Thank you to all of our supporters in Fiscal Year 2015

October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015

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Thank you to all our contributors who make our work possible! We greatly appreciate your generosity! If we forgot to mention you and/or your gift, or otherwise reflected incorrect information, please notify us.

In memoriam: A special note of thanks to long-time supporters Richard Leonard and Phyllis Boye, both of whom died last year. Richard and Phyllis were close friends to us and fierce wildlife lovers and advocates, and we miss their buoyant words of encouragement.

PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES

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A project trail camera photo taken near Glacier in 2015



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