

# TRACKS

## MILLIE'S CUBS GET SECOND CHANCE Bryce Andrews



In summer and fall of 2016, People and Carnivores worked to test a new design of grizzly deterrent electric fence in the Mission Valley. After enclosing a 100-acre cornfield in two miles of fence, we reduced crop damage within the field by 75%. While the fencing project was valuable in its own right—giving us an opportunity to “field” test a promising new strategy for keeping grizzlies away from large-scale attractants—it also provided us with a rare and valuable glimpse into the complexity and aftermath of human-grizzly interactions.

During the 2016 field season, our trail cameras recorded footage of a maimed grizzly. Marred by a shotgun blast to the face and wracked by infection, the sow could not be saved. After being euthanized by government officials, she was identified as a bear with a fifteen-year history of peaceful coexistence with humans. She left behind two orphaned cubs, which were trapped and transported to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' holding facility in Helena.



Millie's orphaned grizzly cubs explore their new home at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, MD.

That's where things got really complicated. From the start, it was clear that the cubs could not return to the wild. With their mother gone, they could not learn to forage, hibernate, and survive in the wild. Two options remained: euthanasia or life in captivity. Believing that the cubs could yet live a full life and that their story could show people the challenges of living with large carnivores, we did all that we could to help state and federal officials find a humane home for the bear cubs.

Grizzlies are dangerous and long-lived creatures. We needed to find not just any home but the right one; a place that could afford to keep the bears for decades, as well as meet stringent federal requirements for housing a pair of endangered animals. All the while, we raced against time. The State of Montana has very limited facilities for housing bears that cannot return to the wild. To their credit, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks employees went to great lengths to keep the cubs alive and healthy during the search for a permanent home.

After reaching out for support, publishing a piece in the Daily Beast, and making a great many phone calls, we were pleased to learn that the Maryland Zoo had reached out to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks with an offer to take both cubs. The pair made their cross-country move this winter, and are now settled in, happy and healthy, and digging up everything they can get their claws into.

Many of you, our supporters, donated to the care and transport of the cubs, and we thank you again. The funds were shared by MT WILD Outdoor Education Center (where the cubs were first housed) and the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

While we're very pleased to know that the cubs will have ongoing care and a future, the situation underscores the importance of proactive, field-based coexistence work. Life in a zoo, though a good deal better than death in our view, is not a good end for a bear. In the coming years, we will continue working to keep grizzlies healthy, wild, and out of trouble.



**PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES**

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- Bryce Andrews** - Coexistence Exchange Coord.
- Lisa Upson** - Executive Director
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- Martha Sellers** - Director of Development & Communication

And our awesome contractors:

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## Fascinating Literature on Coexistence:

To assist practitioners, advocates, and managers in complex and sometimes contentious coexistence work, we have compiled and summarized peer-reviewed science across a variety of disciplines relative to large carnivore conservation and conflict management. Every two years we update the relevant science and distribute the compilation to practitioners and managers. The collection is broad but conflict-focused, and we're very pleased to say that it is equally engaging for those who live and recreate in wilderness areas, even if conservation isn't your career. The compilation can be viewed under Publications at [peopleandcarnivores.org](http://peopleandcarnivores.org)

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are gearing up for another productive year, thanks to all of your support. Grizzly bears continue to show up further west than we've seen in decades, and wolves are slowly expanding into new areas of the Pacific Northwest and California. Where wolves are recolonizing historic range out of our region, we have been asked to lead some conflict prevention workshops and send our nonlethal wolf-ranching guide to agencies and ranchers.

Closer to home, we are focusing much of our Montana program work in the western portion of the state where grizzly bears are expected to move around quite a bit, still being persecuted by some. We were so encouraged by the response we received to our plea on behalf of the grizzly bear cubs orphaned near one of our projects—thank you to all who gave to their care and transport.

I hope you check out our growing short film collection to learn more about the tools and practices we use in the field. More films are in production and coming later this year.

Finally, we have included our annual report for fiscal year 2016 in this issue. Thank you again to all of our supporters for your generosity!

*Lisa.*

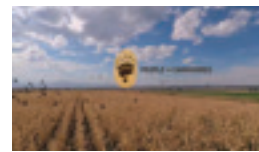
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# WHAT'S NEW

We continue to develop resources that are both interesting and valuable to practitioners and supporters alike. Whether you are a conservationist, agency manager, landowner, or a carnivore supporter, here are a few items that might intrigue you.

## Now on YouTube:

To view these films go to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search for [peopleandcarnivores](http://peopleandcarnivores.org)



**Corn Bears:**  
Keeping grizzlies away from agricultural food sources in Montana's Mission Valley

Averting Grizzly Encounters While Hunting

Livestock Guardian Dogs:  
Working on Common Ground

Whitebark Pine in Peril

## We are in production on these additional short films:

- Herding as a tool for reducing livestock-large carnivore conflicts
- Ranching with wolves in the Big Hole Valley, MT
- Building bear poles for grizzly bear connectivity

# FIELD NOTES

As we approach the 2017 season, here are a few of the many projects we're developing.

- We are hosting our first “Fladry Rendezvous” at the Clark Fork Coalition’s Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch in April, 2017. Interest in using fladry fencing as a non-lethal tool for mitigating wolf-livestock conflicts has exploded in the last couple years, and we were asked to plan a formal presentation and training on proper implementation and use of this effective coexistence tool. Presenters will include Wildlife Services; Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Defenders of Wildlife; and our own Steve Primm. Attendees will include ranchers, agency managers and technicians, and NGO’s.
- In addition to the Rendezvous, we will be helping two ranchers in Northwestern Montana with fladry installations.



Fladry is a portable barrier strung around livestock pastures or holding areas. The flagging triggers an innate fear and avoidance in wolves because it is a novel stimulus.

- We are conducting in-depth research into bear spray effectiveness and injury encounters, and working with experienced trainers to develop better bear spray tutorials. This includes testing a prototype bear-spray holster designed to be easily accessible even with a large pack and other cumbersome gear.



Prototype of an alternative bear spray holster; placement is designed to not conflict with backpacks and other gear.

- As a follow-up to last summer’s Corn Bear project, we’ll be monitoring and perfecting the fencing project in the Mission Valley to ensure that it effectively deters bears. Our goal is zero corn bears! We are also ramping up efforts to ensure deterred bears do not get into trouble on neighboring lands.
- We will start year two in the collaborative Upper Green River conflict reduction working group and field herding project, building on last season’s success when the number of livestock killed by grizzly bears decreased.
- One of the most important coexistence strategies is removing carcasses from proximity to livestock and other areas of potential conflict. This spring we will launch carcass pickup and composting in the Big Hole. People and Carnivores is the lead partner on building the fence around the site.



Moving livestock carcasses from close proximity to domestic animals mitigates the likelihood of attracting wolves, bears, cougars, eagles, and other predators.

- And one item from February: Our Matt Barnes presented at a symposium at Yale University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, “Ranching with Carnivores: Modern Perspectives on Coexistence.” Matt was on three panels that discussed range riders and coexistence tools such as fladry, electric fencing, and Foxlights. The symposium was focused on encouraging students to purposefully and strategically expand their academic knowledge with practical on-the-ground experiences.

**YOUR STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING PREDATION HELPED LAY AN IMPORTANT FOUNDATION FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW TO COPE WITH PREDATORS ON THE LANDSCAPE.**

- Ucross High Plains Stewardship

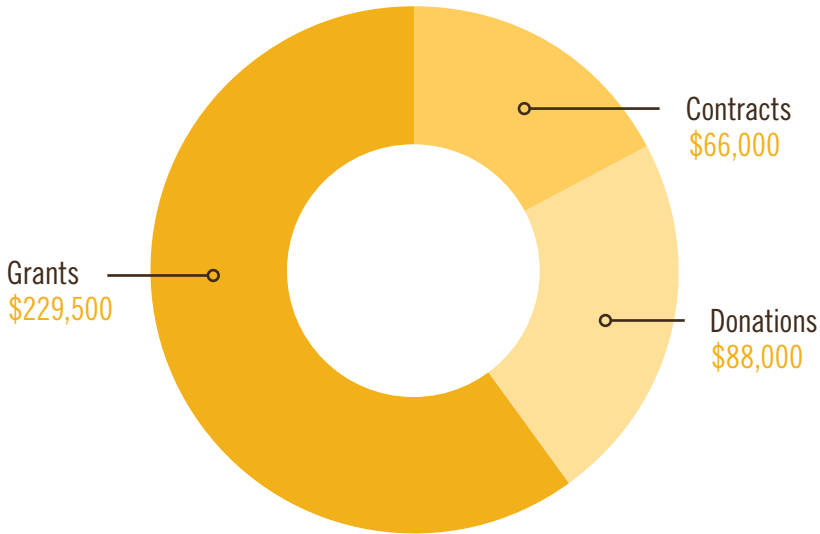
# ANNUAL REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2016

(Oct. 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016)

## Financial Information

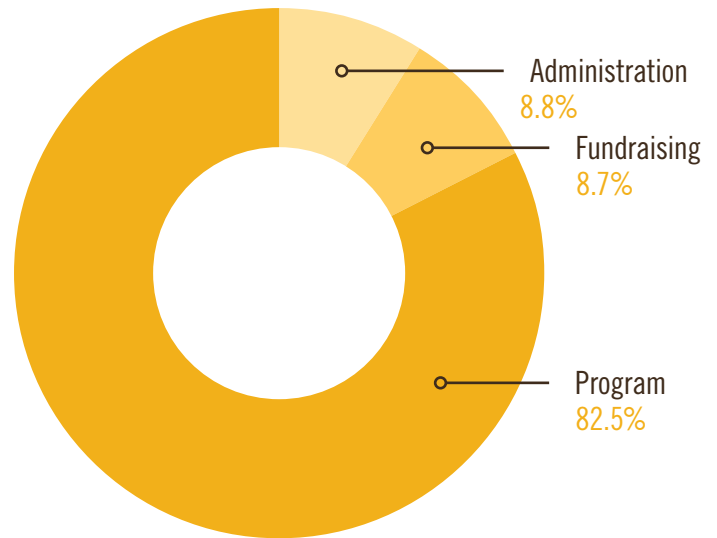
Revenue:

\$383,500



Expenses:

\$340,000



As of 9/30/16, total assets were \$208,000.

Our tax return and financial statements are currently being completed; however, any changes to the above would be nominal.

**KEEP FIGHTING TO SAVE THE CARNIVORES!**

- Kathy Schwery, supporter since 2001

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The Harder Foundation



# MANY THANKS!

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If we failed to acknowledge you and/or your gift, please contact us.

## In Memoriam

This year the conservation community lost one of its strongest, most generous, and loveliest supporters. Hopie Stevens (along with her husband, Bob), were passionate conservationists here in Montana, turning their farm into a conservation easement and starting the Fanwood Foundation, which has been instrumental in a great number of critical wildlife protection projects, including coexistence with large carnivores. People and Carnivores is grateful to have known her and her family, and we are so appreciative of the Fanwood Foundation's years of support.

# PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES

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