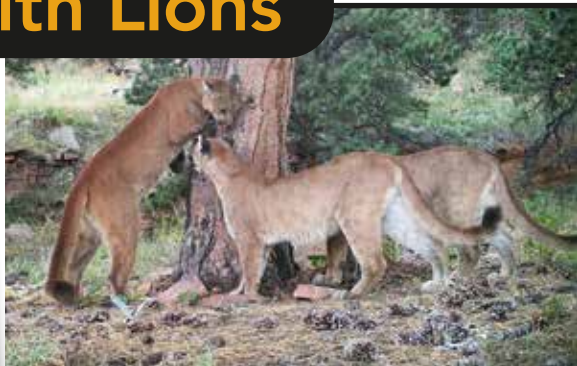
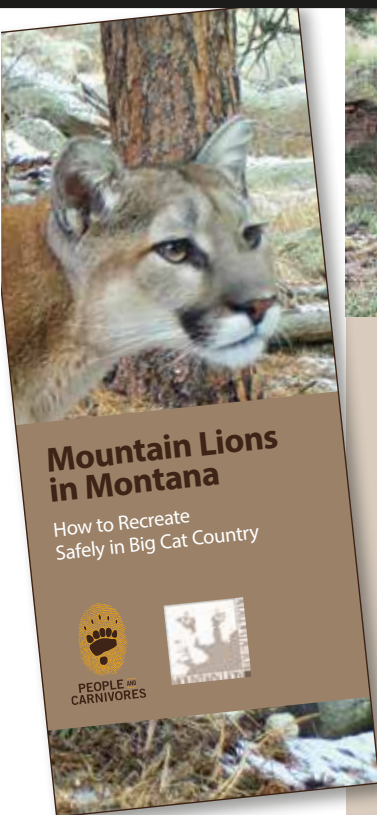


# TRACKS



## Living with Lions



### About Montana's Mountain Lions

Mountain lions, also known as pumas, catamounts, and panthers, are North America's second largest cat after the jaguar. Lions are present across western Montana and dispersed throughout other portions of the state.

They are highly adaptable animals and can live in many habitats, including canyons, mountains, forested areas, as well as in developed areas.



As an apex predator, mountain lions play a crucial role in preserving the health and diversity of ecosystems. Their absence from areas they previously inhabited can lead to deer and elk over-browsing, and negatively affecting habitats for other species, including birds and amphibians. Lion kills provide food for many smaller species.

### Mountain lions...

- Weigh 85-160 lbs.
- Have long, dark-tipped tails and uniform brown coats. Kittens (also called cubs) have spots that fade during their first year.
- Live 10-12 years in the wild. Kittens become independent at 1-2 years of age.
- Can leap 15 feet up a tree.
- Reach running speeds of 50 mph.

Mountain lions are elusive, but information about how to coexist with them should not be. We've partnered with the Mountain Lion Foundation to create materials on how to avoid lion conflicts. This first brochure is for recreators, and here is a sneak peak of what's inside it. The next booklet will be for farmers and ranchers.

### Recreating in Lion Country

Mountain lions are secretive animals. They prefer to avoid humans and generally do not see people as prey. Attacks are extremely rare, but taking safety precautions will help you confidently enjoy the outdoors.



**Recreate in groups and make noise.** When exploring the outdoors, do so with a partner or small group. Avoid using headphones or ear buds. Make noise in areas of low visibility to give lions the opportunity to leave the area and to avoid surprising them.

**Avoid recreating at dawn, dusk, or in the dark** when mountain lions are most active. If you must be out at these times, use a headlamp or bright light, occasionally make noise, and stay attentive.

**Be aware of carcasses.** Mountain lions keep carcasses active as a food source for days. Be aware of any carcass indications in areas where lions are present.

**Keep children nearby and pets on a leash.** Always closely supervise children and small pets when outdoors.

**When camping, choose sites wisely.** Camp away from thick brush, rock over-hangs, and animal trails.

**Bear spray is effective** when used on mountain lions. Have bear spray accessible and know how to use it when out in lion country.



## PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES

### Staff

**Chris Anderson**

GIS and Special Projects  
Coordinator

**Rosie Costain**

Program Coordinator

**Kim Johnston**

High Divide Field Specialist

**Lisa Upson**

Executive Director

**Ryan Wilbur**

Northwest MT Field Specialist

**Mikayla Zukowski**

Outreach Coordinator

### Contractors

Paula Posey, Bookkeeping  
Edwina Cusolito, Graphic Design

### Board of Directors

**Alissa Anderson**

Missoula, MT

**Diane Eagleson**

Belgrade, MT  
Treasurer

**Garl Germann**

Bozeman, MT

**Bryan Haywood**

Bozeman, MT

**Charlotte Heldstab**

Whitefish, MT

**Lacy Kowalski**

Columbia Falls, MT  
President and Secretary

### Photo Credits

P&C staff, Wild Nature Media,  
Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee,  
Grizzly/Wolf Discovery Center,  
University of Montana

P.O. Box 6733

Bozeman, MT 59771-9922

(406) 587-3389

**PeopleAndCarnivores.org**



# From the Director

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

Here goes another year flying by! 2024 will be an important year for wild carnivores in the Northern Rockies region. The political pressure is building to delist grizzly bear populations, but bears are not ready, with bad state management plans being developed. Trucking bears to/from Yellowstone has been approved to support genetic exchange, when bears should be able to walk in and out naturally to connect with bears from the north. We can make this happen with conflict prevention. Similarly, Montana's wolf management plan is being updated but needs to include a commitment to more non-lethal prevention. P&C will continue to advocate for carnivores while expanding access to prevention tools. Thank you for making this possible!

**Lisa Upson**

LUpson@PeopleAndCarnivores.org

## 2023 Field Bits

Winter's late arrival allowed P&C's field specialists to continue working outdoors through December, building electric fences to prevent conflicts with bears, designing wolf fencing for spring, monitoring with cameras for cougar presence, and more. In northwest Montana, we partnered with federal agencies and the CSK Tribes to build fences around fruit trees frequented by black bears, and to protect a menagerie of small livestock, including sheep, chickens, and geese on a farm.

In the Big Hole Valley of southwest Montana, a grizzly made its way into a pig pen. The pigs were left alone, but the bin that held their feed didn't fare so well. To stop the bear from coming back, we built two electric fences to protect the pigs, their feed, and other livestock. We also provided some bear-resistant garbage cans to use as storage bins so if the bear came back and couldn't get into the enclosure, it also wouldn't find a snack anywhere else on the property. We have several projects in the Big Hole area and far southwestern Montana, as grizzlies are slowly recolonizing further to the west, and one of our goals is to help them set up a resident population in central Idaho. They get closer every year.



*This pig feeder was damaged by a grizzly.*

Also in southwest Montana, we are helping two ranches experiencing wolf conflicts use livestock guardian dogs (LGDs) and range riders. While wolves are the main concern for these ranches, LGDs will prevent conflicts with all carnivores. On a sheep ranch where the LGDs had an altercation with wolves and needed more help, we loaned out a conflict prevention toolkit that included Foxlights (randomly flashing lights) and a radio, both in an effort to mimic human presence, which will keep the sheep safe and wolves moving.

# To Fence or Not to Fence?

As wildlife conservationists working to connect large carnivore populations, we aim to enhance habitat with prevention tools that support wildlife movement. In doing so, we use a lot of fencing – fladry fencing, temporary, and permanent fencing. These tools prevent large carnivores from getting hung up on non-natural food sources like livestock and crops. But this can raise questions about fencing as a tool. Many nonprofits and volunteers remove fencing in certain areas to aid wildlife migration. So, is fencing good or bad for wildlife?

Countless miles of fences stretch across the western landscape. Many fences are essential to protect people by preventing livestock from wandering onto highways, or even by preventing wildlife from crossing roads. While many fences provide benefits, many fence designs can have detrimental effects, causing injuries and fatalities to wildlife, impeding wildlife movement, separating young from their mothers, or blocking access to important habitat.

The reality about fencing is that, if done right, it can be designed to minimize conflicts and even

facilitate wildlife movement. “Wildlife-friendly” fencing is fencing that allows wildlife movement while containing livestock or other attractants. It considers the needs of the wildlife and allows them to pass through a fenced area. For example, removing barb wire and replacing it with smooth wire can help reduce entanglement and injury to wildlife. Drop down wires can be included to facilitate seasonal wildlife movements. Many temporary fencing setups can be taken down and set up again at the appropriate time.

When P&C needs to use fencing to keep wolves, bears, or cougars separated from attractants, we carefully consider potential negative impacts to other wildlife. We first identify what animals to include and to exclude, as well as other species that use the habitat we’re working in.

When considering fence site locations, we consider animal feeding/foraging areas, migration corridors, and critical habitat, aiming to not inhibit wildlife from accessing these important areas. Fences designed to enclose livestock and exclude carnivores are often focused in smaller areas, so wild animals can typically move around the enclosures



Field manager Ryan Wilbur builds a fence around fruit trees.

while conflicts are prevented. And some fences, such as fladry to deter wolves, are used only for short periods of time.

Fences can even be used in ways to benefit wildlife and habitat, such as using jack fencing around riparian areas to keep livestock from damaging important habitat or facilitating wildlife highway crossings. Invisible fencing options and new technology is further enhancing wildlife-friendly fencing options. So – To fence or not to fence? It depends!

## Community Resource Program Enters Second Year



This is one of three enclosures we cost-shared with the University of Montana for dumpsters bears had visited on the Missoula campus.

In 2023, P&C launched the Bear Smart Community Resource Program, and partnered with passionate folks from several communities across western Montana. This year, we’re excited to continue offering educational materials, consultation, and funding to those working to prevent bear conflicts at community-wide levels. We are already assisting four communities; two continuing from last year and two new partners, and we expect projects to double this year.

“

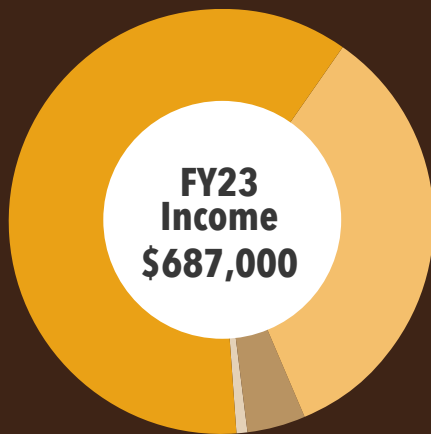
*People and Carnivores has been a consistent partner in providing funding, expertise, and volunteer assistance. With your help, we have made a good start in guiding Alberton, Montana on a path toward becoming a Bear Smart Community.*

– Bear Smart Alberton Working Group

”

# People and Carnivores' Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

October 1, 2022–September 30, 2023



**\$418,000**

Grants

**\$234,000**

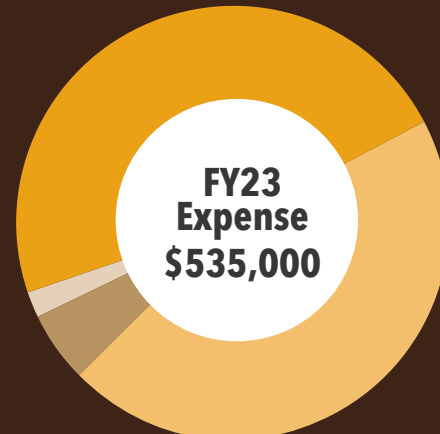
Donations

**\$30,000**

Investments

**\$5,000**

Contracts



**\$254,000**

High Divide Program

**\$243,500**

Crown Program

**\$28,000**

Fundraising

**\$9,500**

Administrative

## Financial Summary

Net income for Fiscal Year 2023 was \$152,000. Total income was close to the amount raised in the previous year, but our expenses increased in the last fiscal year due to expanding staff capacity and program activities. In the prior year, FY22, People and Carnivores exceeded \$1M in net assets, and we again closed FY23 with total assets of \$1,245,000. Our surplus allowed us to add funds to our Board-designated operating reserve, now at \$220,000, which provides roughly six months' operating funds if we experience a sudden downturn. People and Carnivores has had four consecutive years of funding surplus, fueling a gradual and steady growth, during which we have added staff capacity, equipment deliveries, educational services, policy advocacy, and geographic coverage—thanks to you all and your generosity.

## Program Summary

Among the most impactful program highlights from last year, we launched our Bear Smart Community Resource Program to support communities in various ways that are interested in developing community-wide bear conflict prevention programs. As a part of the resources we offered, we put considerable effort into creating a slate of educational materials and bear safety kits targeted to specific groups and settings; for example, bear safety for construction sites, Spanish-language materials, and a homeowner's kit (and much more). We are continuing this program through at least 2024-25. We also continued our core field work across western Montana using various tools to deter lions, wolves, and bears. We take every opportunity available to turn our expertise—our field work—into other forms of information that will educate, assist, and influence other practitioners, landowners, or policy makers to adopt coexistence.

## Many Thanks to P&C's Foundation and Grant Partners

A sincere thank you to all of the generous institutional funders that awarded grant or contract funding to P&C in FY2023.



# With Gratitude to Our Individual, Family, and Business Supporters in FY2023

Thank you for your dedication to wildlife and healthy ecosystems.

## \$5,000+

Anonymous  
David and Peg Engel  
Lammot Copeland  
Pearson/Boye Memorial Fund  
Ryan Lindsay  
Sabina Broadhead, Benjamin J.  
Rosenthal Foundation  
Sabina Sullivan,  
John W. Pope Foundation  
Sandra Moss

## \$1,000 - 4,999

Candice Guth and David Pogel  
Diane Wenzek  
Dona Upson and Felicie Regnier  
Fanwood Foundation  
Janis Raffaele ★  
Jeanie and Murray Kilgour  
John and Sue Mills  
Marilyn Robinson  
Marvin and Janie Speer  
Richard Urell  
Robert Koppe  
Roberta Humphreys  
Shawn Kowaleski

## \$500 - 999

Andrew and Stephanie Towell  
Bryan Pule and  
Pamela Blyth Pule ★  
Carolyn Weinberger  
Charles and Roberta Katz  
Diane Pace and William Swartz  
Doug and Paula Parks  
Dov Reiz  
Elaine Woodriff  
Emily and Daniela Guevara  
Erin Eckert ★  
James and Patricia Upson  
John and Lynn Garberson  
Melinda McIlwaine  
Patricia Southard  
Penelope Purtzer  
Renee and Bruce McIntyre  
Robert and Joyce DeLuca ★  
Ronald Pinder, Sr.  
Shelby Handlin and  
Dave Hampton  
Subhash Mehta  
Thomas Scanlin  
William and Elizabeth Salot

## \$250 - 499

Caryl and Bob Kensingler  
Cathy and Norm Weeden ★  
Charles Trost  
Charlotte and Brian E. Shifrin ★  
Colin Cunningham  
Colleen Chartier and  
Richard Andrews  
Dwight and Kimberly Lowell  
Fritz Wollett  
Geoffrey Burling  
Mary Knable  
Mayumi and Nathan Aaberg  
Patricia Davidson  
Sally McVeigh  
Sandra Holmes  
Sue Jackson  
Sunil Somalwar and  
Dorothy Goehring-Somalwar  
Susan Hexter ★  
Tom and Caroline O'Connell  
Vera Fitzgerald ★

## \$1 - 249

Aaron Flaherty  
Alice Claycomb  
Alissa Anderson  
Allison Hamilton and  
Michael Burton  
Amanda Gibson  
Amy Reynolds  
Andrew Weiner  
Anna Noson  
Anne Honhart  
Anne Stone  
Becky Weed  
Bernadette and Ralph Prata  
Beth Sellars  
Bob Hughes  
Bob Landis  
Bonnie McKenzie ★  
Britt Bodtker  
Bruce Druliner  
Bruce Nealley  
Bruce Thompson  
Burl Cain  
Carl Ramm  
Carol Hardee  
Cathryn Bulicek  
Charles Bott  
Charles Ketterman and  
Ruth Kopec  
Charlotte Fountinelle  
Cheye Ann Butler  
Chuck Neal  
Claudia and David Campbell

Cody Ferguson  
Dale Hovden  
David and Donna Colavito  
David and Joanne L. Brunetti  
David Crane  
David Delisi  
David Steinmuller  
Desiree Johnson  
Devon Gainer  
Diana Weatherby  
Donna Steadman  
Dorie Green  
Doris Applebaum  
Doris Illes  
Dorothy Fossel  
Duncan and Eva Patten  
Edward Spevak  
Elaine Goldman  
Elizabeth Horner  
Erica Bolliger  
Esther Campbell  
Fred Manaster  
Gail and John Richardson  
Gale Lederer ★  
Gary Bortner  
Gerald and Lavonne Nielsen  
Gretchen Sultzter  
Hermi and John Hiatt  
James Turner  
James Washburn  
Jan Hines  
Janice Eckhardt  
Janice Stanger  
Jason and Linda Lillegraven  
Jason Delmue  
Jean Dean  
Jean-Pierre Georges and  
Linda Andes-Georges  
Jeanne Harper  
Jeff Martin  
Jennifer and Brad Bennett  
Jiri and Hilda Minarik  
Joan and Jan Skrkon ★  
John and Carol Harkness  
John and Eliza Schmidt  
John Farland  
John McLaughlin  
John O'Keefe  
Joseph Allen  
Juanita and Hubert Wirtz  
Judith Canepa ★  
Julie Gandulla  
Julie Hannaford  
Julie Russillo  
Karen Slama  
Kathleen Lynch  
Kathy Schwery

Kaye Counts  
Kerry Masters  
Kevin Ferris  
Kristine Ellingsen  
Lacy Kowalski  
Laura and Robert Foreman ★  
Laura Sullivan  
Lavonne Painter ★  
Leslie Rohrkaste  
Leslie Tift  
Linda and John Peck  
Lisa Trankley  
Lise Grace  
Liz Harrison  
Louis and Barbara Bonini  
Lucy Costello and  
David Wiehler ★  
Lydia Garvey  
Lynn Whited  
Lynne Bannerman  
Marc Olson  
Margaret Adam  
Marianne Filloux  
Marilyn Rubin  
Martie Crone  
Mary Reynolds  
Mary Williams  
Melissa and David Rohm  
Monica Fletcher and  
Stephen Evans  
Morris Clark  
Murray Smart  
Norman Bishop  
Pat Clancey  
Patricia Simmons  
Paul and Jane Strasser  
Paul Gaffney  
Paula Hansen  
Pete Herder  
Philip and Katherine Mongrain ★  
Ray Elliott  
Richard Sexton and Marjorie Poe  
Rick and Arlene Holding  
Rick and Jeni Vander Voet  
Rob Kramer  
Robert and Gail Stagman  
Robert and Joan Schneider  
Robert Weingarten  
Ron and Cay Marquart  
Ronald Davis and Janet L. Dafoe  
Roxann Moore and John Walker  
Russell Yttri  
Ruth Connolly  
Sam and Laurie Booher  
Sara Gann ★  
Sara Johnson  
Scott Brovsky

Sharon and Dennis Cavallo  
Sharon Garcia  
Shaunna Hynes  
Stephanie and David Greer  
Stephen Snow and  
Marsha Anguilar Snow  
Steve and Shari Sutherland  
Steve King  
Steven Johnston  
Steven Pfetscher ★  
Sue and John Stephenson-Love  
Sue and Ken Kerchenfaut  
Susan Balogh  
Susan Forbes  
Suzanne Kindland and  
James Kingwell  
Ted Beringer  
Theodore Clark and  
Suzanne Kindervatter  
Thomas and Victoria Sloan  
Thomas Rumfield  
Thomas Unfried  
Trina and Tim Peiffer  
Vern Padgett  
Wayne Persons  
William Morishita  
William Nisbet  
Wilma Bogar

## Business

AmazonSmile Foundation  
Avidity Health Care  
Solutions, Inc. ★  
Educatio Elementary School  
Hairpin Ranch  
Holdfast Collective  
Patagonia

## Bequests

*We are grateful for supporters thinking of P&C in their estate planning*

E. Laverne Graw

★ Denotes people who give monthly—thank you!

If we failed to acknowledge your gift, please contact us at [info@PeopleAndCarnivores.org](mailto:info@PeopleAndCarnivores.org).

# PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES

P.O. Box 6733  
Bozeman, MT 59771-9922

Non-Profit Org  
Us Postage

**PAID**

Permit #221  
Helena, MT



## Coexistence on Display

The Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone, MT is a must-see destination for visitors to the Yellowstone area, where visitors can view grizzlies, wolves, and other animals. And while visitors view the wolves that call the



*Fladry will be included in the display.*

Center home, they'll soon be able to browse an educational display about living with wolves. We're partnering with the Center to create a wolf conflict prevention exhibit to supplement its existing bear coexistence display. Our wolf display will feature tools like fladry, Foxlights, and trail cameras.



PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES



[PeopleAndCarnivores.org](http://PeopleAndCarnivores.org)