

TRACKS

EVERYONE LOVES FLATHEAD CHERRIES!

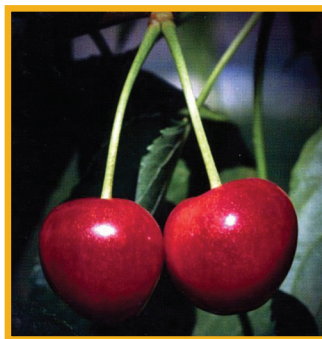
BRYCE ANDREWS

Following the edge of Flathead Lake in northwestern Montana, Highway 35 winds through a landscape unlike the rest of the state. Even at fifty miles per hour, the East Shore registers as warmer and wetter than anywhere else around. Cherry orchards flank the road on both sides, plunging westward toward the water's edge and climbing eastward toward the peaks of the Swan Range. Flathead Lake—the largest body of freshwater west of the Mississippi—makes orchard-keeping possible here: Its moderating influence on weather allows fruit trees to thrive.

Every summer, the promise of Flathead cherries draws people across our region to fruit stands and farmers markets. The same thought draws grizzly and black bears down from wild country adjoining the lake. Once rewarded with a glut (or gut!) of cherries, bears make a habit of feeding in the orchards. Undeterred by the high mesh-wire fences used to exclude deer, the bears dig or climb their way to a sweet meal.

But this creates challenges: The bears do a lot of damage, ripping branches from trees and swiping thousands of

dollars-worth of fruit, making it harder for cherry growers to earn a living. Food-conditioned bears often end up dying, because their behavior brings them closer to roads and homes.



Flathead cherries are world-famous due to the unique climate and growing conditions around Flathead Lake near Kalispell, MT.

In 2020, People and Carnivores began working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help orchardists and bears along the East Shore. We built a model electric fence around an orchard belonging to the Zavala family and will be monitoring its effectiveness through 2021. Findings from our demonstration fence at the Zavala Orchard will allow the NRCS to design and fund similar fences at other orchards in the area, making it easier for people to prevent bear conflicts. To date,

more than a dozen growers have expressed interest in the program, and the NRCS is scheduled to begin funding projects in 2022. It's our hope that this partnership will reduce conflicts between bears and orchardists around Flathead Lake and beyond for many years to come.



Cherry trees cannot withstand the force of bears picking through them.



This P&C-built fence will serve as a model for federal funding.



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Lisa Upson
Executive Director

Bryce Andrews
Field Director

Kim Johnston
Field Project Manager

Gillian Thornton
Communications Coordinator

Stephanie Barron
Field Assistant

Chris Anderson
Conservation Program Coordinator

Anna Kidd
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THE P&C MISSION

People and Carnivores protects, reconnects, and restores wild carnivores in the Northern Rockies by working with the region's people to prevent human-carnivore conflicts.

P.O. Box 6733
Bozeman, MT 59771-9922
(406) 587-3389
www.peopleandcarnivores.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the P&C team I hope you are doing well amidst continuing challenges but rising hope. We hit the ground running in the new year with more project work than I can remember from any previous January. We are ready for a busy and productive 2021 and are excited to have recently added program staff capacity. We welcome Chris Anderson as our new Conservation Program Coordinator; Chris will work on various new initiatives including Bear Smart Community projects, a vacation rental conflict prevention campaign, conflict-related policy engagement, new digital and print media to share successes, and more.

This issue of Tracks shares project news and updates from the winter and plans for 2021. Also included is our fiscal year 2020 annual report with financial information and supporter appreciation (see pages 4-5). Thank you for protecting wolves, bears, and cats with us!

Lisa.

lupson@peopleandcarnivores.org

GPS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS GUARD DOG PROJECTS

KIM JOHNSTON

With our conflict prevention toolkits' popularity, we've added a new toolkit to our loaner program: Livestock Guardian Dog Training Toolkits. People and Carnivores has long supported the use of Livestock Guardian Dogs (LGDs) to advance carnivore coexistence. Guard dogs are effective in deterring wolves, bears, and cougars. In recent months, we cost-shared and supported multiple LGD projects in partnership with ranches and more projects are in development. We continue to explore ways to improve the overall effectiveness of LGDs – including the welfare of these incredible working dogs. The LGD Training Toolkits help ranchers using LGDs by providing them access to training tools and methods, along with books and resources to support them through the training process.



A livestock guardian dog wearing a GPS collar.

The toolkits also include GPS Satellite Tracking Collars that track LGD locations, helping owners know where the dogs are in real time and identify potential problems early on. Problems might include dogs chasing animals or roaming off, potentially putting the dogs and the protected livestock at risk. Geo-fence boundaries give alert notifications if the LGD leaves a designated area, and maps their location history, which can help with understanding LGDs behaviors and patterns. Tracking collars can be a great tool when initially bonding and training LGDs as well. The collars have helped us, and our partners, learn more about LGDs and the benefits of active monitoring to identify issues early on. This year we're developing an LGD best practices guide, including LGD welfare principles to share with landowners and other practitioners.



LGD TOOLKIT: Kits include GPS tracking collars, a shepherd's dog training whistle, a flagging training stick, an airhorn, a trail camera to assist with monitoring, and training books.

“BEAR SMART” – WHERE COMMUNITY CONSERVATION MEETS POLICY CHANGE

KIM JOHNSTON

States, cities, and towns around the country are implementing bear conflict prevention programs as the human footprint expands and both people and grizzly/black bears move around more. Efforts in Durango (CO), King County (WA), and New Jersey are examples. Is there a program near you?



At P&C we started working with a rural community two years ago to complete a conflict risk assessment and develop a program to help the entire community to become “Bear Smart,” based on a program started in British Columbia that has had success helping communities achieve certification status with the provincial government. In Montana our work with Virginia City is beginning to set an example for other communities, and more have expressed a growing interest in similar efforts.

We’re excited to be scaling up these efforts with new initiatives as well as with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) to co-create a pathway for communities to implement their own plans to become Bear Smart and

achieve certification. The IGBC is a federal and state inter-agency group with authority over grizzly bear management, and over the last year we approached the IGBC with the idea that it considers serving as certification body of a Bear Smart program that can be applied to any community. This would make it easier for cities/towns, as well as NGOs and agencies, to help communities prevent conflicts on a larger scale across the region.

The IGBC executive committee voted in favor of developing the concept further. Over the next year, P&C will be part of an IGBC Bear Smart Working Group developing a regional framework for a certification program. We will also continue to develop new Bear Smart initiatives across the region. In our home city of Bozeman, MT, in partnership with the Sierra Club and Animal Welfare Institute, we are just starting discussions with the city about wildlife conflict prevention. Stay tuned for more updates.

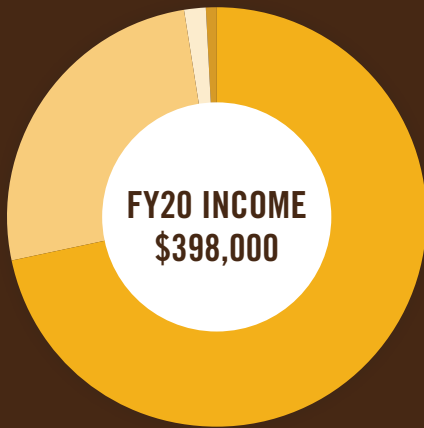
P&C will be part of an IGBC Bear Smart Working Group developing a regional framework for a certification program.



One of several bear-proof garbage canisters we designed and installed in Virginia City, MT. Our Bear Smart work with VC is setting an example for other communities.

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2020: October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020



\$282,000

Foundation Grants

\$107,000

Contributions

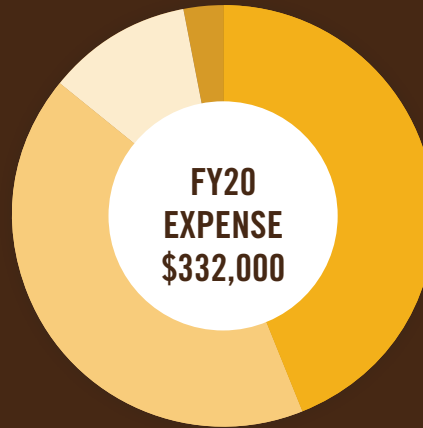
\$6,000

Contracts/Misc.

\$3,000

Investments

FY20 INCOME
\$398,000



44%

High Divide Coexistence

42%

Crown of the Continent Coexistence

11%

Development

3%

Administration

FY20 EXPENSE
\$332,000

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Our fiscal year 2020 was like no other, as the second half was shaped by the pandemic. Many nonprofits, especially smaller ones, experienced revenue reductions. People and Carnivores was fortunate to not only hold steady but end the year with a positive net income, even while expanding our fieldwork. The generosity and dedication to wildlife of so many individual donors, foundations, businesses, and government relief programs helped us navigate this year of uncertainty and continue to put tools on the ground.

P&C's income in the Contributions and Grants categories increased overall by about 10 and 40 percent respectively. We saw a reduction in our regular annual grant income because some of our business funders had to delay or temporarily suspend their grant programs due to C-19, but others were able to fast-track their programs. Within an uncertain funding environment, we pursued all possible relief funding opportunities in order to build a small, short-

term reserve. If we are to experience a temporary income reduction due to C-19 impacts – and we will work hard not to – those reductions will come after relief programs have ended but before private funding programs have fully recovered. Although government programs have been confusing and inaccessible to some, we applied for and received grants from both state and federal relief programs.

We closed the year with \$66,000 net positive income, qualified by a \$17,000 reduction in the value of a donor trust share (the trust includes stocks and these declined in 2020; however, it has already gained back much of that lost value). At the fiscal year-end, our total net assets stood at \$635,000 (last year's net assets were \$580,000). The P&C team is committed to being good stewards of your donations and grants by ensuring favorable cost-benefit outcomes in everything we do for wolves, black and grizzly bears, and big cats.

“I loved seeing the 60 Minutes program on griz that featured the work of People and Carnivores. I am proud to be able to support the work of P&C in some small way. Keep up the work to protect these lovely creatures.” -Pat Southard, Portland, OR

SINCERE THANKS TO P&C'S FOUNDATION FUNDERS FOR GENEROUS GRANTS MADE IN FY20



WITH GRATITUDE

THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING WILD CARNIVORES WITH YOUR DONATIONS!

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"I am a monthly donor to P&C. I love your work on fladry fences, guard dogs, and other initiatives to keep bears and wolves safe. Please keep up the great work."

-Janis Raffaele, Harwich, MA



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