

# “Big, Hairy, Audacious Goals”

Some days it’s easy to get lost in the details of preventing human-carnivore conflict in the settled and the wild landscapes of the Northern Rockies—in things like building electric fence, placing guard dogs, and helping communities address bear attractants—but we also understand the importance of planning for what we want to create in the future.

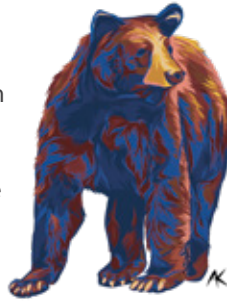
In 2000 when we were known as Predator Conservation Alliance, staff and board developed a list of “Big, hairy, audacious goals” to work towards, and they made good progress by pioneering some of the tools we use today. Here is a summary of P&C’s big hairy audacious goals for 2022 and beyond. Over the last 30 years, we’ve seen wolves and grizzlies return to areas where they were absent for decades. Coming back to places that were once home, these animals encounter habitats increasingly altered and fragmented by human use. On landscapes that are now shared, preventing conflicts can mean the difference between life and death for individual animals – especially important when wildlife policies work against them.

In order for wild carnivores to expand their range, connect with others, and to serve as keystone species for biodiversity and intact ecosystems, they need to travel. It is precisely because wildlife moves that no one person or organization can protect them; to keep carnivores alive and away from unnatural food sources, we engage landowners and wildlife managers in shared problem solving.

Here is what we envision and will work for in the coming years.

## Wolves

The Northern Rockies remains a robust, source population of wolves. Wolves continue to successfully disperse from this region and begin to recolonize in new areas: In Utah and Nevada, more of them in OR and WA, other areas of Colorado and California, to the east, and importantly, they connect with Mexican wolves to the south. What once was the Northern Rockies “distinct population segment” under the Endangered Species Act becomes the Western US wolf population.



## Black Bears

Black bear coexistence in the Northern Rockies serves as an example to other areas of the country. As we expand human-bear conflict prevention infrastructure, black bears are recognized as important species alongside grizzlies. Offensive hunting policies such as baiting and hound hunting are reversed in part because conflicts are mitigated, tolerance increases, and policies begin to reflect these gains.

## Grizzly Bears

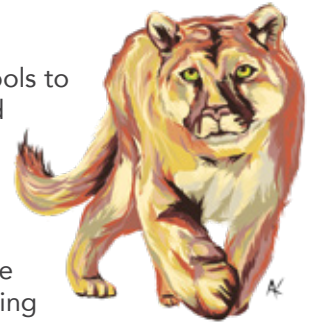
Grizzly bears live and reproduce in central Idaho (the Bitterroot Ecosystem). Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem bears connect and interchange naturally with those from wildlands to the north and west. Northern Rockies grizzlies continue to wander west from Montana and Idaho, spurring us to wonder whether grizzlies might even venture from here towards the west coast and into the North Cascades.



## Mountain Lions

Lions, along with information and tools to coexistence with them, increase and expand throughout the Northern Rockies. Individuals and agencies adopt a conflict prevention approach rather than the common lethal control used today. Aggressive hunting policies such as hound hunting are reversed in part because conflicts are mitigated, tolerance grows, and policies reflect this.

We also envision that when these goals are met, whole communities will coexist with wild carnivores and resources will be widely available. Coexistence tools and practices will be common and a part of daily routines. Even with continued development, more people will participate and more wild carnivores will stay alive and moving. We believe that the mountains and valleys of the Northern Rockies are better—more whole, natural, interesting, and sustaining—because we share them with wolves, grizzlies, black bears, mountain lions and the biodiversity they support.



“The world would be uglier, more boring, and more lonely without the wolves, bears, mountain lions, and other predators of our American landscape. I appreciate People and Carnivores’ work to protect these important species.”

- David Quammen, award-winning author and scientist