



CREATIVE, COOPERATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING IN THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE

# NRCC NEWS

NORTHERN ROCKIES CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

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## Making Better Connections for Grizzly Bears

SETH M. WILSON AND STEVE PRIMM,  
NRCC RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Small, isolated populations of grizzly bears are less likely to survive over the long term and would benefit from being connected to other subpopulations. This is especially true in the Rocky Mountains, where grizzlies exist only in small, isolated groups. Scientific discussion of reconnecting grizzly bear populations has often been preoccupied with ecological information needs and technical solutions. Scientists are often better equipped to talk about population viability analysis, resource selection function models, least-cost path models, GIS mapping, wildlife crossing structures, and intensive population augmentation strategies rather than the vital socio-cultural dimensions of conservation.

We recognize that these technical issues are an important part of the debate, but any strategy to reconnect grizzly bear populations must place equal emphasis on the cultural and political dimensions of the matter. If we don't, our discussion won't be able to identify clear goals and won't represent people's common interests. Worse, the resulting management plans, despite their good intentions, may end up treating people, communities, and human activities as simplified, ad hoc "data layers" to add to yet another GIS-based model.



Photo: Kate Wilmot

### *We propose an alternative.*

As grizzly bear populations slowly recover in parts of Wyoming and Montana, the animals often come into contact with people. Those who have lived with recovering bear populations have valuable insights and practical knowledge that should be used by other communities as they prepare to live with an expanding bear population. In our estimation, it is crucial to harvest lessons from successful examples of where people live with and tolerate grizzly bears. Both the government and conservation community's connectivity planning for bears should focus on understanding the social and ecological context of a given landscape and involve local people in research, management, and planning.

Small-scale projects are good starting points since they are less likely to generate wide-spread public criticism or anti-government angst. Small-scale efforts deal with fewer political actors and can provide opportunities for interested groups to communicate clearly and integrate their differing values.

*Continued on page 8*

## A Message from the Executive Director

Carnivore conservation in the Northern Rockies stands at an interesting crossroads. We find ourselves noting the 10-year anniversary of the reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone, contemplating the potential removal of the grizzly bear and the gray wolf from the endangered species list, and wondering about the overall status of smaller, lesser-known, and wide-ranging carnivores such as the lynx and wolverine.

Grizzly bear numbers have increased in the GYE. Wolf numbers have increased dramatically in the GYE and central Idaho. However, while many claim that the recent upward trends of grizzly bear and wolf numbers in the Northern Rockies are clear indicators of successful restoration of these carnivores, their future, and their relationship with people, so intricately intertwined and connected, is unclear. When you get right down to it, the limiting factor of successful conservation outcomes, human tolerance, has not necessarily changed at all. Particularly outside of core protected areas, conflict between humans and carnivores continues.

For example, it would be hard for anyone to claim that the last 10 years of acrimony and conflict over the presence of wolves in the Northern Rockies has abated. Newspapers, radio reports, and other media sources are full of a wide array of claims and counterclaims regarding either the success or failure of this reintroduction. The debate rages on today regarding the appropriate number and distribution of wolves, and all the while very little progress is made in improving the discourse between expectations and standpoints. Carnivores mean many different things to many different people and clearly evoke deep feelings from all sides.

Are we up to the task of conserving carnivores in the Northern Rockies? A lot of very bright and dedicated people have worked incredibly hard to make carnivore conservation work. However, many political forces are at play, and our great difficulty in integrating divergent human needs and the ecological needs of carnivores is not going away.

NRCC has been engaged in many facets of carnivore conservation since the mid-80's (see next page). Over time, we have helped articulate numerous innovations, collected and learned lessons, and catalyzed cooperative action on behalf of large carnivores and people. The need for such a long-term and integrated approach is acute today, as the stakes seem to be growing for both wildlife and people in the Northern Rockies.

This issue of *NRCC News* describes some of our current efforts to reduce carnivore-human conflict. Steve Primm, Seth Wilson, and Carlos López González continue to make measurable and tangible gains on the ground, and they are improving how we go about these activities by building trust and constructive dialogue. Their multi-disciplined approach to carnivore conservation is not only grounded in the ecological needs of the species we are trying to conserve, but in the cultural and political frames within which we are trying to achieve productive conservation outcomes.

We are in the midst of a long, contentious, and complex problem. Healthy populations of carnivores acutely depend upon the scope, skills, and interactions between people. Much remains to be done. Now is the time to rise to the challenge and deal with the complex and conflict-ridden issues that are at the heart of carnivore conservation.



Jason Wilmot

### IN THIS ISSUE

1

Making Better Connections  
for Grizzly Bears

3

Highlights of NRCC's Work in  
Carnivore Conservation

4

New NRCC Book:  
*Coexisting with Large  
Carnivores*

6

Northern Jaguars:  
Notes from the Field

7

Resolving Human-  
Grizzly Bear Conflicts

8

New NRCC Intern Project:  
Elk Management in Wyoming

10

Updates

# Highlights of NRCC's Work in Carnivore Conservation

2005

2005 NRCC publishes *Coexisting with Large Carnivores: Lessons from Greater Yellowstone* through Island Press.

2004 Timmothy Kaminski launches the **Mountain Livestock Cooperative**.

Mike Gibeau & Murray Rutherford hold a **grizzly workshop** in Banff, Alberta.

NRCC & partners begin a study of **wolverine ecology and dispersal** in Glacier National Park, Montana.

2003 Seth Wilson emphasizes **community-based approaches to grizzly management**.

Mike Gibeau & Murray Rutherford began a multi-year project to **improve decision-making processes for grizzly management** in the Banff-Bow Valley, Alberta.

John Laundré and Tim Clark publish "**Managing Puma hunting in the Western United States: Through a Metapopulation Approach**" in *Animal Conservation*.

2002 NRCC holds a workshop, "Exploring Challenges, Perspectives, and Opportunities in Large Carnivore Conservation," in Bozeman, Montana.

Steve Primm reports on the **Gravelly Range Grizzly Project**.

2001 Eleven-year study of **mountain lions** in Idaho concludes.

2000

2000 Steve Primm describes **prototyping as a strategy for grizzly bear conservation** in *NRCC News*.

NRCC publishes the proceedings of the 1995 conference held with Yellowstone National Park, **Greater Yellowstone Predators: Ecology and Conservation in a Changing Landscape**.

1999 *Carnivores in Ecosystems: The Yellowstone Experience* is released through Yale University Press.

John Laundré & Lucina Hernández finish analysis of their study of **predator-prey dynamics in Yellowstone National Park**.

NRCC holds three **carnivore conservation workshops** on wolves & grizzly bears.

NRCC becomes involved in Carlos López González's **jaguar conservation research** in Sonora, Mexico, & the southwestern U.S.

Steve Primm begins the **Gravelly Range Grizzly Project**.

1996 John Laundré & Lucina Hernández begin studying **the relationships between predators (wolves) and prey (bison & elk)** in Yellowstone National Park.

NRCC supports John Weaver's **investigation of lynx ecology** in the GYE.

Christina Cromley surveys Jackson Hole residents on their **attitudes towards and knowledge of wolves and bears**.

1996 NRCC authors organize and coedit a **special section on large carnivore conservation in the Rocky Mountains of the United States & Canada** for the *Journal of the Society for Conservation Biology*.

1995

1995 NRCC joins with Yellowstone National Park to hold the third biennial conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, **Greater Yellowstone Predators: Ecology and Conservation in a Changing Landscape**.

1994 John Laundré documents **bobcat presence in Mexico's tropical dry forest**.

Joel Berger begins looking at the **role of large carnivores on prey species ecology**.

Steve Primm **initiates a forum for determining creative solutions to grizzly-livestock conflicts on the Blackrock/Spread Creek Allotment** of the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

1993 NRCC initiates a project to **improve carnivore conservation at the ecosystem and landscape levels**.

John Weaver is contracted to **develop a problem analysis and research agenda for lynx, fisher, & wolverine in the Northern Rockies**.

1992 Lance Craighead reports on his grizzly DNA work from the Brooks Range, Alaska.

1990

1991 Katarzyna Kubzdela begins **conservation efforts for Polish wolves**.

1989 NRCC publishes *Rare, Threatened, & Sensitive Species of the GYE*.

John Weaver studies **wolf predation & movement** in Jasper National Park, Alberta.

1986 Tim Clark and Don Streubel begin **Idaho mountain lion study**.

# Coexisting with Large Carnivores

COMPILED BY DYLAN TAYLOR, NRCC PROJECT ASSOCIATE

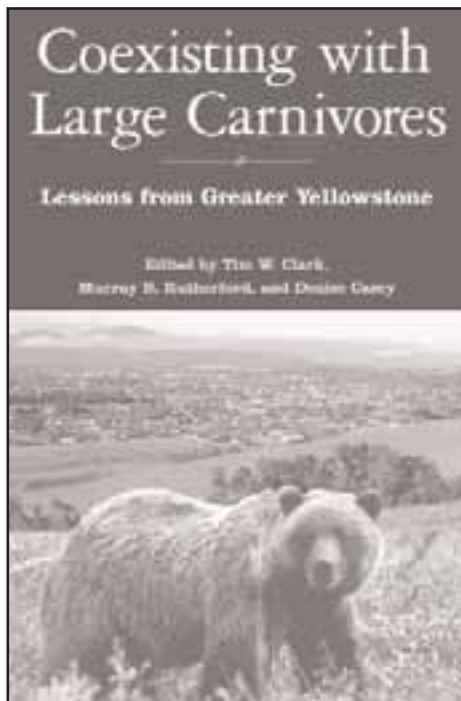
We are excited to announce the release of our new book, *Coexisting with Large Carnivores: Lessons from Greater Yellowstone*, published by Island Press. This NRCC-led project is the result of a research collaboration between interns Karen Murray, Lyn Munno, and Greg McLaughlin, project associate Dylan Taylor, and Jason Wilmot, NRCC's executive director. Research associates Murray Rutherford, Steve Primm, and board members Tim Clark and Denise Casey were instrumental in writing, reviewing, editing, and coordinating the project. Dave Mattson, USGS biologist and grizzly bear expert, also contributed to the project (See *NRCC News*, Summer 2002).

This volume will interest anyone involved with or concerned about the management and conservation of large carnivores in Greater Yellowstone, North America, or elsewhere in the world. Learning to coexist with large carnivores—that is, conserving their populations and ecosystems over the long term, while at the same time allowing humans and human communities to thrive—is not an easy task. Like many other resource management problems, it is fraught with intense conflict, historical baggage, and complexity on multiple levels. However, we have an opportunity and an obligation to learn the skills needed for coexistence now, at what may be the eleventh hour for many carnivores and their ecosystems. We hope that this volume will encourage managers, researchers, government officials, ranchers, and anyone else who is affected by problems associated with large carnivores to redouble their efforts and put in place workable, democratic means to resolve differences and find common ground.

This volume explores (1) the context of western Wyoming, (2) three species specific cases, and (3) potential management alternatives.

## Part One: Context

Many contextual elements must be acknowledged and understood if we hope to manage and coexist with large carnivores effectively. Problem orientation is also vital to developing good problem definitions, which can in turn help us find effective, efficient, and equitable solutions. The difficulty of coexisting with large carnivores is less about the carnivores than it is about us and our views. The basic



problem is how to interact with one another over troubling public issues and collectively decide how we want to live. We can manage large carnivores. However, it is much more challenging to manage ourselves in cooperative ways that will give large carnivores more room than they presently have.

Here and throughout this book it is argued that to achieve coexistence with large carnivores we must think and act in ways that were unthinkable a few decades ago. We must minimize on-the-ground conflicts between people and predators, while finding ways to change what carnivores symbolize. We must be adaptive and

use "practice-based learning" to build on our past successes—drawing on actual situations to learn what works (and what does not work) to solve or minimize problems. Three management improvements, developed further in following chapters, are introduced here:

- *Emphasize bottom-up rather than top-down approaches*
- *Build on past successes*
- *Improve the institutional system for managing wildlife*

Focusing on the details of the management context, people, animals, and institutions, "contextual mapping" is used to describe the context for large carnivore management in the region. This section examines the landscape, wildlife, people and their culture, and institutional arrangements while analyzing key trends, their causes, and the implications for future relations. Finally, options to improve decision making for the coexistence and sustainability of carnivore and human communities are offered. These options focus on improving contextual understanding, which will guide the entire management process toward the common interest. It is recommended that all participants (1) use reliable knowledge of the context to make decisions and carry out actions, (2) increase the basic structural capacity of wildlife management institutions, and thus (3) improve the quality of decision-making, or management, processes.

## Part Two: Cases

The second section of the book focuses on three species-specific large carnivore cases. In each case the natural history, populations, and management history of the species is discussed as is the politicization and challenges of each management process. Options to improve the management of each species are also offered. The first case, "Mountain

Lion Management: Resolving Public Conflict,” examines the causes and consequences of conflict over how to manage mountain lions in Wyoming. Management improvement options, including identifying the values that people have at stake, clarifying the goals of management, and including a role for the public, are proposed. Several actions that Wyoming Game and Fish could take in order to reduce the politicization that dominates mountain lion management and to help conserve Wyoming's cultural and natural heritage are also recommended.

The second case, “Grizzly Bear Recovery: Living With Success?”, looks at the conservation implications of grizzly-human conflicts in western Wyoming. This case highlights factors that have led to the current level of conflict, discusses the increasing politicization of grizzly management over the last three decades, and argues that grizzlies have become a focal symbol in a larger cultural conflict throughout the American West. Improving practices for coexistence between people and bears is a critical task for conservation, but it is a task that is well beyond straightforward technical solutions. The chapter concludes with practical recommendations for making progress in such a polarized context.

The third case, “Wolf Restoration: A Battle in the War over the West,” studies wolf management in western Wyoming south of Yellowstone National Park. The symbolic baggage that wolves carry and the political realities of wolf management are discussed, and three strategic options for wolf management are offered: (1) understand the context better and act on that knowledge, (2) learn and apply management lessons from wolf restoration elsewhere, and (3) use a hands-on, practice-based approach in the field. All three emphasize working with all people, including localists, environmentalists, and agency personnel more effectively to improve management.

### Part Three: Exploring Alternatives

This section explores alternatives to the current management of large carnivores.

First, participatory projects are proffered as a tool that may facilitate coexistence. The authors stress the

## Purchase the Book!

*Coexisting with Large Carnivores*  
can be ordered directly  
from the publisher at  
[www.islandpress.org](http://www.islandpress.org)

need for localized, participatory projects to help resolve conflicts and promote coexistence between people and large carnivores. The discussion of participatory projects reviews the scope of the present conflicts in western Wyoming and attempts to put them in perspective. They argue that problem-solving processes that operate at smaller scales and genuinely include citizens in conservation planning might be more successful, and they recommend how to design and implement such participatory projects.

Second, the present institutional system of wildlife management is evaluated and alternatives for improving its performance are put forward. Three promising and pragmatic strategies to achieve the overriding goal of coexisting sustainably with large carnivores are proposed: (1) make “practice-based improvements,” or smaller scale interventions in the field, working cooperatively with ranchers and others to solve specific problems, such as carnivore predation on livestock, (2) upgrade leadership to move institutions actively toward more effective performance, and (3) initiate changes in the dominant “policy narrative,” the basic beliefs and story of the existing institutional system and regional cultures.

The authors then review the positive lessons about governance and coexistence to be learned from experiences in Greater Yellowstone. They review the lessons that can be gathered from the studies in this book, summarize key steps needed to move toward coexistence in this region, and discuss the implications for management settings elsewhere.

A practical and helpful appendix is included at the end of the volume. Here a comprehensive series of questions are given. These questions are based on the text and lessons of this volume, and can help people think constructively about organizing and making decisions in a large carnivore conservation program. The questions are designed to help everyone carry out successful programs, whether they are new programs that are being set up or existing ones that are facing conflict or undergoing review.

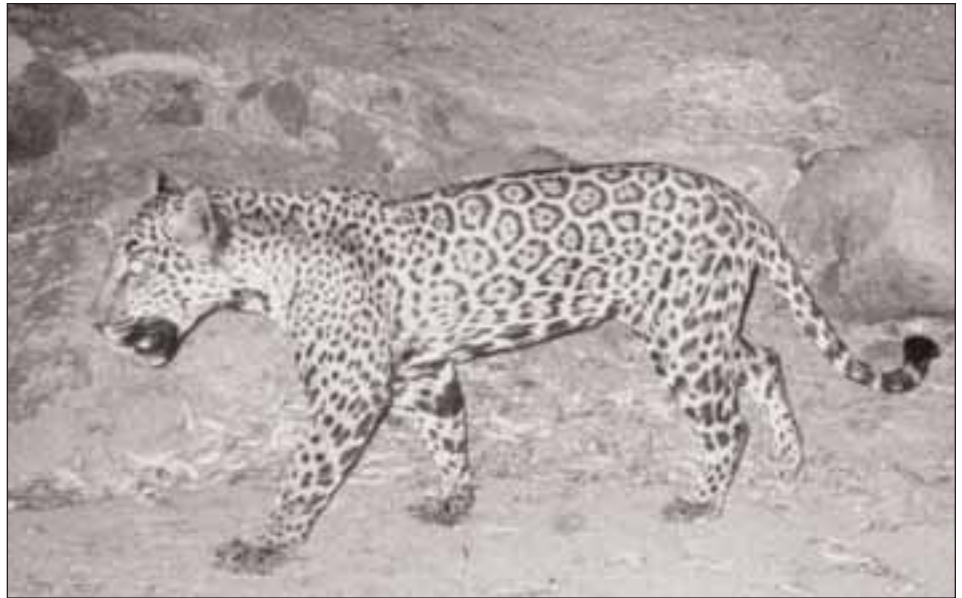
The analysis and recommendations are meant to aid the search for common interest outcomes. It is through open dialogue and genuine problem solving that people's common interests can best be clarified and secured. Those responsible for ensuring the conservation of large carnivores—agency employees, administrators, and elected officials—must find better ways to manage these species and human interactions with them. They must build support across interest groups to find integrated, “win-win” outcomes. Sustainable coexistence between people and wildlife is the win-win integrated outcome that most people want. Whether we can actually achieve it, however, will depend directly on the capacity of our institutions to find and implement common interest solutions for wildlife management. 🐾

*The authors are grateful to the individuals and organizations that provided the time, effort, and funding that made this project possible.*

# Northern Jaguars: Notes from the Field

CARLOS LÓPEZ GONZÁLEZ, NRCC RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Northern jaguars have recently been the focus of attention in the southwestern United States as several camera trap photographs were obtained near the Mexican border. These animals are probably dispersing males originating in Sonora, Mexico, where we have been carrying out ecological research on the species. Our main research objectives are understanding their habitat use and investigating their food habits related to livestock depredation. Livestock depredation is the main cause of jaguar-human conflicts in the area, as it is in many other regions of the jaguar's range. For comparison we are also studying the ecological needs of cougars.



Jaguar documented with a remote camera in Mexico's Sonoran Desert.

*Photo: Carlos López González*

To date we have learned that jaguars use up to ten different habitat types, though they are primarily selecting tropical thornscrub, a habitat limited in distribution to the Mexican state of Sinaloa and south central Sonora. In the foraging arena, jaguars and cougars feed on a variety of prey species, though they concentrate on white-tailed deer and livestock. From analyzing scats we have documented

acre ranch, creating a gap in the previously almost continuous distribution of livestock. This gap allowed the white-tailed deer population to increase in abundance. It appears that this landscape mosaic—patches with cattle intermingled with patches with no livestock—will benefit the jaguar population because it will reduce

livestock losses to a level acceptable to ranchers.

The purchase of the 4,000-acre ranch was made possible by Naturalia, A.C., a Mexican NGO dedicated to conserving endangered species. The decision to buy this ranch and remove the livestock was the

result of our research on jaguar habitat types and predation. This acquisition has created the first privately owned reserve dedicated to the conservation of jaguars in Mexico. We are trying to make sure that the ranch property is a model area for conservation efforts by restoring soils

and increasing water table levels while maintaining healthy wildlife populations. Such an example may change the view of neighboring ranchers toward wildlife and particularly jaguars.

This population of northern jaguars is undisputedly important for its biological significance because of its adaptation to an arid environment. However, it is situated in the middle of political turmoil where many NGOs are interested in jaguar "conservation" but are operating with different visions. Consequently, different conservation strategies are promoted, resulting in the inefficient use of both human and financial resources. Given these political challenges, it seems as though the long-term conservation strategy may be detrimental for this population of northern jaguars.

Conserving the northern jaguar will require better communication and coordination of NGO efforts. It is imperative that the many groups involved find "common-ground" ways to protect this population long into the future. 🐾



Jaguar habitat in northern Mexico. *Photo: Carlos López González.*

a decline in livestock predation by these two species of large cats. In 2002 livestock made up 29% of the total biomass consumed by these cats, but in 2004 this ratio dropped to 13%. This apparent shift may be related to a non-planned experiment, in which livestock were removed from a 4,000-

# Resolving Human-Grizzly Bear Conflicts

SETH M. WILSON, NRCC RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

The long-term survival of grizzly bears depends on people's willingness to share the landscape. This is particularly evident in the Lower 48 where most known bear deaths are caused by humans.

One way to improve bear survivorship and expand their distribution is to prevent conflicts with people. Bears are opportunistic and will find garbage, beehives, and livestock if these types of attractants are not protected. Preventing or ameliorating conflicts is certainly a technical problem, but at the same time, it is also a human one. People cause conflicts by engaging in practices that inadvertently draw bears into problem situations. Currently, grizzlies are protected under the Endangered Species Act because of historic (and ongoing) human impacts which are expected to continue unless a concerted effort is made to minimize them.

Additional conflict results because of people's different views on the status of the bear, causes of the problem, and what should be done. Consequently, "the single most important variable is likely social not biological," according to grizzly bear expert, David Mattson. The best way to manage conflict on these two different levels is an integrative approach that applies the knowledge not only from the biological sciences, but also from many other fields, including sociology, political science, psychology, and others. Integrated methods can help assure people that the solutions they come up with are rational, practical, and justifiable. They can ask themselves about rationality: Will these measures solve the problem? Does it make sense to do these and not others? About practicality, they can ask: How will these measures actually work? Finally, they can ask themselves: Are these solutions morally justifiable? Do they serve common interests? We have found that integrated problem-solving efforts actually improve the opportunities for success, regardless of the problem at hand.

Keeping bears alive on private lands requires active, constructive interaction among ranchers, non-agricultural residents, wildlife managers, industry, researchers, and conservationists in innovative partnerships. Successful partnerships can be organized around research and conservation, that is, studying site-specific human-bear conflicts and figuring out what measures would protect the bears while allowing people to continue carrying out their own activities.



Seth Wilson collaborates with a local rancher to construct a new electric fence to prevent grizzly-livestock conflicts.

*Photo: Camille Coughlin*



Electric fences around calving areas help protect livestock from grizzly bears.

*Photo: Seth Wilson*

Using this kind of integrative approach, we successfully engaged in two situations in the Rocky Mountains in Montana. Our goal was to minimize human-grizzly conflicts through prevention. This required us to focus on changing people's perspectives and their practices. We focused on how people were organized within the community and how they made decisions. We participated in a non-threatening way to bring knowledge, skills, and finances to encourage positive outcomes that would protect bears and serve people's needs. We also worked in partnership with local bear managers to support their existing efforts by helping to improve research and applied conservation efforts.

So far, this approach has measurably reduced the numbers of human-bear conflicts in these areas, improved communication and cooperation, raised people's understanding of the problems, and opened opportunities to solve problems. In the end, solving complex problems such as human-wildlife conflict requires communities to focus on the nature of the problems at hand, pay attention to the context in which the problems occur, and use and integrate multiple methods. 🐾

*This article is based on a chapter by Seth M. Wilson and Tim W. Clark, entitled "Resolving Human-Grizzly Bear Conflicts: An Integrated Approach in the Common Interest," that will be published in 2005 in *Fostering Integration: Concepts and Practice in Resource and Environmental Management* (Oxford University Press), edited by S. Hanna and D. Scott Slocombe.*

Continued from page 1

Since coexisting with grizzly bears requires people to change some of their behaviors, success depends in large part on the voluntary participation of individuals. Ultimately, compliance, informal enforcement (e.g., peer pressure), and perhaps even pride in living among grizzly bears will be more likely if local people have a strong role in shaping their own conservation programs.

Successful participatory projects can help generate a positive image for grizzly conservation, offer lessons for subsequent conservation projects, and build political support. Most importantly, reducing human-grizzly bear conflicts and bear mortalities sets the necessary biological conditions for actually connecting isolated populations. Achieving natural landscape-scale connections for bears depends on whether we have the will to accept and keep bears alive at the periphery of their core habitats and foster their slow dispersal to other subpopulations.



Blackfoot ranchers and residents discuss conflict prevention techniques. Photo: Seth Wilson



Madison Valley ranchers discuss bear-livestock issues. Photo: Steve Primm

Participatory projects should begin by focusing work in locations that have existing or expanding grizzly bear populations. It is critical to identify meaningful political and geographical boundaries so that people can effectively communicate. Participants should make an effort to understand the social, cultural, economic, and ecological context. Whenever possible, they should capitalize on existing conservation activity. Finally, their strategies should be based on non-threatening dialogue, identifying tangible problems and producing outcomes, integrating with existing wildlife management programs when possible, and monitoring outcomes. We have used these key components in our work in Montana's Rocky Mountain Front, the Blackfoot Valley, the Gravelly Range, and the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem. Please contact either of us through NRCC for more information.~

*This article is based on our 2004 article, entitled "Re-connecting Grizzly Bear Populations: Prospects for Participatory Projects," which appeared in the international journal, Ursus. For the full version of the manuscript please contact NRCC.*

## New NRCC Intern Project: Elk Management in Wyoming



Elizabeth spent her spring break in Jackson, doing preliminary research for her project.

NRCC will be hosting Elizabeth Deliso, a master's student from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, in her research this summer. She will be investigating the policies currently employed by wildlife agencies in managing elk feedgrounds, investigating the context from which controversies over feeding arose, and determining how the involved parties, including the National Elk Refuge (NER), could work together to develop new strategies for managing elk. She hopes to identify the common interests shared among the various stakeholders and use these as a starting point for realistic and effective recommendations for elk management.

Wyoming is unique in that it is the only state in the Rocky Mountains that maintains elk feedgrounds. Winter feeding of hay and alfalfa has been ongoing for decades. Feeding, however, is the center of intense debate today for several reasons. First, feedgrounds support artificially high concentrations of elk, increasing the likelihood for disease transmission. Brucellosis and chronic wasting disease are special concerns, prompting suggestions that the phaseout of some or all feedgrounds might reduce this risk. Other wildlife issues are intermingled with the feedgrounds as well.

Elizabeth spent part of her spring break in Jackson, making preliminary contacts and visiting both NER and state feedgrounds. This summer she will interview NER and state personnel, local conservation groups, outfitters, cattle ranchers, hunters, veterinarians, academic wildlife biologists, and pathologists. Her report will explain the context of the controversy and the many perspectives on the issue, as well as her analysis and recommendations. Feedground issues are certainly contentious in this region, and we are optimistic that Elizabeth's research will add new insight into management of our elk herds. ~

# updates

## NRCC Online!

We have upgraded our website! We designed it in house, updating and streamlining the layout and making it easier to navigate. Please visit the website to keep in touch with NRCC and up to date on research associates' projects, upcoming events, and news. Feedback is welcome and appreciated!

[www.nrccooperative.org](http://www.nrccooperative.org)



Following the success of Sustaining Jackson Hole last year (see *NRCC News* No. 17(2)), NRCC is continuing our partnership with the Charture Institute and the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce to update our initial 2004 report ([www.nrccooperative.org/SJH/report.htm](http://www.nrccooperative.org/SJH/report.htm)).

At its essence, Sustaining Jackson Hole is an effort to answer one fundamental question: **"What qualities about Jackson Hole does the community want to sustain for future generations?"**

This year's iteration will be brief—only three meetings instead of five. It will focus on three primary tasks:

- Discussing data that was collected during the past year by each organization, how each organization has used those data, and what those data have told us;
- Reviewing and updating the area-of-interest indicators, assessing what those data tell us and what data we still need;
- Reviewing and modifying (if needed) the statement of ideal for the area of interest.

We hope to have nearly 200 participants this year, nearly double the interest from last year. Jonathan Schechter and Lydia Dixon continue to deliver presentations to interested community groups and members, organize working group meetings, and solicit support for this endeavor.

Save The Date!

## The Third Annual Jackson Hole Wildlife Symposium and the Wyoming Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting

will be held on December 1-2, 2005,  
at Teton Science Schools' Jackson Campus

For more information visit:

[www.jhwildlifesymposium.org](http://www.jhwildlifesymposium.org)

# updates

## Welcome, Susan Marsh!



NRCC welcomes Susan Marsh as an NRCC research associate. Susan is a recreation and wilderness planner for the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Jackson. In the following letter Susan introduces herself and describes her interest in working with NRCC.

*My focus as leader of the recreation and wilderness programs for the Bridger-Teton National Forest has been to bring rigorous, science-based thinking to the value-laden task of managing public lands visitation, to recognize wildland recreation settings that are nearly unmatched elsewhere, and to provide advice to forest management on how to retain them.*

*I expect to build on my existing relationships with NRCC staff and associates to further conservation goals in the Greater Yellowstone region and beyond. I am involved in regional planning efforts, most currently an assessment of recreation supply and demand in the Yellowstone area, and have begun conversing with a small group (including Gloria Flora, another NRCC research associate) about the possibility of hosting a conference on sustainable economics. I am always looking for ways to help others working on similar projects.*

*I also expect to become more devoted to large-scale planning in the future. Not only is this forest embarking on forest plan revision but the Forest Service as a whole is experimenting with some innovative ways to approach federal wildland planning. In the past couple of years I've had a chance to influence national planning protocols and I hope to be in the forefront of seeing how they work at the forest plan level. I'm particularly interested in identifying wildland settings in a way that can be easily understood by citizens and applied by forest managers, and which get at the heart of why this region matters.*



## Reports on the Bozeman Large Carnivore Workshop

**David Mattson**, USGS research wildlife biologist, and his coauthors have submitted a paper to the *Journal of the Society for Conservation Biology* that reviews the results on the NRCC-sponsored large carnivore workshop that took place in Bozeman, Montana, in 2002. "Finding Common Ground In Large Carnivore Conservation: Mapping Contending Perspectives" discusses the participants' perspectives, value demands, and important points within decision and social processes. This paper looks at the possibility of win-win outcomes resulting from the potential for common ground that was identified in the workshop.

**Murray Rutherford**, NRCC research associate, is nearing completion of a second report on the workshop.

*Check the News page on NRCC's website for more information on these reports in the near future.*



## Thanks to Our Donors!

NRCC would like to thank all of our recent donors, including Earth Friends, the Pumpkin Hill Foundation, the Tides Foundation, the Wilburforce Foundation, and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Science Grants program. Without your support, our projects and conservation efforts would not be possible!

# updates

## Intern Updates



Photo: Franz Camenzind

## Congratulations to David, Trent, and Vicky!

NRCC's summer 2004 interns David Cherney, Trent Malcolm, and Vicky Critchley graduated from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies this May. They have been busy this spring writing reports on their projects and planning for life after grad school. All three reports will soon be available on the NRCC website.

In June NRCC will welcome David back to Jackson. As an NRCC research associate he plans to continue his work on big game migration policy in Greater Yellowstone. He has received funding for continued work from the Wilburforce Foundation and the Tides Foundation.



David Gaillard is the conservation director for Predator Conservation Alliance in Bozeman, MT.

## Dave Gaillard, 1996 NRCC intern, works to conserve carnivores in the Northern Rockies.

I served as an intern with NRCC in summer 1996, where I helped NRCC president Tim Clark research the policy challenge of organizing an effective partnership to advance the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y). I interviewed the major participants of Y2Y from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to Banff, Alberta, Canada and identified common themes. Tim and I found that Y2Y participants had very different definitions of the "problem" Y2Y exists to solve, based on the different values, knowledge and skills of those participants, and thus very different strategies emerged for Y2Y to pursue. Our conclusion is that this diversity can be a strength of Y2Y, since success at its mission requires a diversity of strategies, but there must be effective communication and coordination among all participants to avoid conflicts. A paper that describes my research is available online. My experience at NRCC prepared me well for my subsequent work at Predator Conservation Alliance in Bozeman, Montana, which I joined in 1997 and where I now serve as conservation director. Predator Conservation Alliance (PCA) works to conserve and restore predators and their habitats and helps people and predators coexist in the U.S. Northern Rocky Mountains and Northern Great Plains. With the development of its predator conservation program since its inception in 1991, PCA has found that coexistence between people and predators frames everything it does. Coexistence is necessary to achieve PCA's goal of resilient populations of native predators fulfilling their natural function across a mosaic of public and private landscapes, rather than just a few "token" predator populations in small, isolated protected areas. Navigating PCA's work on behalf of controversial predators through a highly complex social and political landscape requires a firm grounding in the policy sciences, and I credit my work with Tim Clark and NRCC for laying much of this foundation.

**T**he Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative (NRCC) is an independent, non-profit, non-membership organization, founded in 1987. Our mission is to conserve ecological resources by facilitating environmental problem solving that is creative, collaborative, and interdisciplinary. NRCC News is published twice a year.

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