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LIVING ON THE WILD SIDE

Idaho Begins *Living with Carnivores* Workshops

BOISE, IDAHO — A diverse coalition of partners is pleased to introduce a unique wildlife educational program to Idaho: *Living with Carnivores*. Coyotes, wolves, cougars and bears are no strangers to Idahoans, and they may often be seen close to the places we live, work and play. *Living with Carnivores*, a free two-hour information workshop, will provide basics about some of Idaho's carnivores and how to safely coexist with them.

"Whether you are an urban homeowner, rural landowner, livestock operator, outfitter and guide, own a second home in the mountains or spend a lot of time in the outdoors, this presentation will help you learn how to minimize your chances of encounters or conflicts with these animals," said Robert Ruesink, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office supervisor. *Living with Carnivores* workshops will allow the public to get tips from wildlife experts on how simple changes in the way we live and recreate can help ensure personal and property safety in "carnivore country," as well as learn basic facts about the behavioral characteristics of these animals.

The inaugural presentation will be held on August 14 in McCall, Idaho, at the Ponderosa State Park outdoor amphitheatre from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. The educational workshops consist of slide presentations on four carnivorous species, followed by a question-and-answer period. Two additional workshops have been planned for northern Idaho: September 17 in Lewiston at the City Parks & Rec Bldg., 1424 Main St., and September 18 in Moscow at the University of Idaho, Idaho Commons Student Union Building. Both workshops are from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Families are encouraged to attend.

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Living with Carnivores is committed to providing educational wildlife information to Idaho's citizens and visitors from a neutral, non-advocacy position. The *Living with Carnivores* partnership includes representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, USDA Wildlife Services, Defenders of Wildlife, Governor's Office of Species Conservation, Counter Assault, Idaho Cattle Association, Wolf Education & Research Center, Hornocker Wildlife Institute, and other contributors.