

In Memory of Howard Quigley

1952-2022

Roberto Salom-Pérez and Mark Elbroch

“How are you? How is your family?” This was how Dr. Howard Quigley began every work meeting. He listened as his staff talked about their kids, their own health, their life projects, and more. Only after paying attention to the human in front of him, would he start talking about the work at hand.

Howard dedicated his life to carnivore conservation. He was a real-life hero and champion in the sort of romantic life that eager undergraduates studying wildlife conservation often dream might be their own. His varied work touched charismatic black bears and endangered, giant pandas. Howard played a key role in starting the world’s longest-running (20 yrs) >telemetry-based research project on tigers, floating the idea to Russian biologists over a campfire in Idaho and then spending months in Russia in 1991 and 1992 to help collar the first Siberian tiger, Olga, who was tracked for 13 years. Howard’s greatest wildlife legacy, however, is his contributions to the conservation and research of mountain lions, also called cougars and pumas, and their southern, spotted cousin, the jaguar. While working for the Hornocker Wildlife Institute, Craighead Beringia South, and Panthera, Howard was involved in driving some of the most influential, pioneering, long-term studies on mountain lions conducted in the USA. Together with Drs. George Schaller and Peter Crawshaw, he also conducted the first comprehensive, ecological study of jaguars in the Pantanal, Brazil, and then years later, he joined his friend and colleague, Dr. Alan Rabinowitz, at Panthera to champion the Jaguar Corridor initiative - an unprecedented effort to connect and protect jaguars from Mexico to Argentina – and lead the Jaguar Conservation Program for the organization. Howard was part of an expert panel that redirected Florida panther conservation at a critical point in their conservation, and more recently, he played a key role in developing the Jaguar RoadMap 2030, a multi-institutional proposal that directs governments in conservation efforts across Latin America. His impact is everywhere you look.

Howard was a natural leader and at the same time, he was a gentleman and friend. He occupied important positions throughout his lifetime, including President of the Hornocker Wildlife Institute at the University of Idaho, Director of the Global Carnivore Program at the Wildlife Conservation Society, Executive Director of Craighead Beringia South, and Executive Director of the Jaguar Program and Conservation Science at Panthera. “From the day I met Howard nearly 25 years ago, every interaction was filled with his warm smile, calm presence, sharing of his vast knowledge, and laughter,” shared Dr. Toni Ruth. “Howard touched our

lives in many ways; he was a kindred spirit, caring deeply about the same things we did: understanding, appreciating, and conserving wild cats... He was a great mentor to innumerable students and a deeply dedicated conservationist," wrote Linda Sweanor and Dr. Ken Logan. Truly, the people Howard touched, will be his greatest legacy.

"Some lives are like a stone thrown into a pond, making ripples that spread, that resonate," writes Dr. John Polisar. "Some lives make waves in the universe. This life was one of those." Howard was an eternal optimist who believed in the power of science—that science could in fact solve any crisis and convince any skeptic of the urgency to conserve wildlife, and our world. "His positive attitude and enthusiasm carried us through numerous trying times," recalls Dr. Maurice Hornocker. "I am comforted by the fact that his scientific contributions and unmatched people skills will form his lasting legacy. I valued him immensely as a professional colleague and more importantly as a treasured best friend."

Howard contributed to more than 150 scientific publications and innumerable more friendships and professional relations that pushed the conservation of species and the places they inhabit. Dr. Fred Launay, CEO of Panthera, wrote, "A true pioneer who ultimately inspired an international community of scientists to follow in his footsteps. We are forever indebted to Howard for his extraordinary contribution to bettering our planet." Indeed, we are. Thank you, Howard. ¡Gracias por todo!

So many people have written to those of us at Panthera to share their appreciation for Howard's kindness and warmth. We remember Howard's contagious laughter, sparkling eyes, and enduring support for our own work. He lives on through his numerous connections and contributions to others. Howard worked until the last moment, and died surrounded by family. We send our deepest condolences to his wife Molly, who worked alongside him in wildlife conservation, his daughter Allyson, who recently graduated with a veterinary degree, his larger family, and all those close to him.