INTERNATIONAL WOLF

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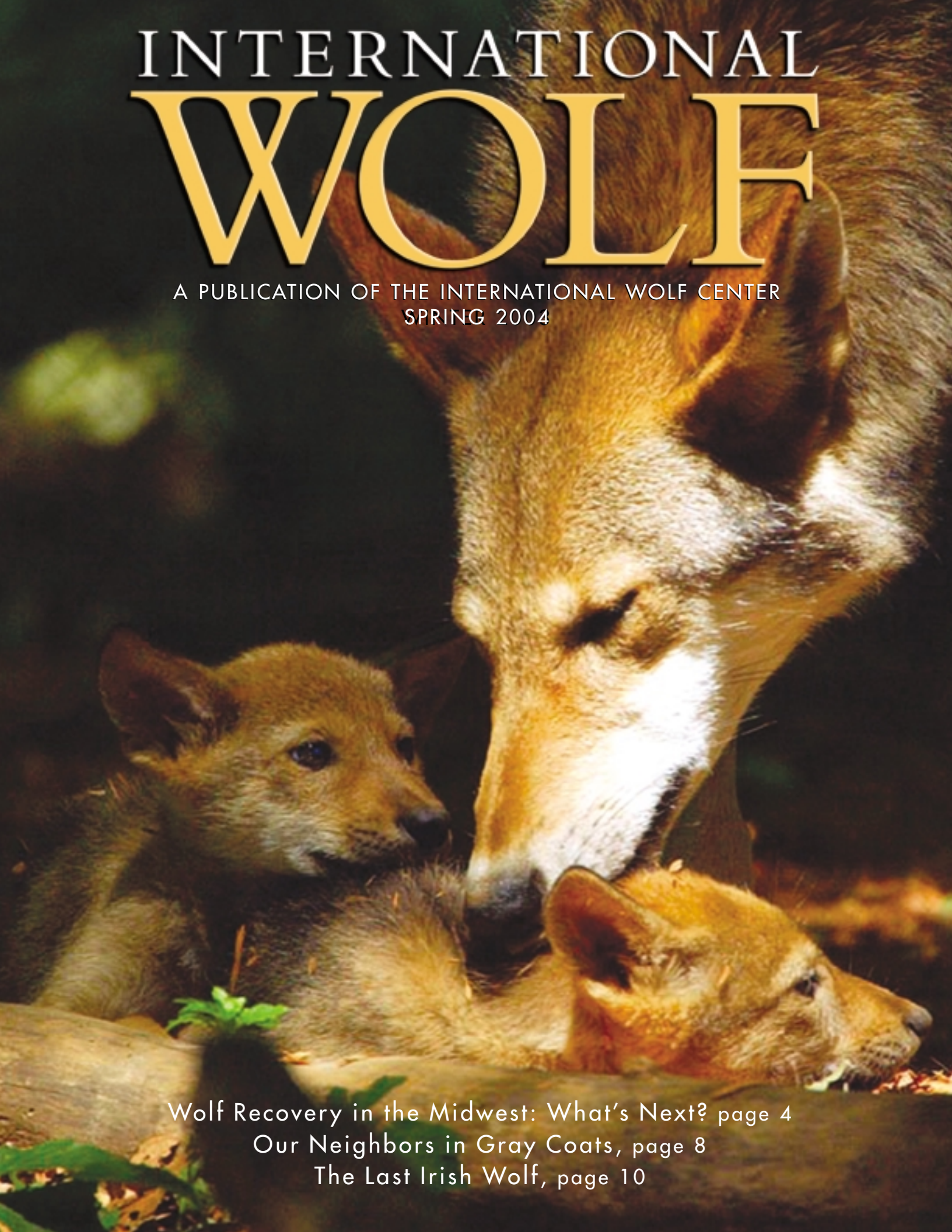

INTERNATIONAL
WOLF

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
VOLUME 14, NO. 1 SPRING 2004

Features

Departments

On The Cover

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International Wolf Center™

INTERNATIONAL
WOLF

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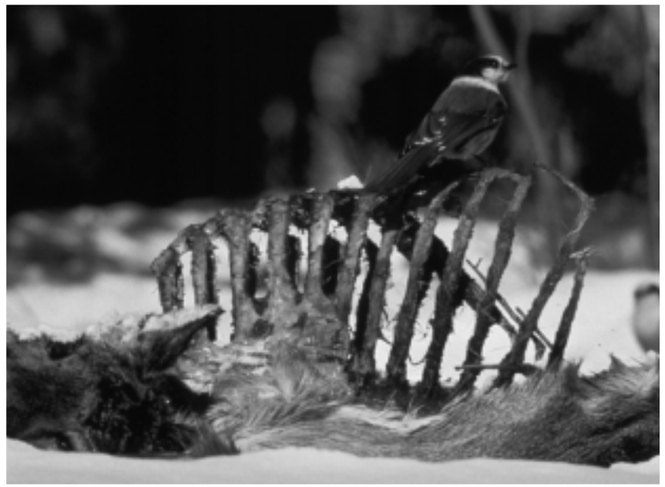
As A Matter Of Fact

How efficient is a wolf's digestive system?



Lynn and Donna Rogers/www.bearstudy.org

A wolf's digestive system is 95 percent efficient, producing only 1 pound of scat for every 15 pounds of meat consumed. ■

New Question

Who published the first scientific article about wolves in North America?

West Gate

From the Executive Director

To Delist or Not to Delist . . .

Like the swing of a pendulum, our relationship with wolves is never at one point in the arc. Under national policy, we have gone from "shoot em all" to the strict protections under the federal Endangered Species Act. The point of the arc will change once again with the federal proposal to delist most gray wolves. We are especially pleased to share with you in this issue of *International Wolf* two distinctive and important viewpoints from seasoned veterans of the debate on how best to protect wolf populations. Pioneer wolf scientist Dave Mech speaks from his decades-long research perspective as a government biologist, and Rick Duncan and Anne Mahle, prominent environmental attorneys, speak on behalf of groups who seek to halt the government's current delisting proposal. These two articles will take you behind the headlines you have undoubtedly seen and bring you close to the issues that will likely be argued in the courtroom. They may also challenge your own thinking about what is the right approach to a national policy on wolf recovery for today and future generations. Regardless of the ultimate decision on how and when wolves will be delisted, the court's judgment will set off a new round of debate as the inevitable transition to state management of wolf populations continues.

Walter Medwid

In the last issue I wrote briefly about our having just reached an agreement for an exciting new home for our outreach and administrative offices in the Twin Cities. What makes this new home special is that it will provide staff with a working location that is connected to the environment through the surrounding woods, fields and waters of French Regional Park—one of the jewels of the Three Rivers Park District's network of parks in the Twin Cities metropolitan region. Equally important, the new home offers us a classroom, an exhibit area, space for a resource center for educators interested in using the wolf in their curricula, and a diverse habitat that can supplement the learning experience for on-site programs we plan to offer once we get settled. You can get a taste of our new home by going to www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/parks and clicking on French Regional Park. We are pleased to have our flagship education center in the heart of wolf country in northern Minnesota, and we are especially pleased to put the International Wolf Center welcome mat out to the heart of the human population in Minnesota through this new facility. ■

MISSION

The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wild lands and the human role in their future.

Educational services and informational resources are available at:

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Should the Wolf Be Delisted?

On April 1, 2003, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published a final rule on the status of the gray wolf in the contiguous 48 states. This new rule, promulgated under the Endangered Species Act, downlisted the wolf from endangered to threatened in most of the United States. That same day, the USFWS also published an advanced notice of rule making indicating that it was moving toward complete removal of all federal protection of the gray wolf except in the Southwest. The following articles present important viewpoints from two veterans of the debate on how best to enhance recovery of wolf populations.

Editor's Note: As is true with all International Wolf *articles, the opinions expressed in the following two articles are those of the authors and do not imply any endorsement by the International Wolf Center. We present them in the interest of stimulating informed thought.*

Monty Sloan

Why I Support Federal Wolf Delisting

by L. DAVID MECH

A large black wolf poked out of the conifers in Yellowstone National Park's Lamar Valley, followed single file by 16 packmates. They trod down an open hillside and crossed the road, in full view of dozens of elated park visitors. This Druid Peak pack is part of a population of some 750 wolves that now inhabit the West, primarily in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

To the south, a reintroduced and growing population of 35 to 50 wolves occupies Arizona and New Mexico. Farther east, over 3,000 wolves inhabit Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. All these wolves represent a vibrant and dramatic tribute to the success of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). If there were ever any doubt as to whether wolves would recover in the 48 states, the numbers and distribution of these wolves should dispel that. In both the West and Midwest, wolf numbers far exceed those prescribed for recovery by federal wolf recovery teams.

Thus the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) wants to "delist" the wolf, or remove it from the endangered species list, except in the Southwest, where recovery efforts are still underway. Delisting would end federal protection for wolves in the delisted areas and return wolf management to individual states. To ensure that state management would not reduce wolf populations below the prescribed recovery levels, the USFWS examined the wolf management plans for each relevant state and asked several wolf biologists to review them. For the first five years after delisting, the wolf populations will be closely monitored to make sure they remain secure. Anytime a population dropped below recovery level during those five years or after, the USFWS could quickly relist it and reimpose federal protection.

Nevertheless, several wolf advocacy organizations oppose federal delisting of the wolf. Although specific reasons vary, generally these organiza-

In both the West and Midwest, wolf numbers far exceed those prescribed for recovery by federal wolf recovery teams.

William E. Ridel/Kishenehn Wildlife Works

Wolves Are Still in Need of Federal Protection

by RICK DUNCAN and ANNE MAHLE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's April 1 rule on the status of the gray wolf sent a clear message: the Bush administration is done with wolves. The recovery of the gray wolf, for this administration, is complete. Seventeen conservation groups, however, view the gray wolf's status and the legal mandates of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) differently. Led by Defenders of Wildlife, they have sued the USFWS over the rule, seeking to have the agency return to the drawing board. Their message is equally clear: recovery is incomplete, and the obligation and need to protect wolves persists.

The wolf has done well under the protection of the ESA. Since passage of the act in 1973, the number of wolves in the lower 48 states has increased threefold from under a thousand in Minnesota alone, to approximately 3,600 wolves in six states. The current wolf population remains well below the estimated presettlement population of up to 400,000 animals continentwide. Recovery is incomplete, and without federal oversight, it won't happen.

Why continue with the active protection and recovery of gray wolves? Three reasons: the ESA requires recovery efforts to continue, wolves provide ecological and economic benefits, and there is an ethical imperative to protect and recover gray wolves.

U.S. law mandates that the USFWS protect, conserve and recover species that are listed as either endangered or threatened under the ESA. In its 30-year existence, the protections afforded by the act have slowed and in some instances radically reversed species' path toward extinction. But the act not only prohibits certain actions but also requires the federal government to ensure that listed species and the habitat on which they depend are protected and to actively recover species.

tions prefer the stricter protection of the ESA, they want to see the wolf restored to an even larger area of the 48 states than at present, and they do not think that will happen if the wolf is delisted. Regarding the areas to which the wolf should be restored, I sympathize. It would be great to know that wolves inhabit all of the United States' wilderness areas and wherever else they do not conflict too much with human interests.

However, the ESA is for saving species from extinction. With the wolf's current numbers and distribution, as well as the states' management plans, the wolf clearly is no longer in danger. Thus the government has an ethical, if not a legal, obligation to delist the species.

There is also a strong political need to delist the wolf or any species when it has recovered. The ESA is highly controversial in Congress, and its detractors regularly claim that it is too socially and financially expensive and fails to work. One contingent lies in wait to gut the ESA, saying that because too many species are placed on the endangered species list but none ever taken off, the act is useless.

The wolf is one of the most controversial of all animals, so society may never allow the species to live everywhere or in every wilderness. Even in Minnesota, where wolves were never exterminated and the public is used to dealing with them, about half the citizens want the wolf restricted to the wilderness and not allowed throughout the state.

When the USFWS planned the wolf's recovery in the 48 states, it did so through appointing recovery teams of wolf experts and conservation administrators and charging them with devising wolf recovery plans for the West, Midwest and Southwest (as well as for the red wolf in the Southeast). Wolf advocacy groups and the rest of the public were allowed to review these plans and offer suggestions for improving them.

With the wolf's current numbers and distribution, as well as the states' management plans, the wolf clearly is no longer in danger.

No one disputed the proposed numbers or distribution of the wolves in the recovery goals. No peer-reviewed scientific articles criticized the plans. No group claimed that restoring the wolf to Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan was insufficient to recover the wolf from endangerment. In effect, this general accord with the USFWS's wolf recovery plans amounted to a tacit agreement between wolf advocates and the USFWS that if wolves reached recovery goals, the animal should be delisted. Anti-wolf folks, however, long ago claimed that wolf advocates would never let the government delist the wolf.

To oppose wolf delisting now that wolves have recovered would play straight into the hands of the ESA detractors and those opposing wolf recovery. It would fuel the animosity toward the ESA and toward the listing of new controversial species.

When Congress next considers reauthorizing the ESA, this opposition could help weaken or kill the act. And it could foster a backlash against the restored wolf populations.

Thus it is time now to celebrate the success of the ESA in recovering the wolf, not for overreaching and jeopardizing not only the great gains that have been made through this act but also the act itself.

Dave Mech is a senior research scientist for the U.S. Geological Survey and founder and vice chair of the International Wolf Center. He has studied wolves for 45 years and published several books and many articles about them.


Milt Stenlund

Through systematic poisoning, bounty hunting and persistent persecution by humans, wolves were removed from the American West and nearly all of Mexico.


Robert Koenke

Scientific research demonstrates that the restoration of wolves helps restore balance within entire ecosystems.

It is through this recovery mandate that the USFWS undertook the successful reintroduction of wolves to the Yellowstone ecoregion and central Idaho. Formal recovery programs also aided the natural recolonization of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan by wolves. These successes do not equate to recovery of the gray wolf on a national level.

In addition to a legal obligation to recover the gray wolf, scientific research demonstrates that the restoration of wolves helps restore balance within entire ecosystems. Nowhere has this been more evident than in the Yellowstone ecoregion. There, the reintroduction of wolves has changed the behavior of the park's elk population, moving them away from creek and river basins, which in turn allows streambed habitat to thrive, resulting in healthier trout streams, and more habitat for beavers and songbirds. Other animals such as badgers, bears and eagles benefit from the "leftovers" of wolf kills, which provide a more reliable year-round food base.

Throughout the country, there remain many geographic regions, including Colorado, Oregon, northern Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, northern New York, northern California, Washington and Utah, where the recovery of wolves is ecologically appropriate. In addition, the presence of wolves brings economic benefits to the surrounding communities. For example, Ely, Minnesota, located at the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and in the heart of wolf country in northern Minnesota, receives between $18 million and $27 million tourism dollars a year.

Recovery is incomplete, and without federal oversight, it won't happen.

Finally, there is an ethical imperative to continue protection and recovery of the gray wolf. The primary cause of the gray wolf's near extinction was the direct acts of federal and state governments. Acting through the USFWS and its predecessor, the Bureau of Biological Survey, we engaged in a total assault on wolves. Pervasive societal fear of wolves, stoked by government agencies, created an ecological nightmare for the gray wolf. Through systematic poisoning, bounty hunting and persistent persecution by humans, wolves were removed from the American West and nearly all of Mexico. Wolves, regardless of their resiliency, stood no chance against strychnine. This history of intentional destruction of wolves by government agencies places an ethical imperative on wolf recovery.

In the 21st century, there is still a need for wolf protection because, regrettably, we have not made the societal commitment to the treatment of the wolf as a nongame animal that is required before "downlisting" or "delisting" of the wolf can be justified. Bounty statutes still exist, ready to spring back to life in many states if ESA protections are removed, and punitive state management plans are waiting in the wings for federal protection to be removed. As Verlyn Klinkenborg observed recently in a *New York Times* editorial on wolves, "The only possibility for wildness—for a landscape with wolves—is in how we withhold ourselves in order to make room for it." We aren't yet at the point where we dare trust ourselves to live with wolves without the federal protection that has brought the species back from the brink of extinction. ■

Rick Duncan and Anne Mahle are attorneys at Faegre & Benson in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They are representing Defenders of Wildlife and the 16 other conservation groups in Defenders of Wildlife, et al. v. Norton, *the case challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's April 1, 2003, rule regarding the status of the gray wolf.*

Isaac Babcock

Today, over 350 wolves inhabit Idaho. They have recovered biologically. Will they ever recover socially?

THE RETURN OF THE WOLF TO IDAHO:

A Cultural Triumph

by MARCIE CARTER

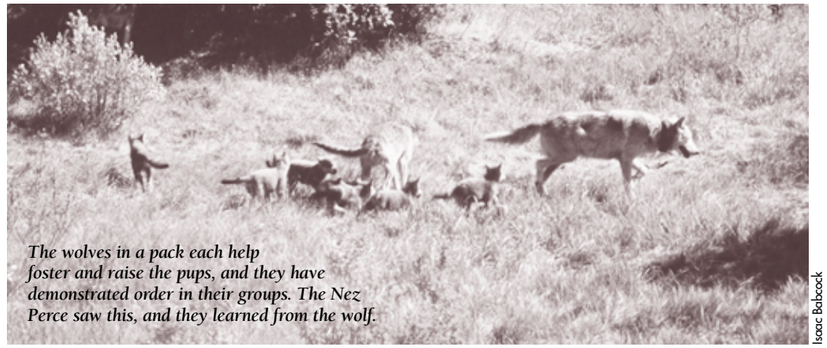
The first time that I sat and watched wolves play was the first time I had seen wolves in the wild. It was also my first time in the field and my first time in the Idaho backcountry. We were looking for the Landmark pack, a pair of wolves and their pups. The adults had paired after being released in winter 1995. After a day of hiking, we climbed a hillside to get a better view of a large meadow that we hoped was a likely place for wolf pups to play. We watched that meadow for hours, hoping they would come.

Our patience finally paid off. Just as the sun was going down, four small wolf puppies emerged from the tree line. They reminded me of a litter of domestic puppies. They chased each other, tackled each other, played keep away, and chewed on sticks. They played for about 20 minutes in that meadow, and then as fast as they had appeared, they were gone. They returned to the tree line as if they were being called in for supper by their mother. It was that deliberate. We waited for several minutes, hoping they would return, and then climbed off the hillside and headed back down the trail to set up camp.

On our way back, we stopped several times to look at our map and to ascertain our location. We had just crossed a creek when we decided to stop again and look at the map. It was then I heard something that made me shine my flashlight away from us, and there in the darkness were two pairs of green eyes shining back. Then another set of green eyes came into the light. They were standing broadside to us, with heads cocked to one side as my Siberian husky would do if she were listening to my commands. They seemed curious, listening to us argue about which way to go. They were young adults. Had they ever seen a human being before? What did they want? I wondered this as we stood there, frozen in astonishment at the beauty of these animals, and yet with fear flooding into my mind. Then they were gone.

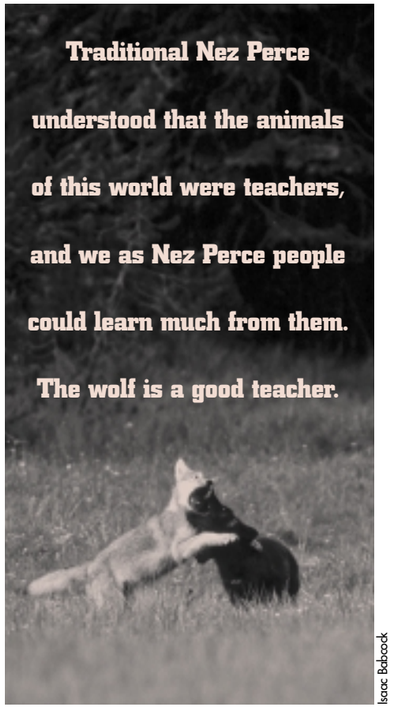
The wolf pups played in the meadow, and then as fast as they had appeared, they were gone.

Isaac Babcock



The wolves in a pack each help foster and raise the pups, and they have demonstrated order in their groups. The Nez Perce saw this, and they learned from the wolf.

Isaac Babcock



Isaac Babcock

As we put up our tents that night, the howling started. First one wolf, then another, and finally the whole pack sang. It was an eerie feeling being that close to wolves and hearing their voices bounce off the hillsides of the mountains and the trees in the valley. It is a feeling that still, to this day, gives me shivers.

I had never thought much about wolves before I started work on the wolf project. My cousin Howard was working on the project as the technician when I first learned that the Nez Perce Tribe was involved with wolf recovery. There were only 35 wolves then. I was still a wildlife student and was quite aware of the issues surrounding wolves and their prey as well as their position in the ecosystem. I was not aware of the social issues that loomed over the tribe or over me as a tribal member working to recover wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains. The Nez Perce Tribe was entering into the arena of endangered species recovery at the state level, an area that no other tribe has ever entered.

The Nez Perce word for wolf is *hímiin* (himeen). This word is believed to be derived from the Nez Perce word *hím,* which is the word for mouth. The wolf got its name because it can talk. The wolf communicates with its family group as well as with other wolves. Traditional Nez Perce understood that the animals of this world were teachers, and we as Nez Perce people could learn much from them. The wolf is a good teacher. It is a good hunter, and it shares his food with its family. The wolves in a pack each help foster and raise the pups, and they have demonstrated order in their groups. The Nez Perce saw this, and they learned from the wolf.

The return of the wolf represents a cultural triumph to the Nez Perce people. The gray wolf suffered the same fate that the Nez Perce did some 127 years ago. Both the wolf and Indian people across the country were considered obstacles for European settlers. Both of us are struggling to reclaim our place.

Today, over 350 wolves inhabit Idaho. They have recovered biologically. Will they ever recover socially? Will they be able to live out their lives and raise their families as their ancestors did before civilization came to their world? This is a question that will remain unanswered until time fades away. There will always be people who are not in favor of the return of the wolf as there are those who do not favor the presence and power of Indian people. It is something that we both have to face and overcome. Our fates will be different this time. The Nez Perce people will triumph. The wolf will also, if we let it. ■

Marcie Carter, an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe, is currently the tribe's biologist for reservation issues, focusing on forest songbirds. She worked as a biologist for the tribe's wolf project for five years.

FROM FOUR TEEN: A BEGINNING

by
DAVID R.
RABON JR.

Greg Koch

Just a few individuals made up the founding population of red wolves—the parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents of all red wolves known to exist today.

Have you ever heard of Mr. and Mrs. Sabine from Jefferson County, Texas? How about Ms. Wessie, also from Texas? Or John from Calcasieu Parish in Louisiana? Maybe you would recognize them by their Studbook Numbers—6, 12, 13, and 26. Whether known by name or number, they are red wolves. But not just any red wolves. These are the names of a few individuals that made up the founding population of red wolves—the parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents of all red wolves known to exist today.

After the bleak future of the red wolf was revealed, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided to make every effort to save the species. This consisted of capturing as many red wolves from the wild as possible and placing them in a captive breeding program with the hope of one day releasing the species back into the wild. This daunting task began in the early 1970s. More than 400 canids (*Canis* is the genus that includes wolves, coyotes and dogs) were trapped and evaluated. Only a small fraction of the animals caught met the standards developed to define the red wolf. These standards included minimal morphological measurements such as shoulder height, total length, hind foot length and skull features that distinguish the red wolf from coyotes, feral dogs and wolf-coyote hybrids. From the more than 400 canids trapped, just 43 animals met the minimal standards. Those animals were placed in a breeding program at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium in Tacoma, Washington. Their final identification as red wolves would be based on the resulting offspring from breeding studies. So began the captive breeding program.

By 1980, the red wolf was declared extinct in the wild. The fate of the species now depended on the successful reproduction of those individuals that met the minimal standards. Some, like Buddy, Margie, Judy and John, were known only by first name. Others were given fictitious surnames, like Ms. Wessie, Mrs. McBride and Mr. and Mrs. Sabine. A few had descriptive names, such as Happy Face and Gulf Oil Split Lip, and others were simply named after the place they were trapped, like Fortenberry Female and Pines Inholding Male, Crain Female and Sabine Ranch Male. By any name, these animals represented the last hope for the survival of the red wolf.

Unfortunately, most animals in the breeding program produced offspring that left their status as pure red wolves improbable. At least four animals never reproduced, so their verification as red wolves could not be made. Margie, Judy, Buddy and nameless others were removed from the captive breeding program. The future of the red wolf now relied on just 14 animals that reproduced and were verified as pure red wolves.

Over the years the breeding program has had its share of ups and downs. Two wolves — Crain Female and Pines Inholding Male — are no longer represented with living descendants in the current population. This has reduced the genetic diversity in the existing population of red wolves to only 12 founding animals. But applications in reproductive technology, intensive management, persistence and a little luck have assisted in the conservation of the red wolf. And in 1987 the red wolf was reintroduced into the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina. Once again the red wolf was free in the wild.

Today, due in part to an aggressive Adaptive Management Program to prevent hybridization with coyotes, the red wolf is reproducing and surviving. More than 150 wolves live in captive breeding facilities throughout the United States, and more than 100 wolves, living in 20 packs or pairs, inhabit the countryside of northeastern North Carolina. This was all made possible by the tireless efforts of many dedicated professionals and the last 14 red wolves known to exist.

Greg Koch

Today, the red wolf is reproducing and surviving in the wild.

The next time you see a red wolf in a zoo or hear a red wolf howl, or if you're lucky enough to see a wolf in the wild, think about John and Ms. Wessie. Take a moment to consider Mr. and Mrs. Sabine, and Happy Face and Mrs. McBride, Louisiana Radio Male and Fortenberry Female. Take a moment to think about the contribution 14 red wolves made to the future of the species. And think about the contribution you can make. ■

David R. Rabon Jr. is an endangered species biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Raleigh, North Carolina. He is a Ph.D. student at North Carolina State University, where he is studying social and reproductive behaviors of red wolves.

Red wolf left the mountains, drifting west and south, watched itself vanish from a vanishing world until there was almost nowhere to howl and the last vivid forms of its pure spirit prepared themselves to leave this earth.

Just before red wolf leapt into nonexistence, it was trapped out of the wild, taken in cages from the thickets of coastal southeast Texas where it had been driven by history, left to prowl at night, scavenging mesquite beans and cactus fruits.

For generations there was no far traveling. The unseen walls of lost habitat became the chain link of breeding pens. The great skills went unused. Sharp sight, keen hearing, shape-changing stealth. Great endurance, silent speed over forest litter, tolerance of the deepest cold... Generations without a hunt... Generations without a proper den. The young knew nothing of the world. Had no wildness in their hearts, no weather in their fur. After three generations, all the old ones were dead and there was not a wild red wolf in the world. Only shadows of wolves. Pale flames of red wolf spirit licked the cages.

Then the red wolf was returned to the old places, freed.

Christopher Camuto,
Journeying Toward the Cherokee Mountains

In the Wake of Hurricane Isabel: The Red Wolves of Eastern North Carolina

by NEIL HUTT

In an enclosure sheltered by tall pines and hardwoods lived the wolves of Sandy Ridge. This captive breeding facility, located on the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in eastern North Carolina, was equipped to house as many as 30 endangered red wolves. Shy and secretive by nature, these sleek, tawny animals flitted like shadows through the underbrush, pausing often in the midst of their ritual pacing along the fences, heads lowered, ears pricked forward to listen, topaz eyes alert and wary.

The Sandy Ridge wolves were not on public view. But "howlings" sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Red Wolf Coalition were popular events. Crowds gathered at night to listen to the chorus from Sandy Ridge and to learn about the red wolf, clan animal of the Cherokee, who, in the old time, believed it was the wolf that taught man to hunt.

Until Hurricane Isabel.

Now the facility with its 18 enclosures is a maze of mangled wire and splintered kennel boxes. Everywhere are uprooted trees, their branches entwined in dense tangles. Three wolves remain in the enclosures that escaped the storm's lashing winds. But the favorite resident wolf, affectionately called Zeus, is dead. The ruined tree lying beside his den box bears witness to what happened.

Officially designated wolf 520, Zeus was the most filmed and photographed wolf in the Red Wolf Recovery Program. Born at Sandy Ridge in 1992, he was released into the Great Smoky Mountains as part of a reintroduction program that ultimately failed. But 520 never got the hang of being wild. Tolerant of humans, he was seen crossing roads near houses and stealing shoes off porches.

The USFWS biologists finally gave up and brought the big wolf back to Sandy Ridge, where his regal beauty and adolescent antics endeared him to the interns who lived in the cabin at the facility. He regularly got extra portions of deer, habitually leaving the remains of a leg on top of his den box. Aubrey Remige, biologist and currently executive director of the Red Wolf Coalition, remembers a game Zeus often played with her when she lived at Sandy Ridge. While she was working inside the enclosure, he would approach her on silent feet as though daring himself to come close. When she would turn at last to look at him, he would leap away, darting into the trees.

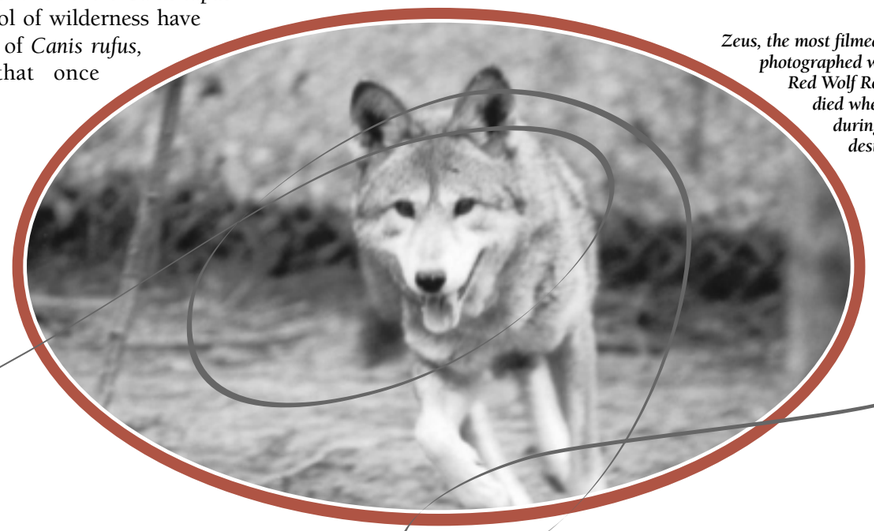
Although he was nearly 12 years old, Zeus had been chosen as one of the resident wolves for the proposed Red Wolf Center near Columbia, North Carolina. The center will be built in an effort to bring attention to an animal that is, on the one hand, despised and feared by some local residents and, on the other, often overlooked by the general public. Many people who revere *Canis lupus* as the symbol of wilderness have never heard of *Canis rufus*, the wolf that once roamed throughout the southeastern forests and marshes.

Zeus's opportunity to be an ambassador for red wolf recovery ended in the fury of Hurricane Isabel. But public outreach and education will continue in partnership with the work of USFWS biologists as they refine the Red Wolf Adaptive Management Plan. The red wolves have proven their resilience in the face of near extinction. It is now up to humans to honor the legacy of wolf 520 by working to ensure the long-term survival of these tenacious animals. ■

For information about the Red Wolf Center, please visit the Red Wolf Coalition Web site at www.redwolves.org. The author thanks Aubrey White Remige for her help in preparing this story.

Neil Hutt is an educator and International Wolf Center board member who lives in Purcellville, Virginia.

After Hurricane Isabel, the captive wolf breeding facility at Sandy Ridge, located in the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in eastern North Carolina, is a maze of mangled wire and splintered kennel boxes.



Zeus, the most filmed and photographed wolf in the Red Wolf Recovery Program, died when a tree uprooted during Hurricane Isabel destroyed his den box.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The spaces between the mountains, empty for a hundred years, are now occupied by the howling of wolves.

Not the chesty baying of gray wolves or the throaty singing of coyotes, but a high-pitched, two-note riff that has just enough timbre to echo well.

Christopher Camuto,
Another Country: Journeying Toward the Cherokee Mountains

Alpha Weekend 2003: Moose, Wolves and the Boundary Waters

The weather in Ely was perfect for this year's Alpha members' appreciation weekend—sunny, not too warm and no rain. We met at the International Wolf Center for greetings and dinner and to get to know one another. Some familiar faces were there, and some new ones.

Friday night we visited Dr. Lynn Roger's bear research facility, and we were not disappointed. A young, collared black bear made a visit and was photographed by all.

Saturday dawned crisp and clear—just perfect for the day's events. After an overview of the activities offered at the Center and future goals, we had the choice of a hike to an abandoned wolf den, a paddle into Hegman Lake to view pictographs (ancient Indian rock paintings) or to Listening Point to go birding, or a tour of downtown Ely. I opted to go to Hegman Lake. The scenery there was breathtaking—dense woods, a steep, rocky shoreline and lichen-covered rocks. The pictographs were clear even after exposure to the elements for 900 to 1,200 years.

After dinner, we attended "What's for Dinner" with the Center's ambassador wolves Malik and Shadow. The meal was road-killed deer, and both wolves dived right in. Later our options were to try to observe moose or to visit the Kawishiwi lab wolf research station and have s'mores around the campfire and tell stories. This Alpha chose to go moose hunting, as I had never seen a moose up close before. Anne, our guide, was very good at spotting the large mammals, and we saw four. One was quite indignant that we were shining the light on it. As it ambled into the brush, it gave us a baleful look and disappeared.

On Sunday morning we all assembled at the Center for "Breakfast with Wolves." After an introduction by Lori Schmidt, wolf curator, we greeted Malik and Shadow. Both were animated and seemed glad to see us. MacKenzie, Lucas and Lakota from the Retired Pack also approached the fence for greetings. They looked fit and in good health. Hats off to the Center staff for their continued excellent care of the retirees.

Last we made a fascinating visit to Center board member Paul Schurke's sled dog kennel. Paul has trekked to the North Pole with his dogs, all of which came from Inuit stock and are quite different from the sled dogs we are familiar with.

Finally, some last goodbyes and another Alpha weekend was over. I'm already looking forward to next year's time together!

Pam Dolajeck, Alpha member

George Knotek, International Wolf Center

Paul Schurke, Center board member and Arctic explorer, hosted Alpha Weekend participants at his sled dog kennel. (Left to right: Ellen Dietz, Henry Crosby, Lori Schmidt, Pamela Dolajeck, Jen Westlund, Neil Hutt, Anne Koenke, Bruce Weeks, Paul Schurke and Vickie Severn)

Join Our Wolf Information Alert Team

Every member of the pack has a role to play. So here is one for you. We need our members to watch for misinformation about wolves that shows up in print and on TV.

One of the biggest problems that wolves face is the myths and misinformation about them that get passed off as fact in the popular media. Popular magazines do it. Radio programs do it. Even well-meaning publications make mistakes that continue to cause confusion about wolves and their relationships to people, other animals and the wilderness. So if you come across stories about wolves that don't sound just right, send them to our information experts at infospec@wolf.org, or fax them to 218-365-3318. If possible, send a copy of the article, the name of the publication or program and/or the address of the Web site that contains the suspect information. We may then be able to send out a helpful correction.

The more often we correct myths and misinformation about wolves, the more we can help eliminate this problem. The more accurate information people have about wolves, the more they will come to understand and appreciate them.

Please become part of our Wolf Information Alert Team. Send inaccurate wolf news to us at infospec@wolf.org. ■

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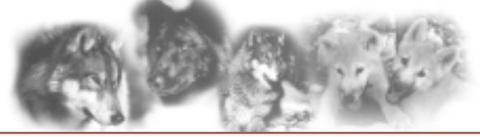


Tracking the Pack

It's Time for Pups Again . . .

by Lori Schmidt, Wolf Curator, International Wolf Center

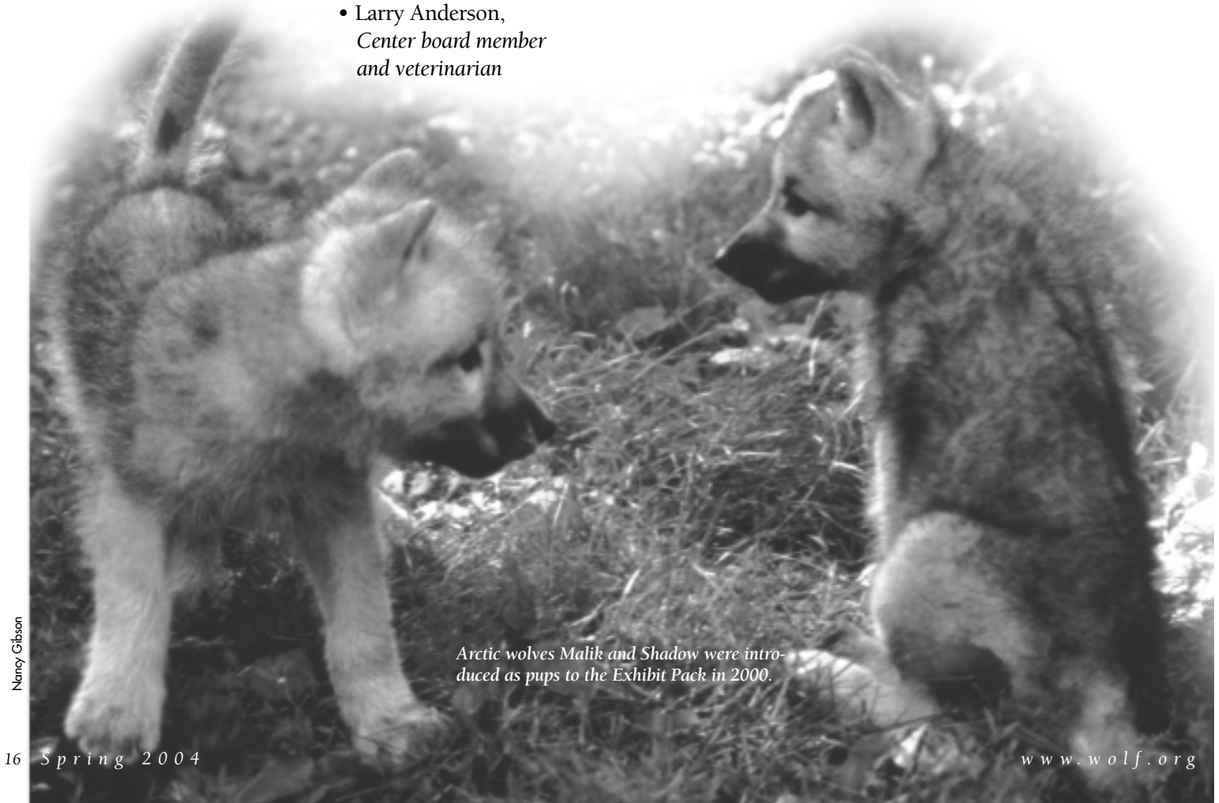
It seems like just yesterday that Center staff, members, visitors and nannies were anxiously awaiting the arrival of Shadow and Malik, arctic wolf pups who were about to add a little life to our aging wolf exhibit—and add a little life they did. Thousands of visitors to the exhibit and the Web site watched the changing dynamics of our wolf exhibit as Shadow and Malik matured, and MacKenzie, Lucas and Lakota aged and retired. Well, it's been four years, and it's time once again to add life to an aging exhibit. This article is dedicated to the Wolf Pup Plan for summer 2004.

The Basic Pup Plan

The key players in developing and approving the Wolf Pup Plan were

- Lori Schmidt, *wolf curator*
- Chip Hanson, *veterinarian, Ely Vet Clinic*
- Larry Anderson, *Center board member and veterinarian*
- Dave Mech, *Center board member and wolf biologist*
- Nancy Gibson, *Center board member and naturalist*
- Gretchen Diessner, *assistant director*
- Walter Medwid, *executive director*

The pups will be acquired from Bear County USA in Rapid City, South Dakota, the same place that provided MacKenzie, Lucas, Lakota and Kiana in 1993. We were happy with the behavior, pelage, physical condition and longevity of the 1993 litter and hope to have a similar experience in 2004. Three pups will be purchased, preferably two females and one male, possibly with a black color phase similar to MacKenzie, but this is dependent on the litter whelped. The pups are expected to be born sometime between April 24 and May 6. They will be removed from their wolf parents and introduced to the wolf care staff around 10 days of age to begin the socialization process. The staff will spend 3 to 4 days at Bear Country USA to transition the pups to bottle-feeding before heading back to Minnesota.



Nancy Gibson

Arctic wolves Malik and Shadow were introduced as pups to the Exhibit Pack in 2000.

Monty Sloan

Socializing wolf pups to humans involves spending much time with them early in the socialization period, and then gradually less as the pups grow older. Socialized wolf pups generally display more relaxed behavior and can be handled for veterinary care and facility maintenance.

Why Add Pups Now? Aren't the Arctics Only Four Years Old?

After the 1993 litter was retired from the exhibit in fall 2002, only Shadow and Malik remained. The Center's mission is to teach the world about wolves with captive ambassadors representing wild wolves. Two males are not very representative of a wild wolf pack structure. The addition of pups will likely mean more play behavior as the pups develop their social skills and find their place in the pack. Pups also tend to bring out play behavior in adults. As the pups mature, pack dynamics may change, offering the public an opportunity to appreciate the world of a social pack animal. The arctics will be strong, six-year-old wolves when the new pups reach sexual maturity and will likely make a strong show of dominance to maintain a rank order.

Why Did the Center Select Three Pups?

In 2000, when Shadow and Malik were raised and added to the Exhibit Pack, the alpha female, MacKenzie, was extremely friendly to and protective of the young wolves. In 2004, the new pups will be meeting two males. Our thinking is that the males may be care-giving but with less intensity than the female was. So, the basis of this plan is that the three pups will help reinforce each other in the presence of the two adults. We plan to encourage an extremely strong bond among littermates and have them visit daily with the arctic wolves through the fence. The pups will be introduced to Malik and Shadow by early August through a structured process of controlled and monitored interactions. Throughout summer, the pups can be viewed during daily programs at the Center or via a Web cam in the pup nursery and enclosure. After the introduction, the exhibit Web cams should display some of the action of the Exhibit Pack.

The Center will offer a nanny program as a fundraiser to help cover the cost of adding the pups to the exhibit. Nannies will assist in caring for the wolves, recording behavioral observations, and conducting educational programs. Behavioral observation team members will also be needed to provide 24-hour monitoring during the week of the introduction. Check our Web site www.wolf.org for details and an application for both programs.

This is an exciting time for the International Wolf Center, and many people are needed to make this introduction of new pups successful. Please check the Web site to get involved as a nanny, behavioral observation team member, visitor to the Center or observer on the Web site. ■

Nancy Gibson

Socializing wolf pups to humans involves spending much time with them early in the socialization period, then gradually less as the pups grow older.

Wolves of the World

WOLVES OF ETHIOPIA

Another Setback for the Imperiled Ethiopian Wolf

by Neil Hutt

Rabies – An acute fatal viral inflammation of the brain.

Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia

In August 2003, a thin, weak female wolf, thought to be a disperser, was sighted in the Web Valley of the Bale Mountains, home to 300 of the critically endangered Ethiopian wolves. Suspicion that the wolf may have been sick arose when four wolf deaths were reported on October 9, 2003.

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) began scouring the Bale Mountains, searching for sick and dead animals. Their tentative diagnosis of rabies has been recently confirmed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. Twenty wolves died of rabies as of October 28, 2003, and more will surely succumb.

Since 1996, the EWCP has been vaccinating domestic dogs within 10 miles of the Bale Mountains National Park in the hope of reducing the risk of rabies, distemper and other canine diseases. No feral dogs live in the area, but farmers routinely enter wolf territory in late summer to graze their livestock. Even though 80 percent of the dogs in surrounding communities have been vaccinated, an infected animal has started an outbreak that could result in a drastic reduction of the fragile wolf population.

"We should be moving to vaccinate the wolves," said Stuart Williams, British conservationist and coordinator of the EWCP in Addis Ababa. Otherwise, a disaster similar to the one in 1991 could occur. During that rabies epidemic, the wolf population dropped from 450 to 120. Referring to the recovery of the wolf population, Dr. Claudio Sillero of the University of Oxford said, "Six months ago, we were complimenting ourselves." Since rabies seems to strike when the population density rises above one animal per square kilometer, it might be better not to allow wolf density to reach its maximum. "As a manager, I would rather have a lower stable state," Sillero said.

Meanwhile, the EWCP is searching for options to contain the outbreak. With the cooperation of other groups and agencies, authorities are working to trace the transmission route and the spread of the current epidemic. They are searching rigorously for sick or dead animals, doing postmortems, inoculating all unvaccinated dogs in the region and soliciting the help of local communities for information about the health of domestic animals. Williams insists the solution is vaccinating wolves not yet infected by the disease. However, the Ethiopian government has been hesitant to undertake such a program. Authorities are wary of a genetically modified vaccine. Additionally, they are reluctant because of adverse publicity surrounding a vaccination program in the Serengeti where wild dogs receiving rabies inoculations later died of distemper.

Ethiopian wolves are small, weighing about 50 pounds. They live in packs, but they forage and hunt alone. They once inhabited most of the mountainous regions of northern Ethiopia, but the encroachment of humans and the introduction of rabies have reduced their numbers dramatically in recent decades. Scientists still disagree on whether Ethiopian wolves are true wolves or jackals.

The author acknowledges the following sources of information:

John Whitfield, "Rabies Threatens World's Rarest Dog," *Nature*, October 28, 2003; http://www.nature.com/nsu/031027/031027-2.html.

Claudio Sillero, e-mail to "Canids-L," received by L. David Mech, October 23, 2003.

Ethiopian wolves once inhabited most of the mountainous regions of northern Ethiopia, but the encroachment of humans and the introduction of rabies have reduced their numbers dramatically in recent decades.

Martin Harvey

Dwight Andrews

Supporters of reintroducing wolves to Scotland are convinced that biologically and ecologically, there is no reason why wolves cannot adapt to the environment where they once lived.

WOLVES IN SCOTLAND

A Howl in the Highlands: A British Yellowstone?

by Neil Hutt

Attention all fans of bagpipes and castles and monsters lurking in the depths of Loch Ness! If wealthy Dutch businessman Paul van Vlissingen has his way, Nessie may have to settle for second billing as Scotland's number one wildlife attraction. Van Vlissingen wants to reintroduce wolves, extinct for 250 years, to the Highland heaths where foxes and a burgeoning population of deer roam the timeless landscape.

Those inclined to dismiss van Vlissingen as an eccentric entrepreneur with a romantic reverence for big predators should take another look. First of all, he is one of Britain's wealthiest men, a laird who welcomes hill walkers and other outdoor aficionados to his vast 81,000-acre Letterwe estate. Secondly, his record in conservation is solid. He has been influential in pioneering greater public access to private estates, and he helped bring sea eagles back to Scotland 80 years after they disappeared.

Van Vlissingen publicly laments the fact that "Scotland has become the centre for sheeplife, not wildlife," and his vision includes the notion of lynxes and perhaps even brown bears and bison inhabiting the wilds of Scotland. That may seem far-fetched until one considers the fact that in the past five years, van Vlissingen has taken over the management of six large game reserves in southern Africa. Detractors insist that business interests and profits must surely weigh into van Vlissingen's motives. But the controversial landowner has rejected offers to exploit mining and

Scotland has to create more excitement than a monster in Loch Ness. . . . There is enormous eco-tourism building in the world, and Scotland is losing out.

Paul van Vlissingen, owner of an 81,000-acre estate in the Western Highlands

Wolves aren't on our agenda at all!

Scottish Natural Heritage

hydroelectric development on his estate. "I never bought Letterwe with any idea that I would make one penny out of it," he said.

Van Vlissingen's ideas have the support of several conservation groups in Scotland who insist that the absence of natural predators along with other factors such as progressively milder winters have caused an unprecedented rise in the number of the three main species of deer in Scotland: red, sika and roe. The deer have caused widespread damage to habitat and are a major hazard on the roads.

But sheepherders and the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scotland's government conservation agency, aren't buying the Dutchman's dream of major predators as boosters of Scotland's flagging tourist industry. Van Vlissingen and his supporters are convinced, however, that biologically and ecologically, there is no reason why wolves cannot adapt to the environment where they once lived. A proposed wolf center in the Highlands, funded by private enterprise, would serve the most important preliminary requirement for the successful reintroduction of major predators: education.

cutline to come??

Public support must include livestock interests, and that will be hard to achieve. Compensation funds must be considered, and steps need to be undertaken to revise a government subsidy system heavily relied upon by sheep farmers. Suggestions include making subsidies available to farmers only if they practice good husbandry, a requirement that would mean a change in the present style of sheep management.

International Wolf Center

cutline to come??

Proponents of wolf recovery in Scotland also cite the ethics perspective. Britain has signed the Bern Convention agreeing to consider reintroduction. This means, the argument goes, an admission that wolves have the right to exist and includes a commitment to support research into the feasibility of a reintroduction program. With van Vlissingen leading the way, the splendor of the Highlands could someday be enhanced by the howl of the wolf. ■

The author acknowledges the following sources of information:

- "Call for Wolves to Be Reintroduced," BBC News, June 25, 2002; http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/2065794.stm.
- "The New Nessie," *Sunday Herald*; http://www.sundayherald.com/36409.
- Nicholas Hellen, "Plan to Reintroduce Wolves to the UK," *Herald Sun*, April 14, 2003; http://www.wolf.org/wolves/news/news04_03/04_14_uk_reintro.asp.
- Paul Gallagher, "Rich Laird with a Passion That's Priceless," Scotsman.com; www.news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=483042003.

Neil Hutt is an educator and International Wolf Center board member who lives in Purcellville, Virginia.

News and Notes

WOLVES EAT HUNTING DOGS. Wolves consumed six prize bear-hunting dogs belonging to one family in Michigan during summer 2003, according to a *Mining Journal* article. Several of the dogs were being run in training. No compensation is available in Michigan for the $5,000 dogs.

WOLF SIGHTINGS have been made for 1,000 consecutive days in Yellowstone National Park as of November 5. During many of those days, park biologists and naturalists along with multitudes of tourists have seen the wolves. On other days, only tourists have reported wolf sightings. In all, some 130,000 people reported spotting wolves during that period.

WOLF DEPREDATION FUNDS GONE. As Wisconsin's wolf population continues to increase, so do wolf depredations on livestock and dogs. The $36,000 per year traditionally allocated to compensate citizens for these losses have not kept up with the losses, however, which recently have almost doubled.

WOLF RELEASED UNHARMED. A father and son team of Idaho coyote trappers were praised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in October for releasing a wolf they had accidentally captured. They managed to restrain the wolf without drugs, kennel it, allow Wildlife Service biologists to radio-tag it, and release it.

WOLF CENTER MEMBERSHIPS are being promoted, along with other conservation-oriented gifts, on a new Web site, giftsforconservation.org. The site asks that people give conservation-oriented presents or suggest that they consider such gifts when asked by others what they want.

EIGHTEEN MEXICAN WOLF PUPS were confirmed surviving in the wild as of late September. This is no doubt a minimum number because it is rarely possible to obtain complete counts in the wild. If these pups continue to survive, they would replace the several adult wolves that have been shot in 2003.

WOLF GENETICS research will be greatly enhanced by a draft map of the dog genome recently produced. The DNA decoding of the dog's (and wolf's) 2.4-billion-unit genome was performed by the same research group that decoded the human genome. Three quarters of the dog genes are similar to those of humans.

WOLF HABITAT was enhanced just a bit when two bipartisan bills were introduced into Congress in October to buy out grazing permits on federal land. According to the *Salt Lake Tribune*, the voluntary program would allow ranchers to retire their allotments forever. Environmentalists have been promoting this idea, and some ranchers have joined them. However, it could take years for Congress to act on the bills.

WILD LAND CONSERVATION got a big boost in Canada recently according to the *Star Tribune*. A coalition of energy, logging and paper companies, tribes and environmental groups agreed to conserve at least half of Canada's subarctic boreal forests. This agreement covers one of the world's largest natural woodlands.

STATE WOLF PLANS for Wyoming, Idaho and Montana received positive reviews by a consensus of 11 wolf biologists who independently judged whether the plans would help ensure recovery of wolves in the West. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asked the biologists to assess the proposed management plans in preparation for a proposal to remove the wolf from the endangered species list. ■

Sherry Jaakinen

Personal Encounter

Echoes from Thunder Hollow

by Gary Johnson

The encounter occurred during a lull in the grouse hunting season. I was hunting near Walker, Minnesota. The rich colors of autumn had disappeared. The nonresident hunters had ceased showing up in the grouse woods. It was late October, when woodcock are no longer in season and the white-tailed deer rut dominates the woods. A hunter senses the silence of the woods more acutely then.

The grouse covert I was hunting was large, taking two to three hours to hunt. My wife, Nancy, and I try to rotate our four English setters, hunting each one from one to two hours at a time. But this trip was solo for me. Nancy had business at home. Chevre was my only partner. She's a dog who can pace herself well and run so close to me that I don't need a beeper or bell to help me keep track of her in the dense cover.

There was a crisp edge to the air. Temperatures were in the low thirties, and the mist that developed felt hard, setting a glaze over everything. This would be my last grouse hunt this season, as we don't venture into the woods during deer season, and I prefer to leave the birds alone to winter up after the heavy snows begin. It had been a great year, so I felt no urgency this day. Chevre had pointed three birds already, of which I bagged two. Tired and damp, we headed out for a last hunt, grateful for the season's offerings.

This country is basically flat with a few ridges and small ponds scattered throughout the area. I approached a slight rise on the trail, Chevre at my side, when we were startled by sounds coming from the west. I heard what I thought was a buck chasing a doe. There was a frantic splashing of water, and the familiar squeals and snorts I have often heard from my deer stand. The commotion was magnified. Then the squeals became screams that ripped apart the woods. A few more chilling screams filled the space around us, and with that I knew with certainty that death was imminent.

Steve Grooms

Steve Grooms

Gary Johnson has hunted many species of small and big game with guns and archery equipment for forty-some years.

Out of a dense stand of aspen, next to a shallow pond, there appeared a blur of activity. Branches snapped and water exploded. A white-tailed doe charged into view, chased by two wolves. The wolves immediately dropped her at the water's edge. Chevre and I were positioned downwind, so the wolves had no way to smell us, and we were invisible behind a screen of dogwood and hazel.

One wolf began tearing at the deer while the other appeared to stand guard. Chevre, I was certain, could see none of this, but it was obvious she needed no visual aids to make every silky setter hair on her body stand right on edge. Because I was mesmerized by this rare sight, I might have stood motionless to watch, but I felt curiously out of place, an intruder in an intimate and violent act of nature. After lingering a few seconds, Chevre and I stepped off the knoll and walked down the trail, both of us feeling deeply uneasy.

This was my fifth wolf sighting. Our first encounter occurred in the mining country of northern Minnesota. Searching for new grouse coverts, Nancy and I and a friend were driving a narrow logging road when a grouse ran across the road. I stopped and stepped out to survey the area. The area was dotted with piles of mining tailings, one pile about five feet high, covered with sparse aspens and a low brushy understory. I froze in my tracks. Not eight feet away, at eye level, stood a huge wolf, staring me down (if you can count three seconds as a stare-down). It spun around and bolted off. We all heard a sound that sounded distinctly unnatural. As we investi-

lynn and Donna Rogers/www.bearstudy.org

gated the area, I found a leg-hold trap still clutching one wolf toe. We hoped "Three Toes" survived after losing that digit.

The second sighting was brief. While we were driving near the Canadian border, a wolf—darker than usual—dashed across the road. Our third sighting was equally fleeting. Nancy had stayed at the car to do some letter writing while I hunted. She glimpsed a wolf that stepped out of the cover and walked down a trail, passing out of sight over a ridge.

On another occasion, our hunting plans were confused by bad compass readings and the complications of encountering unexpected beaver dams. After a long hunt we saw a big, burly and beautiful creature step onto the trail just 50 yards away. We assumed it was a German shepherd and then realized it was a wolf. It disappeared as quickly as it had appeared.

These encounters left me unprepared for this fifth wolf sighting on that shattering day when I saw the pair of wolves take down that doe. As silly as it might seem, I nervously checked my back trail after leaving them to return to my vehicle. The mist had turned to rain by the time I got back, giving a gloomy cast to the ending of the day.

On the highway heading toward home I had to slow as I approached two cars on the opposite shoulder. People gathered there waved as I passed, and I could see a dying deer in the headlights of their cars. It was a buck with no life in its body, although its head and neck moved. After I drove a mile, a sense of responsibility urged me to turn around.

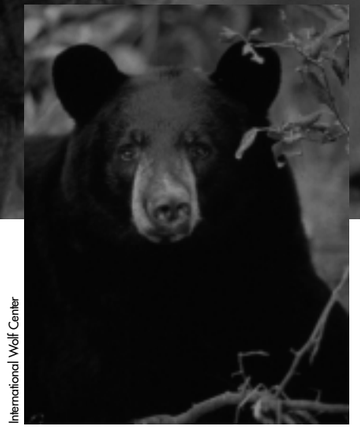
Just a woman and her daughter were with the deer when I returned. We spoke briefly. Then I delivered the coup de grace to the largest trophy buck I hope ever to see under such sad circumstances. The woman thanked me, and I left.

It was probably an illegal shot for me but definitely a humane one. I have hunted many species of small and big game with guns and archery equipment for forty-some years. I struggle often with why I harvest wild animals, and I have developed my own ethical position on this. The mercy killing of that buck should not have affected me, but that day I found myself digging deep into my conscience. I realized that the violent encounter of the wolves and deer I had seen earlier had triggered my emotions.

I made a rare December grouse hunt in that same area later that year. Curiosity drew me toward the kill site. It was 37 paces from where Chevre and I stood to where the doe fell. The pond was frozen hard. All that was left of the deer one month later were tufts of hair locked into the ice. They say the wolf wastes precious little. ■

Gary and Nancy Johnson live in Willmar, Minnesota, with their five English setters. They enjoy their work but mostly live for the moments they can spend outdoors, especially hunting upland birds.

International Wolf Center



International Wolf Center

Wolf Tracks

Getting Along with the Neighbors: How Wolves Interact with Non-prey

Jay Hutchinson

Wherever wolves roam, they are usually not far from many other types of meat eaters. The carnivores most often observed competing with wolves are brown (grizzly) bears, black bears and coyotes. To a lesser degree, wolves also contend with a host of other potential competitors—polar bears, cougars, tigers, lynxes, bobcats, wolverines, red and arctic foxes and even ravens.

Brown Bears. Worldwide, most wolf–brown bear interactions happen near wolf kills. In these clashes, brown bears—though usually outnumbered—almost always win, except near wolf dens, where wolves frequently prevail. Fatalities in these situations are few though; in more than a hundred cases recorded by scientists, only two or three deaths of either species occurred.

Black Bears. Wolves usually take over kills from black bears by sheer numbers and maintain the upper hand. Of nine bear deaths studied due to wolves, six bears were killed in their dens. A bear killed one wolf near its den.

Coyotes. Coyotes weigh roughly one-third as much as wolves. Studies suggest that the density of wolf and coyote populations are inversely related. The quite common coyote killings by wolves often happen in winter, when coyotes are scavenging on ungulate carcasses. From 1995 to 2001, wolves killed at least 27 coyotes in Yellowstone National Park, and coyote numbers decreased by 50 percent for a few years in some areas there. No cases of coyotes killing wolves are known.

Foxes. Wolf kills are an important source of food for red foxes. Wolves kill foxes but less often than they do coyotes. In some areas, red fox populations are believed to actually increase in the presence of wolves because of fewer coyotes there.

Ravens. Interestingly, ravens, as scavengers, may interact more with wolves than any other animals. And ravens are, well, ravenous. In the Yukon, ravens and other scavengers ate up to 10 percent of the biomass of ungulate kills made by large packs, and 66 percent of the biomass of kills made by unfortunate single wolves.

Of all the species clustering at the feasts provided by wolf kills, ravens are perhaps the most playful. On Isle Royale, Dave Mech once saw four or five ravens diving at a wolf's head or tail while it ducked, then leaped at them. One raven… waddled to a resting wolf, pecked its tail, and jumped aside as the wolf snapped at it.

Quoth that raven, "Never more!" ■

Source: W. B. Ballard, L. N. Carbyn, and D. W. Smith, "Wolf Interactions with Non-prey," in *Wolves: Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation*, edited by L. David Mech and Luigi Boitani. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Jay Hutchinson is a writer and editor, retired from the U.S. Forest Service's North Central Forest Experiment Station, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Between travels, he enjoys writing about various natural history subjects, including wolves.

Kolk Rabe

Ravens, as scavengers, may interact more with wolves than any other animals.

International Wolf Center

Wild Kids

Help Us Welcome Our Pups

Have you heard? The International Wolf Center is expecting puppies! Three newborn pups will arrive in Ely sometime in May. We hope you'll help us welcome the new little ones with a special "Hello!" by entering our coloring contest.

Here's how:

1. Color the sheet on page 27. If you don't want to tear the page out of the magazine, go to www.wolf.org/_____ and download a PDF of this page.
2. Fill out the form on the side of the coloring page. After you send it to us, we will detach the form before displaying your picture.
3. If you prefer, you can also create your own picture of wolf pups on the theme of "At Home in the Wild." You may use crayons, pens, charcoal, pastels or paints to make your picture. Your entry may not be larger than an 8.5 ¥ 11 inch sheet of paper. Be sure to fill out the form on page __ and send it in with your artwork.

Mail your artistic creation to us at:

Coloring Contest
International Wolf Center
1396 Highway 169
Ely, MN 55731

Prizes:

One winner in each category will have their picture published in the Winter 2004 issue of *International Wolf* magazine. Additional winners will have their names listed in that issue. As many entries as possible will be displayed at the International Wolf Center in Ely during summer 2004.

Submission deadline: June 1, 2004

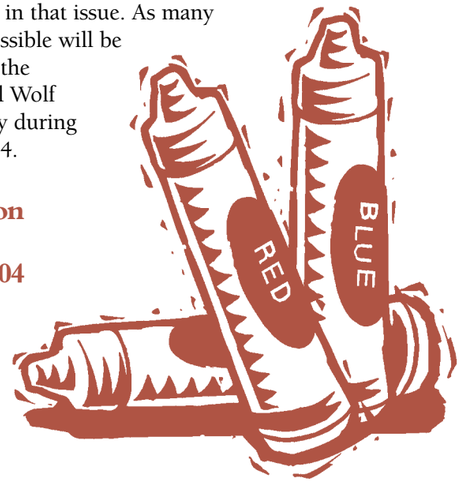


Illustration by Joan Ouelette

Coloring Contest Entry Information

Artist name:

Artist age: (check one)

☐ age 6 and younger ☐ age 7–9
☐ age 10–12 ☐ age 13–17

What city, state/province, and country do you live in?

Artist's Parent Contact Information

Parent name:

Phone number:

Address:

Parent e-mail:

I understand the by submitting this entry for the International Wolf Center's 2004 "At Home in the wild" coloring contest I give my permission for this artwork and my child's name to be published in a future issue of International Wolf *Magazine and on our Web site, www.wolf.org. The decision about which entries, if any, will be published is solely that of the contest judges.*

Parent signature Date

Global Voices for Wolf Conservation

by Steve Wadlow

Spanning many countries across the globe, wolf conservation is a diverse issue and, perhaps more fitting, one of great complexity. Wherever wolves are present, they affect people, often in profound ways.

Despite the overwhelming shift in public attitudes toward wolves in the past few decades, and despite the wealth of scientific investigations of wolves, controversy continues over wolf management issues. In the public arena where wildlife management issues play out, protectionist attitudes toward wolves are pitted against utilitarian values. This polarization has served to fuel the philosophical discussion of whether humans and wolves can coexist.

It has been said that our ability to coexist with wolves is the ultimate challenge for us humans in determining whether we can live with Nature. Wolves are the measuring stick, perhaps because they affect us in diverse ways. Consumptive users of wolves such as trappers and hunters have a special economic interest in wolf management. Wolf pelts are sold commercially in many regions, and wolf trapping constitutes an ongoing source of income for some communities. Some sectors of the hunting community kill wolves to reduce their impact on prey populations. Livestock producers in wolf range also have a special interest in wolf management because wolf depredation can affect their livelihood. More recently, people in the tourism industry have developed an economic interest in wolves. Even people without such an economic interest raise a powerful voice. All of these voices must be involved in decision making about wolves. These socio-economic, ethical and political components exemplify the multifaceted and challenging nature of conserving wolves in human-dominated systems.

Managing or conserving wolves on the landscape requires much more than simply ensuring that adequate prey exists or that scientific investigations of wolves are done. How does one reconcile all of these competing interests and beliefs about the way wolves should be managed, protected and conserved across the globe? The broader community of people that hold various values toward wolves, and their ability to work together and solve the complex issues often surrounding wolves are important to ensuring that wolves and wolf habitat are maintained in perpetuity throughout the northern hemisphere.

Open dialogue is one tool to facilitate a greater understanding among parties with differing viewpoints, thereby reducing misconceptions that often occur through lack of knowledge. Both consumptive and nonconsumptive users of wolves have a common fundamental interest that benefits all: a healthy environment. This common interest is an excellent starting point for dialogue.

Meeting regularly to have open and honest dialogue enhances information sharing and understanding among stakeholders, thus reducing polarization. The recent conference *(World Wolf Congress 2003;* www.worldwolfcongress.ca) hosted by the Central Rockies Wolf Project, in Banff, Canada, is one example of an effort to bridge the gap among stakeholders and to facilitate discussion of divergent viewpoints. This type of event brings together a diverse group of individuals and organizations and stimulates discussion and debate. Constructive discussion facilitates understanding and fosters respect and tolerance among people.

The World Wolf Congress 2003, *hosted by the Central Rockies Wolf Project, in Banff, Canada, is one example of an effort to facilitate discussion of divergent viewpoints.*

Dialogue is an important tool in the work to ensure that wolves continue to howl in the wilderness, and that humans gain more tolerance for one another and, ultimately, for wolves. ■

Steve Wadlow is the Education Director for the Central Rockies Wolf Project, based in Canmore, Alberta, Canada. He can be reached at steve@graywolf.ca.