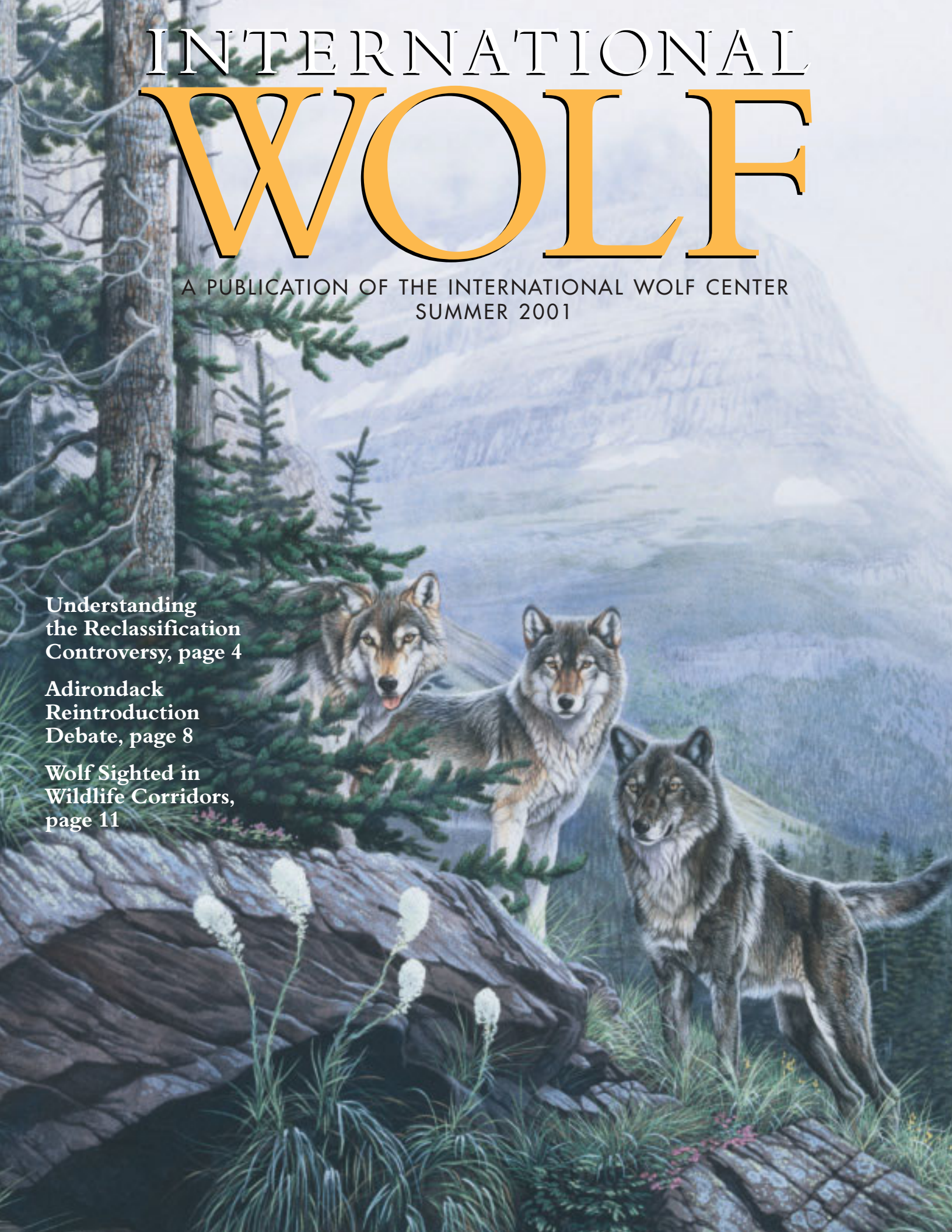
INTERNATIONAL WOLF

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
SUMMER 2001



INTERNATIONAL
WOLF
THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
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Features


Sharon Haller


Lynn and Donna Rogers

Departments

On The Cover

"Wisp of Time" is an Al Agnew watercolor. Agnew, who is a native of the Missouri Ozarks, is an ardent supporter of the environment and has raised over one million dollars to date as the Official Artist for the National Park Service Wolf Recovery Project.

International Wolf Center

International Wolf Center

INTERNATIONAL
WOLF

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International Wolf welcomes submissions of personal adventures with wolves and wolf photographs (especially black and white). Prior to submission of other types of manuscripts, address queries to Mary Ortiz, publications director.

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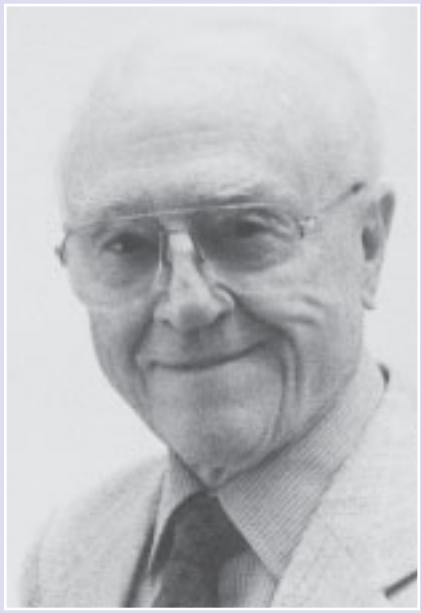
As A Matter Of Fact



Who started the Isle Royale wolf study?

The late Dr. Durward L. Allen of Purdue University initiated the project. His first graduate student there was Dave Mech. Mech was followed by Phil Shelton, Peter Jordan, Michael Wolfe, and Rolf Peterson. Peterson has conducted the study since Allen retired in the early 1970's. ■

New Question

Is aerial hunting of wolves legal in Alaska?

From the Executive Director

Evidence of wolf recovery in Oregon increased with the recent confirmation of a wolf shot late last year in the eastern part of the state, the third wolf recently found there. Biologists speculate that a travel corridor from central Idaho allowed the wolves to disperse to Oregon. Lloyd Dorsey's timely article in this issue speaks to the importance of these wildlife corridors.

On the opposite coast, the feasibility of wolf restoration in the Adirondack region of upstate New York is a subject with differing views from prominent wolf researchers. These views only hint at the depth of feelings of Adirondack Park residents. Jay Hutchinson's review of the feasibility study provides a glimpse into some of the conflicts.

Walter Medwid

Read about the fascinating sorting out of rank within our own newly expanded wolf pack.

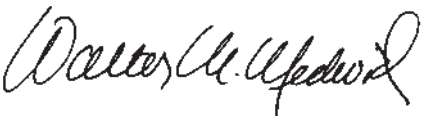
Shades of Isle Royale are evident in Neil Hutt's story about wolves on Wrangel Island, off the north-eastern coast of Russia. As plans developed for reintroduction on this remote Russian island, the wolves pulled a fast one on researchers (you'll have to read on to find out how!). On a note closer to home, read about the fascinating sorting out of rank within our own newly expanded wolf pack as our arctic pups approach their first birthday.

Steve Grooms' article on the national reclassification of wolves captures the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal and the different organizational perspectives on the issue. Perhaps the one significant unknown is the stance that a new administration will take on this issue, on wolf issues in general, and environmental matters as a whole.

A PACK MEMBER DISPERSES As you might imagine, the various operations that go into running an organization like the Wolf Center involve a host of pack members each filling a distinctive niche. Regrettably, a loyal member of the Ely-based pack is about to disperse, but fortunately not very far.

Since 1996, Tim Cook has served as site administrator of our flagship interpretive center in northern Minnesota. Coming to the Wolf Center from a nature center directorship, Tim became immersed in a host of building projects, two symposia, educational program expansions, three grant programs, working with media from around the world, the management of a resident pack of wolves, and the careful monitoring of budgets that have increased substantially during his tenure. He now becomes pastor of a local church and in so doing, follows a calling similar to the one that brought him to the nature center world years ago.

Tim has helped to grow the Center's programs, its infrastructure, its relationship to the community, and its visitor services. We thank him for his dedicated service and wish him and his growing family well as he turns his talents from managing the Ely pack to shepherding a new flock. ■



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Understanding the

Ross Johnson

The proposal begins the process of returning wolf management to the control of state and tribal

by STEVE GROOMS

Reclassification Controversy

In July of 2000, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced a proposal to reclassify and delist gray wolves in much of the United States. The proposal is comprehensive, complicated and controversial. Its fate will have major impacts on wolf management.

How significant is this development? From a historical perspective, reclassification represents the third great milepost in gray wolf restoration.

The first was the decision to protect gray wolves as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. That decision reversed centuries of persecution and began a concerted effort to restore gray wolf populations in some of the lower 48 states. Wolf management passed from states to the federal government, and wolves gained full protection as members of an endangered species.

The second milepost was the decision to reintroduce wolves to the northern Rockies, specifically, wolves trapped in Canada and released into Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho, and to introduce captive-bred Mexican wolves into a recovery area in the Southwest. These reintroductions took place in 1995, 1996 and 1998 under a special provision of the ESA that allowed for more management flexibility (meaning some wolves could be killed or moved if they proved troublesome).

The third milepost — the current proposed reclassification — is essentially a declaration by the FWS that wolf restoration has succeeded well enough in the western Great Lakes and northern Rockies to allow wolves to be reclassified, going from the extremely protective status of endangered to the less protective threatened status (joining Minnesota wolves, already classified as threatened). The change grants managers increased flexibility to fine-tune management by region rather than adhering to a single national policy. The proposal begins the process of returning wolf management to the control of state and tribal governments.

governments.

Other provisions of the reclassification proposal include the following:

- Wolves in northeastern states would be classified as threatened, although there are no documented wolf populations in the Northeast. The intent of that provision is to favor wolf restoration in this region by granting managers additional management flexibility.
- Wolves in the Southwest, where restoration is proceeding slowly, would continue to be classified as endangered.
- Wolves in the Northwest that are outside Yellowstone and central Idaho recovery areas would lose full endangered status and could be subjected to lethal management. This provision has implications for wolves dispersing out of Yellowstone, Idaho and Canada into such states as Washington, Oregon or Colorado.
- Wolf restoration would continue in three geographic areas and could be initiated in the Northeast, but ESA protection would be removed for wolves in all or portions of 30 states where FWS managers believe there is no realistic prospect for wolf restoration.
- Gray wolves would be divided into four Distinct Population Segments (DPS) to permit managers to fine-tune programs according to regional realities, rather than trying to apply a single program to the species in different regions.

Kim Mitchell

An informational meeting was held at the Northern Great Lakes Center in Ashland, Wisconsin on August 17, 2000 to discuss wolf reclassification. In attendance were (from left to right): Tom Doolittle, biologist, Bad River Band; Ron Refsnider, biologist, USFWS; Peter David, biologist, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission; Erv Soulier, Manager, Bad River DNR; and John Leonard, Region 3 Native American Liaison, USFWS.

Critics and Proponents

Like most wolf management initiatives, this proposal has drawn critics. Like so many wolf controversies, it is almost surely headed for the court system. Several groups have declared their intention to fight the FWS proposal in court. Accordingly, probably no major change in the status of gray wolves will happen soon.

Who favors the proposal? State wildlife agencies generally want to manage wolves in their own territories, so they favor the proposed change because it moves in that direction. Livestock producers aren't enthusiastic about the proposal, because it offers less freedom for them to control depredating wolves than they would prefer, yet most of them regard it as a step in the right direction.

Who opposes this proposal? In public meetings on the proposal, virtually all opposition came from environmental and wolf advocacy groups. These groups have been pleased with the progress made on wolf restoration under ESA protection and federal management. They fear and disapprove of the proposed changes for several reasons.

In public hearings, wolf advocates made it clear that they want more wolves in more places under the greatest protection the ESA can offer. Some wolf advocates believe state fish and game agencies in the West cannot be trusted to manage wolves, because they are vulnerable to pressures from hunters and livestock producers.

While critics of the reclassification proposal have many arguments, their legal challenge will concentrate on ways they believe this reclassification measure would fall short of meeting the ESA's requirements.

Critics feel this reclassification action is premature, because of the following beliefs:

- Much suitable wolf habitat is still available and might not ever become occupied if wolves are reclassified as proposed.
- The FWS redefined its population goals in the northern Rockies two years ago in ways that critics think are insufficiently ambitious and possibly not legal.
- The decision to reclassify wolves at this time probably means wolves are less likely to be reintroduced into the Northeast, the Olympic Peninsula of Washington, and other areas where wolf advocates hope to see them established.
- Wolf numbers may not yet be high enough to provide the margin of safety needed to create a resilient and fully restored population in an optimum number of areas.
- Some state wildlife management agencies remain so hostile to wolves that decades of restoration might be threatened by returning wolf management to them.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Perspectives

FWS managers did not make their proposal casually. They expected opposition and a possible court challenge, so they have scientific and legal support for the changes they propose.

The basic position of the FWS is that its goals with respect to gray wolf restoration can be achieved by establishing three or four populations across the species' historical range in the United States. The success of restoration in two of those areas

International Wolf Center

(Western Great Lakes and Upper Rockies) is sufficient to both allow and oblige the FWS to consider reclassifying gray wolves.

In addition, FWS managers defend the reclassification proposal with the following points:

- The goal of the ESA is to prevent the extinction of individual species, not to restore biological communities or restore a species to all of its remaining suitable habitat. The ESA is not a national biodiversity act, even if it can promote that or other desirable conservation outcomes. The goals of recovery plans are intentionally designed to accomplish narrow, specific outcomes.
- The reason for putting a species on the ESA list is to restore its health so it can be taken off the list again; the status is not meant to offer permanent federal protection.
- The ESA requires FWS managers to base classifications on scientific fact; when a species is no longer endangered or threatened, its listing should reflect its true status.
- The ESA allows the FWS to "fine-tune" status designations according to regional groupings. The intention is to encourage management flexibility that accurately reflects the health of a species that might be more threatened in one region than in another.

The ESA also requires federal managers to return species management to the state or tribal agencies that would normally manage them when their status no longer requires the intensive federal management protocols of the ESA.

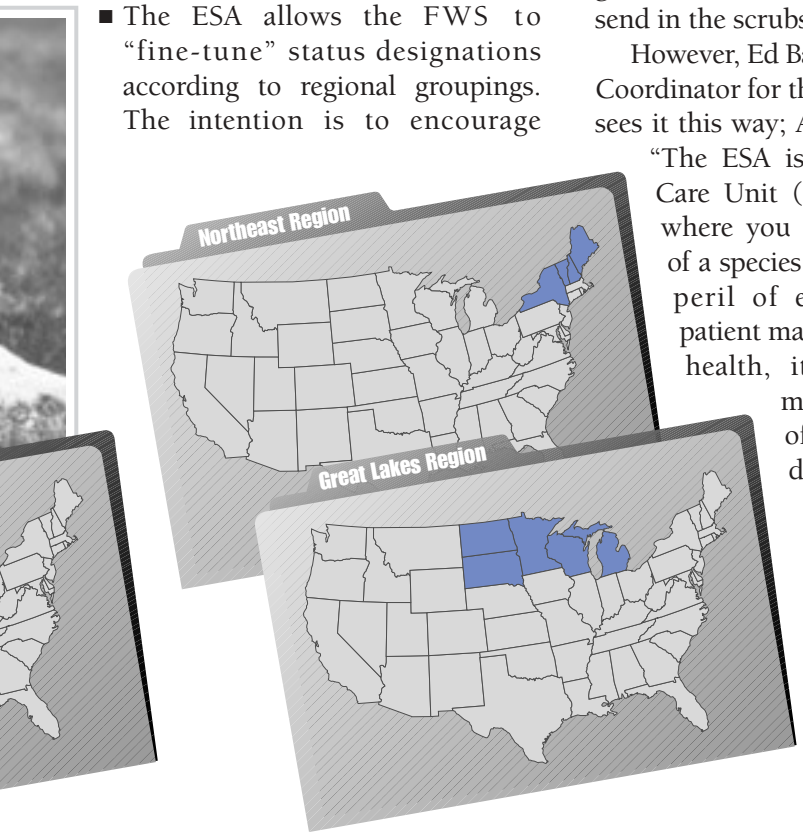
The football game and the ICU

A critic of the proposal compared wolf restoration to a football game in which FWS plays a good game for two quarters so that the home team enjoys a good lead but, with two quarters left to go, wants to declare a victory and send in the scrubs to finish the game.

However, Ed Bangs, Wolf Recovery Coordinator for the Northwestern US sees it this way; According to Bangs, "The ESA is like the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a hospital where you try to save the life of a species that is in imminent peril of extinction. If the patient makes progress toward health, it makes sense to move the patient out of ICU so you can devote your resources to all the other species that deserve and need that kind of urgent care."

Federal managers think the time has come to recognize the great progress that has been made. Critics believe too much remains to be done to say that the conditions of the ESA have been met sufficiently to allow this reclassification. In the months to come, political and legal contests will define more precisely what the FWS must do to satisfy the requirements of the ESA with respect to gray wolf restoration. ■

Steve Grooms has been writing about wolf management since 1976. He is the author of a book, The Return of the Wolf, *and an International Wolf Center educational pamphlet on reclassifying and declassifying issues in Minnesota, "The Gray Wolf In Minnesota: Where Do We Stand?"*



The maps at left represent the four proposed distinct population segments for wolf reclassification.

www. more information on the web

This article provides a broad outline of the reclassification controversy. It is not possible here to summarize all the complications and nuances of biological and legal positions on this issue. Additional information can be found on the Internet Web sites listed below:

- For FWS perspective on wolf reclassification, see: "Questions and Answers About the Proposal to Reclassify/Delist the Gray Wolf," at: http://Midwest.fws.gov/wolf.
- For a critique of these issues, see the Defenders of Wildlife Web site, at: http://www.defenders.org. Go to the "Wildlife Near You" and their "Wildlife At Risk" areas once you get to the site.
- For a slightly different perspective from the National Wildlife Federation, see: http://www.nwf.org.
- For an informational pamphlet by the International Wolf Center, "The Gray Wolf in Minnesota, Where Do We Stand?", see: http://www.wolf.org/learn/iwmag/1999/infobook/infobook.shtml.

Ross Johnson

Gray Wolf Reintroduction in Adirondack Park?

Experts Disagree on Feasibility Study's Findings

by JAY HUTCHINSON

Mech Challenges Study's Pessimistic Outlook

Reacting to the feasibility study, Dave Mech of the Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, disagreed with some of the study's key conclusions. Mech was raised near the Adirondacks and worked there for four summers.

"I certainly agree there are enough prey in the Adirondacks to support wolves," stated Mech. "And there are sufficient high quality wilderness areas there for wolves. What I disagree with is the contention that wolves cannot persist for 100 years in the Adirondacks and the implication, then, of 'why bother?'"

J. Henry Fair

Mech explained, "Even 50 years would be a long time to have so interesting an animal as the wolf around." He pointed out that a totally inbred population of wolves has persisted on Isle Royale's 210 square miles for 50 years and is still going strong, proving how adaptable and resilient even small, highly inbred wolf populations can be. "In addition, if inbreeding were to become a problem in Adirondack wolves, that is easily solved," he said. "An artificial infusion of two or three wolves from Canada every 5-10 years should suffice to overcome it."

"All in all, I am not convinced that the issues raised in the feasibility study warrant a pessimistic outlook for wolf restoration to the Adirondacks," he said. He said he does agree that the true identity of wolves that formerly inhabited the area must be determined first. "And, as I have cautioned many times, New York State must be prepared to control the surplus wolves that are sure to disperse from the Adirondacks," said Mech.

Dave Mech is a Senior Research Scientist for the Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, and a board member of the International Wolf Center.

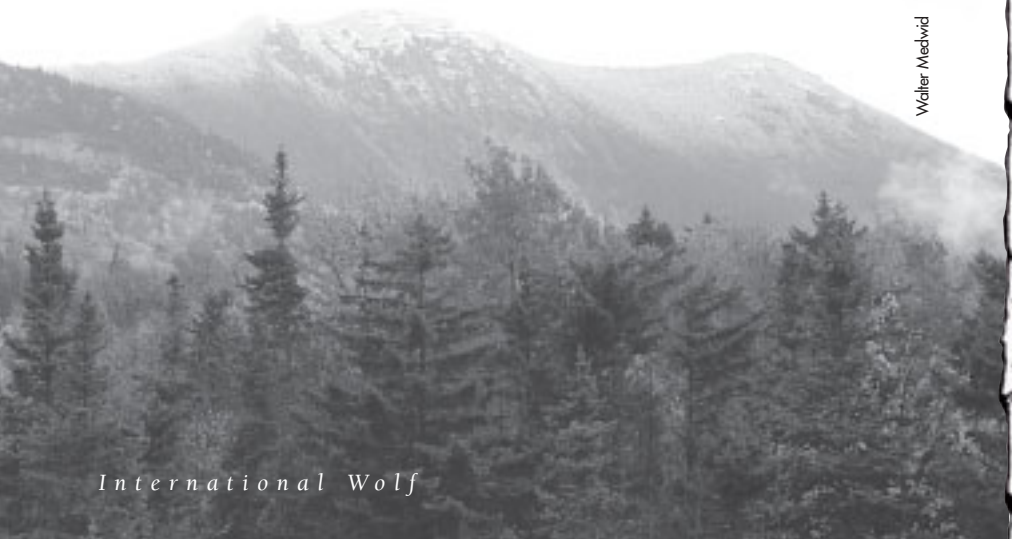
The following article is a summary of a report, "Gray Wolf Reintroduction Feasibility in Adirondack Park" prepared by consultants Paul C. Paquet, James R. Strittholt, and Nancy L. Staus of the Conservation Biology Institute for the Adirondack Citizens Advisory Committee on the feasibility of wolf reintroduction. A reaction to the report by wolf experts at the International Wolf Center's Beyond 2000 Symposium last February is also included.

With the successful reintroduction of wolves in parts of the U.S., interest has increased among wolf advocates in the possibility of returning the wolf to the Adirondack Park in northern New York State. The last wolf in the Adirondacks was killed in 1893.

At six million acres, the Adirondacks constitute the largest "park" in the contiguous United States; however only 42 percent (2.6 million acres) is publicly owned by the state and protected by the state constitution as "forest preserve" and "forever wild". The rest is privately owned, devoted mainly to forestry, open-space recreation, and agriculture.

In October of 1999, the Conservation Biology Institute conducted a study to assess the potential of Adirondack Park to support reintroduced gray wolves. Their method was to use earlier published data to create models with current physical, biological, and cultural data in a mapping system (called a Geographic Information System) to identify geographic areas with a high biological capacity to support wolves, probable wolf travel routes, areas with few people, and areas where people might conflict with wolves. A number of areas where wolves would be exposed to humans were also mapped.

The main conclusion of the study is that while Adirondack Park has sufficient habitat to support a small population of



Walter Medwid

Paquet Reaffirms his Conclusion: Adirondacks Cannot Sustain Wolves

Paul Paquet commented that from an ecological perspective, wolves have persisted on Isle Royale for only a very short time. "Given the perils of small populations, the probability of these wolves surviving into the next century is very low," he said. "Moreover, we doubt seriously this small population of wolves would have endured in the presence of the lethal human activities that occur in the Adirondacks."

J. Henry Fair

Paquet said that in human dominated landscapes, roads, hunting, off-road vehicles, industrial forestry, urban development and disease all contribute to the death of wolves. "Lacking a reliable supply of new wolves, small and isolated populations cannot sustain the combined mortalities that result. As noted in the Adirondack report, we believe the goal of any wolf reintroduction is to establish wolves permanently without depending on artificial augmentation of the population," he said.

Dr. Paul Paquet is the Senior Ecologist with Conservation Science, Inc. He is an internationally recognized authority on mammalian carnivores, especially wolves, with research experience in several regions of the world.

Left: Adirondack Park includes six million acres of land where there are enough deer, moose, and beaver to sustain a wolf population, according to a study by Paul Paquet and colleagues.

wolves for perhaps 50 years, it could not support one for 100. Surprisingly, the study also suggests that it might even be inappropriate to introduce gray wolves, based on a recent separate genetic study.

According to the genetic study, the last Adirondack wolf killed in 1893 may have been similar to the smaller eastern wolf now inhabiting southeastern Canada. If the gray wolf was never present or existed in low numbers, the report concludes, it would be inappropriate to introduce gray wolves. Instead, the recommendation would be to reintroduce the eastern Canadian wolf based on the present knowledge of the genetic data, if wolves are to be reintroduced at all.

Some of the report's major findings include the following:

– There are enough deer, moose, and beaver as prey to sustain wolves in the park.

– Remote areas and other high quality habitats in the park are adequate to maintain a small population of wolves.

– Adirondack Park is highly fragmented, so wolves might not be able to gain access to some secure habitats, because of human activities and developments.

– Corridors connecting high quality habitats within the Adirondacks are secure enough that wolf packs can move about freely; however, the tenuous linkages to areas outside the Adirondacks and the great distance wolves would have to travel to reach other gray wolf populations cannot maintain wolves over long periods.

– The densities of paved roads and railways within potential wolf range are within acceptable limits.

– Denning areas are adequate and could be protected by restricted entry zones.

– If gray wolves are reintroduced, the initial population will need to be augmented annually to help offset annual mortality rates, which could exceed 30 percent.

– Higher human and road densities outside Adirondack Park threaten wider geographical distribution and the sustainability of wolf populations.

– Present highway speed limits could adversely affect introduced wolves during reestablishment. ■

Jay Hutchinson is retired from the North Central Forest Experiment Station of the U.S. Forest Service. He is interested in natural history subjects and has written past articles for International Wolf *magazine.*

Some people question whether the gray wolf ever existed in the Adirondacks or whether the wolf that did was really a newly proposed species, the eastern wolf.

Dwight Andrews

Let us know what YOU think!

Please send comments and/or letters to International Wolf Center,
c/o Magazine Coordinator, 3300 Bass Lake Road, #202, Minneapolis, MN 55429
or email magcoord@wolf.org.

William Rideg,
Kishenehn Wildlife Works

Preserving Corridors for all Species

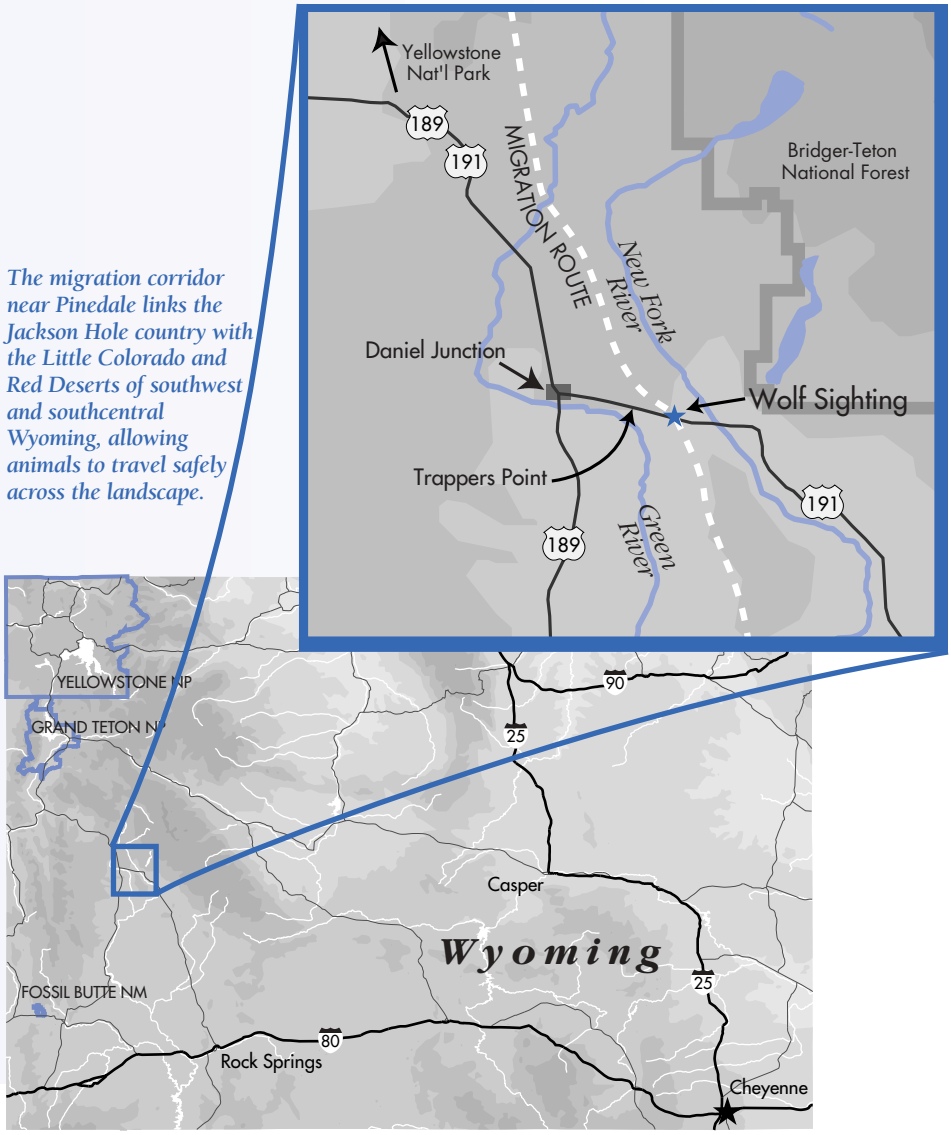
by LLOYD DORSEY

A version of the following article appeared in the fall, 2000 "Legacy Council Update" newsletter of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation.

Wildlife migration corridors are critical to the health of an ecosystem, and when humans allow wildlife to move across the landscape as nature intended, it can bring exciting results. This concept was brought home to me recently as I drove on state highways across Wyoming, from Jackson Hole to Laramie. Leaving in the early hours of darkness from my home near Jackson, I knew enough to be careful driving because of deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope moving from their high country summer and fall ranges to their ancestral wintering grounds in the lower basins.

In the past two years, the Wyoming Wildlife Federation has developed a program, Restoring Wild Patterns, designed specifically around the protection of the migratory behavior of wildlife. The program facilitates a variety of activities to protect wildlife corridors, from advocating and lobbying efforts to research. These include compiling databases to identify fences that need to be removed or modified to expedite wildlife movements, creating land easements, and constructing functional wildlife crossings.

As one of the federation's field office representatives, in the early morning hours, I stopped my car alongside the highway at "Trappers Point" just west of the small town of Pinedale and near the junction of a county crossroads. I intended to check the fresh snow for tracks of mule deer and pronghorn to see if they were using the underpass built



The migration corridor near Pinedale links the Jackson Hole country with the Little Colorado and Red Deserts of southwest and southcentral Wyoming, allowing animals to travel safely across the landscape.

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation has developed a program, Restoring Wild Patterns, designed specifically around the protection of the migratory behavior of wildlife

by the Department of Transportation (DOT) below the roadway to bypass the fences and pavement.

I walked behind my car and peered over the guardrail, but only tracks of coyotes and rabbits could be seen in the snow at the bottom of the underpass. There were, however, cloven-hoofed tracks evident in the snow crossing the highway before and after the underpass. It would seem that the DOT's idea of helping the deer and pronghorn get safely across a well-traveled road hadn't been effective here.

This area, a natural geographic bottleneck sandwiched between the Green and New Fork Rivers, is a renowned migration route for pronghorn and mule deer. According to archaeological evidence, it has been so for nearly 6,000 years. Unfortunately, besides the obvious peril to critters from vehicle collisions, this narrow bottleneck is being threatened by residential development along the highway, constricting it even further.

This area is a critical spot in the federation's program to protect migration routes, and along with several other interested groups, we are currently exploring various protection measures. This geographic corridor is one of the last few intact threads that enable wildlife to get from the Upper Green, Hoback, and Gros Ventre River drainages down to the windswept winter ranges in the sage covered Green River Basin.

After checking for the tracks, I got back in my car and drove slowly east almost a mile toward Pinedale, when a movement caught my eye. Off to my right on a sagebrush hill (known locally as The Mesa), I thought I saw the shape of a sizable dark animal loping down the slope for maybe 150 yards. It seemed possible it might intersect me as I cruised along. I slowed my car, watching in disbelief, and about 60 yards ahead of me, a charcoal colored wolf crossed the highway. The wolf had come off the hill and through the barbed wire fence, and then slowed as it encountered the pavement.

I stopped my car right in the traffic lane, barely able to imagine what I was seeing. After all, this was nearly 80 miles from Jackson Hole, and well over a hundred from Yellowstone Park. The wolf slowed to a walk and looked deliberately in my

Lynn and Donna Rogers

Paw prints are evidence that animals such as coyotes, rabbits, deer and wolves roam the corridors.

direction, then sped up, easily sliding under the wire fence on the other side of the road. It continued, bounding over the sagebrush, snow flying from its paws, disappearing over a rise maybe 20 yards beyond the fence.

What had I just witnessed? I was stunned as I sat in my little car, engine still running, no other traffic coming either way. Was it actually a wild wolf running the same migration corridor used for centuries by prey species? That this small spot on a map, discussed as a "wildlife corridor" many times in countless meetings, had just catapulted in ecological significance, was an understatement.

I grabbed my binoculars, quickly parked my vehicle, hopped out and ran across the road, and ducked through the same fence crossed seconds earlier by the wolf. I marvel now at the apparent ease with which I negotiated tightly strung barbed wire.

I ran the short distance to the top of the rise, expecting at best to see the wolf running far away. Instead, when I topped the rise, the wolf stood about 25-30 yards below, looking right at me. Our eyes locked for several heartbeats. It was a healthy, wonderfully wild looking animal, maybe a hundred pounds; sleek, nearly black to a dark gray on its face and belly. After several seconds (and winning the intimidation contest) the wolf turned and ran through the fresh snow north. It slowed down after maybe a hundred or so yards, glanced back a couple times to see what I was up to, and then began to steadily lope off with that tireless long-legged, ground-eating gait of a wolf.

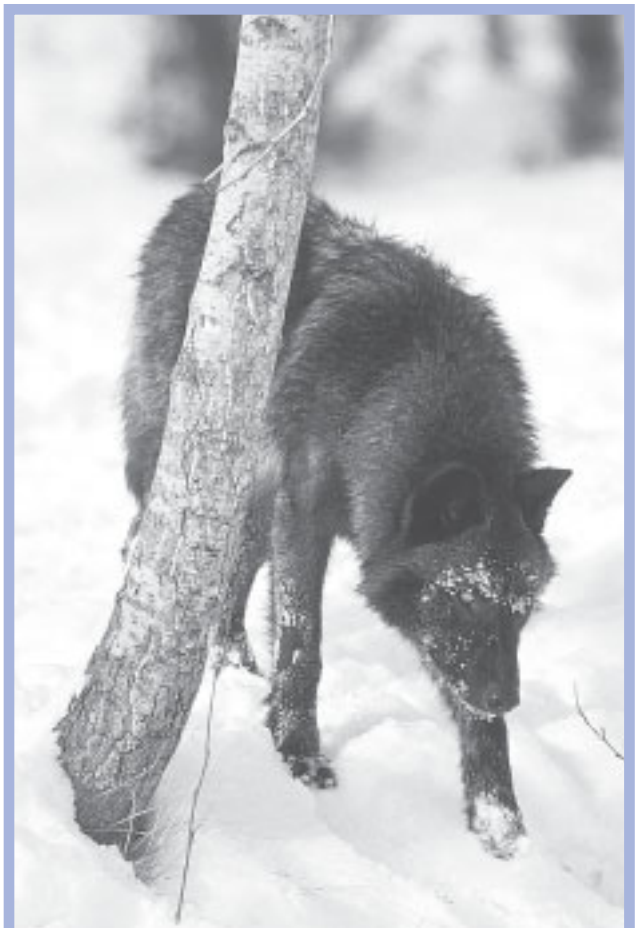
I watched the wolf for a couple of minutes through my binoculars, then made it back to my car and continued my drive, feeling remarkably lucky. If I had not stopped to check tracks at the underpass, I'd have missed the wolf for sure! It also proved that our Restoring Wild Patterns program does protect animals (including large predators) that use the same migration corridors their ancestors used, but only if the corridors are protected.

Later, I called a friend in the Game and Fish Department, and he confirmed that in the past few weeks, a dark wolf had been seen not too far away near the community of Cora.

There is still a vast expanse of publicly owned land in the lower portion of the Green River basin where the pronghorn and mule deer survive the harsh winter. The migration corridor near Pinedale links the Jackson Hole country with the Little Colorado and Red Deserts of the southwest and southcentral Wyoming. Its protection is crucial.

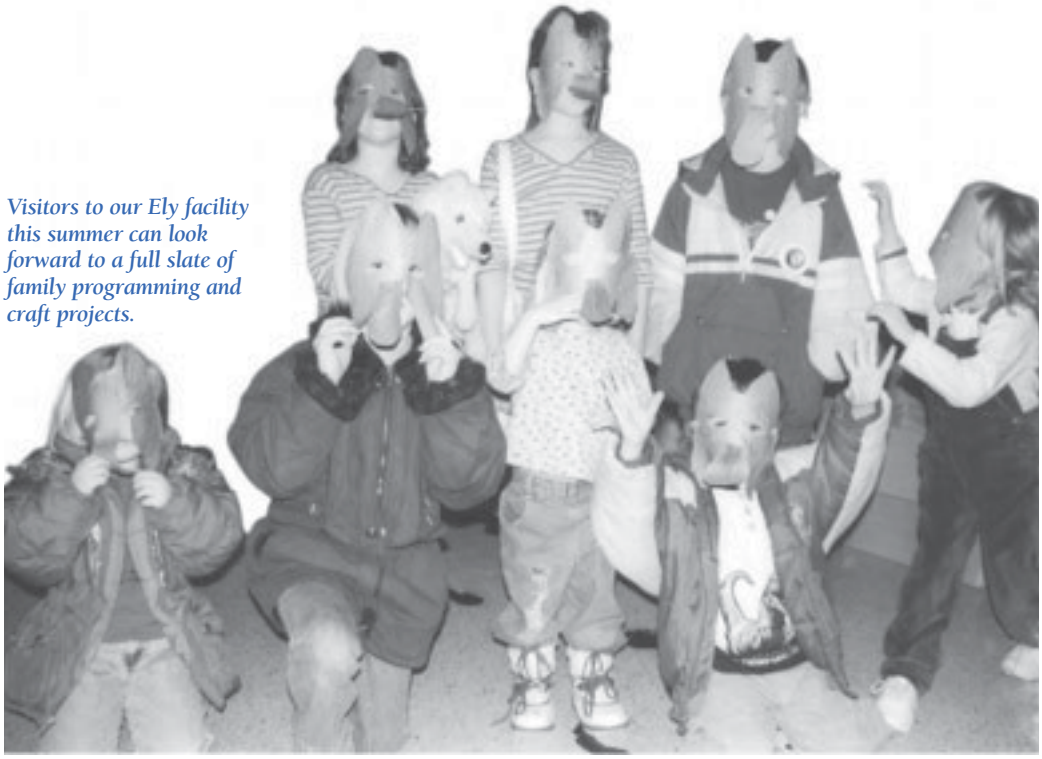
Some of the basin is being drilled and mined to satisfy our insatiable demand for energy, and much of it is grazed by domestic livestock. The Wyoming Wildlife Federation will work to ensure that even though these lands are used for multiple purposes, some of those uses must accommodate the native species of wildlife we all enjoy, including the ones that can stare a hole right through you. ■

Lloyd Dorsey is a field office representative in Jackson Hole for the Wyoming Wildlife Federation. He has lived in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem for 25 years and is an avid hunter and backpacker.



William Rideg, Kishenehn Wildlife Works

Wolves use the same migration corridors traveled for centuries by prey species such as deer, elk and pronghorn antelope.



International Wolf Center

Visitors to our Ely facility this summer can look forward to a full slate of family programming and craft projects.

Interactive Exhibit Opens This Summer

By Memorial Day, 2001, visitors to the International Wolf Center in Ely, MN will be enjoying a new interactive exhibit that will be especially appealing for children ages 3–9. Created in collaboration between International Wolf Center staff and the Science Museum of Minnesota, the exhibit leads visitors on a journey through the seasons, with a wolf pup moving through its first year of life.

The journey begins in spring with a visit to a wolf den that children can crawl into, moves on to a summer rendezvous site, and then to the hunt in fall and winter. Along the way, visitors will be able to take part in activities that enhance their learning, such as the wolf body posture wall at the rendezvous site. Here, visitors will be able to see themselves in large mirrors as they mimic the body positions of wolves portrayed on a mural behind them. Other hands-on activities include a shadow puppet wall, where the hunt can be acted out, and a weigh station, where visitors can compare the weight of a wolf's meal to the volume they would have to eat if they were a wolf.

According to Information and Education Director Andrea Lorek Strauss, this exhibit opens up new volunteer opportunities at the Center. "We will be encouraging volunteers to act as docents for this new exhibit. Docents will help engage visitors in the exhibit's interactive elements and lead activities in the new exhibit area." Interested people are encouraged to contact the International Wolf Center in Ely at 218-365-4695, ext. 33 to learn more about this opportunity.

The new exhibit, which is included in the admission, is a valuable addition to the International Wolf Center and brings yet another element of education and fun to the experience of a visit.

Live Wolves Visit the Science Museum of Minnesota

As part of our educational outreach, the International Wolf Center presented several live wolf programs at the Science Museum of Minnesota in Saint Paul, MN last year and this year. At these programs, people saw live arctic wolves as educators Nancy Gibson and Amy Kay Kerber discussed wolf biology and behavior.

Audience members, many of whom were children experiencing wolves for the first time, asked many questions that were addressed, including, "What do wolves eat?", and "What will happen to wolves if they're removed from the endangered species list?"

The Center will continue reaching out to the public in new and varied educational venues.

Keith Doucette

Wolf educator Amy Kay Kerber shares information about arctic wolves with audiences at the Science Museum of Minnesota on November 18, 2000.

International Wolf Center

Funds from the Twin Spruce Foundation go toward food and medical care for the wolves at the International Wolf Center in Ely.

Independent Foundation Supports Wolf Care Program

The International Wolf Center received a generous grant from the Twin Spruce Foundation in the fall of 2000. The proceeds will be used for the care of the wolves at the Center in Ely.

A private citizen and animal lover created the foundation last year. All of the foundation's leaders have been involved in animal care for years, either on an individual basis or through organizations and businesses.

Jody Rosengarten, a director of the foundation, has been active in wolf organizations for many years. The Twin Spruce grant began taking shape after several discussions Rosengarten had with International Wolf Center Associate Director Mary Ortiz and Executive Director Walter Medwid during the organization's Beyond 2000 Symposium in February, 2000. According to Rosengarten, Twin Spruce is "primarily, though not exclusively, interested in funding organizations that work toward enhancing the quality of animal life." They also fund organizations such as the International Wolf Center that work toward educating people about wolves and other animals.

Swedish Center Will Educate Visitors About Carnivores

Planning and preparation for a new carnivore information center (CIC), much like the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minnesota, is underway in Järvsö, Sweden. That's because Mats and Karin Ericson, owners of a nature information business, TAIGA Nature and Photo, agreed to help build the CIC after several visits to Ely inspired them. The Ericsons will collaborate with the World Wildlife Fund, the Hunters Organization, the Nature Conservative Organization, the Samis Organization, and carnivore researchers to create the center.

The proposed center will be located in Järvsö, a small city in northern Sweden, and will be next to one of the country's most popular zoos, Järvzoo. Animals such as wolves, bears, lynxes, and prey species such as musk-oxen and reindeer at the nearby zoo will allow access to the animals studied at the CIC.

Mats, a zoologist and Vice President of the Swedish Carnivore Association, says the most important goal of the proposed carnivore center is to debunk myths by "presenting objective and proper information about large carnivores." This includes informing them of problems that exist between carnivores and domestic animals.

He also wants the CIC to be a place for kids to learn more about the animals. The center will work with schools, presenting slide shows and talks by scientists, nature photographers, and other specialists. The pilot study for the center is finished, and ways to finance the project are being discussed. ■

Karin and Mats Ericson

Mats and Karin Ericson

INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER

Contributors

Donations needed for veterinary care

The International Wolf Center is seeking donations for the medical exams of our ambassador wolf pack, including extensive blood work to analyze physical condition and tests to determine the cause of pigmentation loss on Lucas' nose and a small growth on Mackenzie's lower abdomen. Contributions will go towards the exams and associated on-going medical care.

Please contact our Development Director, George Knotek (763-560-7374) or send your contribution to him at 3300 Bass Lake Road, Mpls., MN 55429.

Contributors giving $25.00 or more will receive a copy of the wolves' medical exams and acknowledgement in a future issue of *International Wolf*.

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Thank You!

Tracking the Pack

A View From the Bottom of Wolf Pack Hierarchy

As scientific research has taught us, wolves maintain pack harmony by their rank order. The order of a pack is usually gender specific (females dominate lower ranking females, males dominate lower ranking males). At the top of the rank order is the alpha male and female (who dominate both sexes), but at the bottom is a position some scientists call the omega or "scapegoat" (dominated by all the pack members). Either a male or female wolf may occupy this position. At the International Wolf Center, the omega is clearly Lakota.

Since the Arctic pups were introduced to the Center's ambassador pack in August 2000, the dynamics of the wolf dominance hierarchy has changed (and it may change again as the pups mature). Shadow and Malik have been taking every opportunity to climb social rank order. Shadow is becoming far more intense in his climb for rank order, and he has become more aggressive in mobbing Lakota. This is natural wolf behavior that may ensure an individual's survival in the wild, but makes wolves in captivity a challenge.

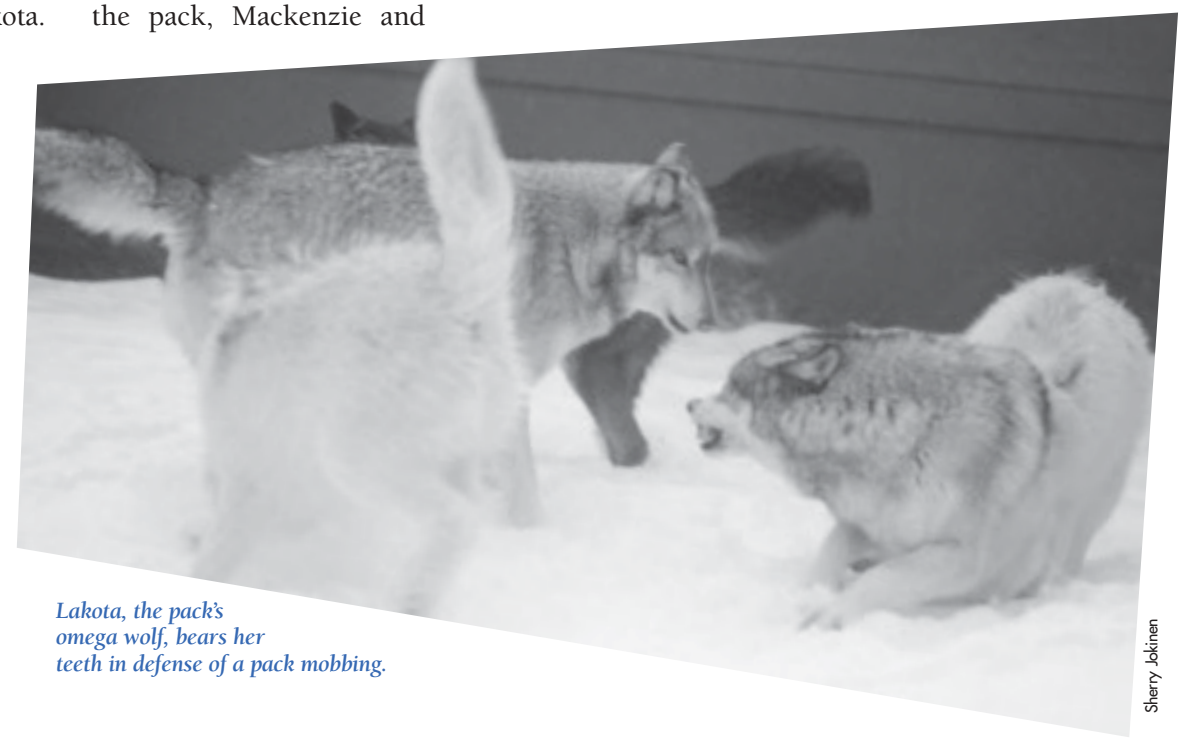
What's life like for the bottom of the rank order? For Lakota, the most noticeable aspect is her restricted movement in the enclosure. Any time she strays from the lower part of the enclosure, she may be driven to the den for refuge. In the early days of the pups' introduction to the pack, Mackenzie and Lucas led the chase on Lakota with the pups following. As the pups matured, Shadow often led the chase with a completely erect tail, indicating his increasing dominance.

Another reality of omega life is that access to food may have to wait until the higher-ranking pack members are finished feeding. Jen Westlund, a wolf care staff member, noted that Shadow began biting Lakota when she approached the carcass he and Malik were eating, and then the other wolves mobbed Lakota. Shadow dragged Lakota by her tail, then Lakota retreated to the den.

Despite her new status, Lakota is doing well. She has been seen paying homage to the alphas and to Shadow by licking their faces. This indicates she feels a part of the social structure.

To Lakota, this is just another view from the bottom of the social rank order. To the Center staff, it is an opportunity to educate visitors about the dynamics of wolf social pack interaction.

If you are interested in following the weekly highlights of the pack dynamics, see the "Notes from the Wolf Log" section on our Web site, at www.wolf.org. ■



Lakota, the pack's omega wolf, bears her teeth in defense of a pack mobbing.

Sherry Jokinen

Wolves of the World

by Neil Hutt

WOLVES ON WRANGEL ISLAND

Discovery Indicates Potential for Wolf Recovery

"Wrangel Island is the Krakatoa of wolf research. Just as researchers had an unprecedented opportunity to observe life returning to Krakatoa after the volcano erupted, so they have a unique opportunity to observe a natural phenomenon here—the return of the wolf to this arctic Eden."

—Paul Schurke, Wintergreen Adventures, Ely, Minnesota

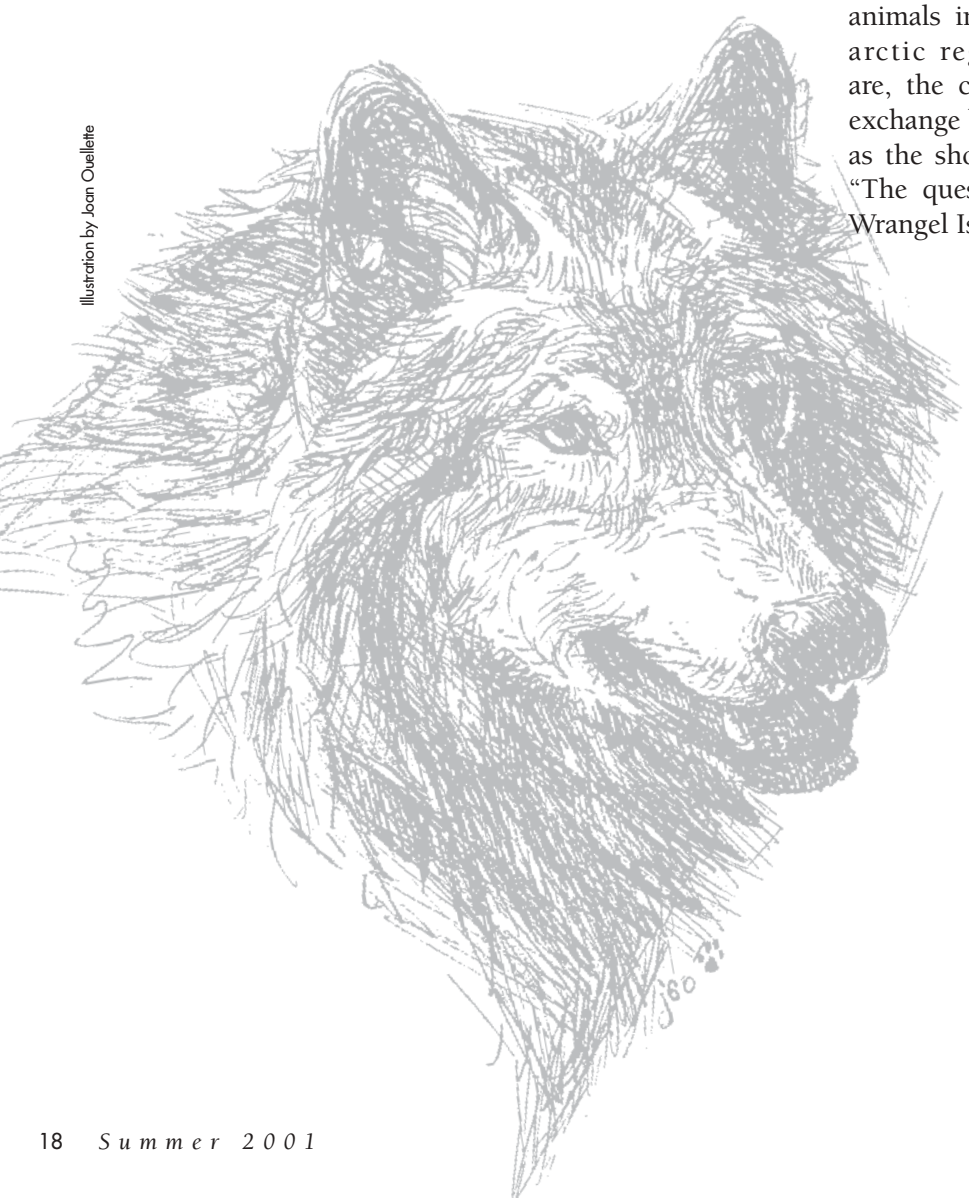


Illustration by Joan Ouellette

Imagine a category called "Remote Destinations" on the television quiz program "Jeopardy". Inside one of the boxes is the answer: "This extraordinary eco-system 100 miles off the north-eastern coast of Siberia contains the highest diversity of plants and animals in the entire high arctic region." Chances are, the contestants would exchange befuddled glances as the show's host intones, "The question is: What is Wrangel Island?"

Wrangel Island State Nature Reserve, established in 1976, includes not only the 1,800 square mile island itself, but also an expanse of sea extending 40 miles from shore. It is the largest arctic marine nature reserve in the world. Russian biologist Nikita Ovsyanikov, polar bear researcher and member of the World Conservation Union's Wolf Specialist Group, has spent more than 20 years conducting research on this remote and strictly protected refuge with its quaint place names– Cape Blossom, Doubtful Spit and Unexpected River. According to Ovsyanikov, when Wrangel Island was discovered and colonized, no large ungulates and no predators lived there except polar bears, which came to hibernate and scout along the beaches in autumn.

The first permanent human settlement on Wrangel Island was established in 1926. Intending to develop the island and to exploit its biological resources, Russia transported a few reindeer by ship from the mainland in 1948. More of these animals were released in 1952. Musk oxen were later introduced in 1975, and under Russia's strict protection laws, both ungulate species have survived. The reindeer herds increased rapidly, and after an initial period during which their survival chances looked doubtful, the musk oxen, too, began to thrive.

Wrangel Island is also home to bearded and ringed

Photos by Paul Schurke

Left: Wrangel Island's extraordinary ecosystem contains the highest diversity of plants and animals in the entire high arctic region.

Below: An expanse of sea extends 40 miles from Wrangel Island's shore.

seals, walruses, gray whales, polar foxes and a myriad of arctic birds—snowy owls, snow geese and sea birds. In winter, the island is a denning site for thousands of female polar bears, and in summer, the beaches become veritable polar bear nurseries.

Throughout the island's history, wolves occasionally crossed the frozen sea from the mainland, but no viable packs settled on Wrangel Island until 1980, when a pair of adults with their pups were discovered along with evidence of regular successful hunts on reindeer. Researchers found no evidence, however, that these wolves were making attempts to kill musk oxen.

In 1981, a pack of eight wolves was living on the island, but the presence of the predators was short-lived. Despite the opposition of Ovsyanikov and other scientists, the wolves were killed in 1982 and 1983 in a misguided attempt by the Russian government to protect the musk oxen. With no predators to reduce the ungulate herds, reindeer and musk oxen populations have now exceeded the carrying capacity of the island, and damage to vegetation is apparent.

Ovsyanikov was prepared to initiate a wolf reintroduction plan in 2000. Then last summer, he made an astounding discovery—the tracks of two wolves. Why they came remains a mystery, but one guess is that they followed an unusually high concentration of polar fox tracks across the ice. Later, a zoologist watched a large wolf on the tundra near a place crossed by a reindeer herd.

Because the size of the tracks indicates a large wolf and a smaller one, Ovsyanikov hopes the two are a breeding pair. If they survive the harsh winter, perhaps a litter of pups will greet the researchers when weather conditions permit

their return. Ovsyanikov remains determinedly optimistic, especially since weather station personnel reported seeing a wolf in mid-winter. "It is a chance," he said in a recent letter, "for the ecosystems of Wrangel Island to recover the natural balance. In the long-term perspective, two populations of large ungulates cannot exist if the third component of their natural evolutionary assemblage – the wolf – is missing."

For several years, Ovsyanikov has been searching for funds to reintroduce wolves to Wrangel Island, since money for Russia's nature reserves has all but disappeared. If the wolves can recolonize the island, Ovsyanikov will be able to direct any funds he obtains to the scientific studies vital to the protection of this pristine arctic refuge. For example, money is needed to support two field researchers on the island all year and for helicopter flights to bring in supplies.

Why support the preservation and protection of a place few people will ever be able to visit? Perhaps the reward is in the knowledge that a place like Wrangel Island exists unspoiled and undisturbed for the bears, the seals and walruses, the great ungulates and the predators. And that includes the wolf.

WOLVES IN NORWAY

Norway Debates Wolf Management

"We don't have any room for wolves."

—Erling Myhre,
Mayor of Rendalen, Norway
(from an article by Walter Gibbs
The New York Times
January 21, 2001)

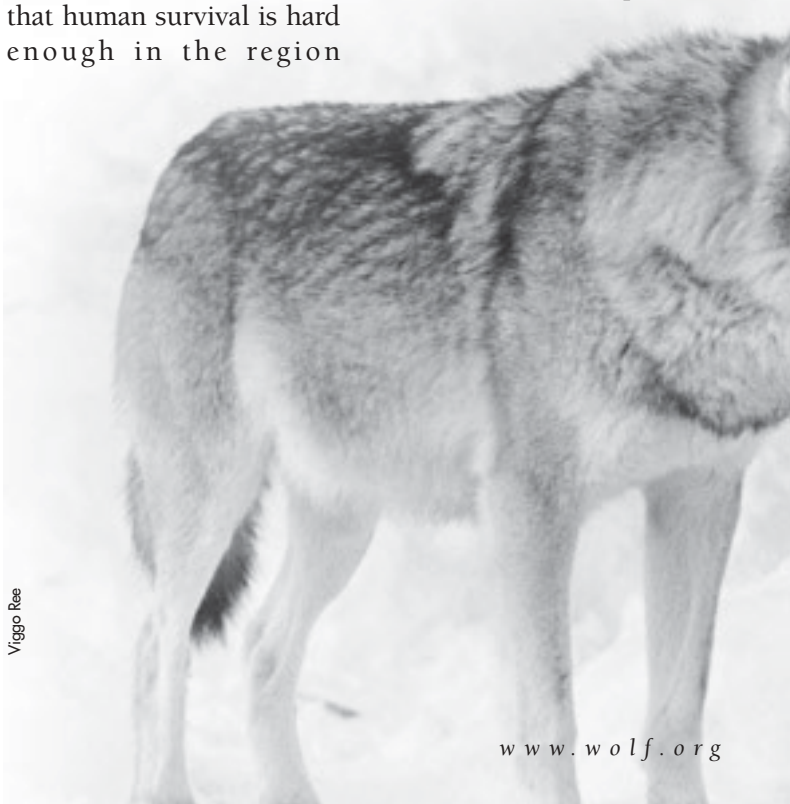
In 1997, nearly a century after aggressive persecution wiped out wolves in eastern Norway, a breeding pair strayed across the border from Sweden into a sparsely populated ranching valley. As the predators have made a comeback, debate between agricultural interests and conservationists has escalated.

Many Norwegians celebrate the wolf's natural recovery. But farmers, whose 2.2 million sheep graze unsupervised in the highlands, are less enthusiastic. They insist that human survival is hard enough in the region without the presence of the fabled predator. "There's really no way to compromise with wolves and sheep," said farmer Karl Sigurd Hole. "They can't exist together."

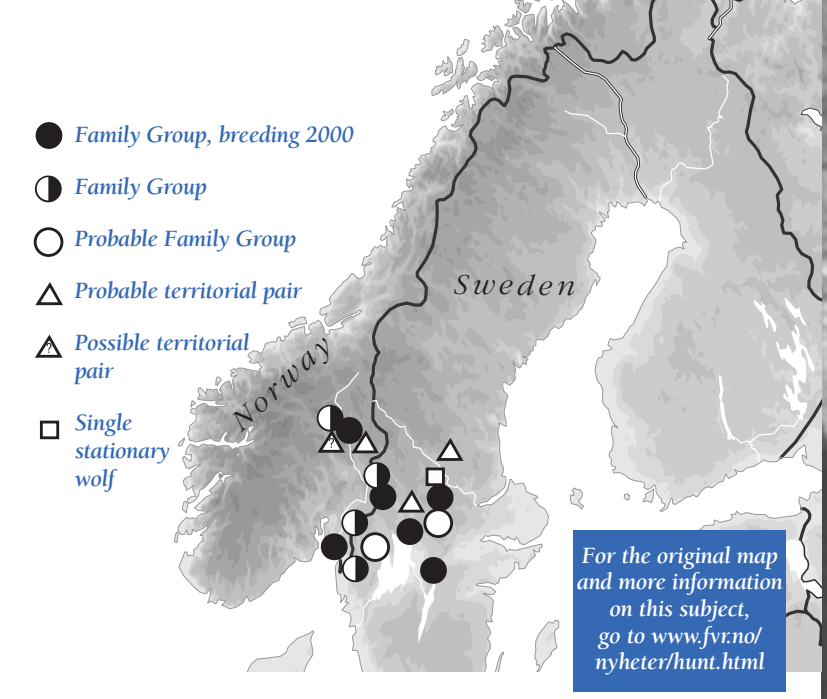
Anne Ulvik, another sheep farmer, agreed. "People are afraid to walk in the woods," she said. "The wolves are not just taking our sheep, they are robbing us of our quality of life."

Ulvik's words are sadly familiar. Biologists estimate that 80-120 wolves in 10 packs live in southern Scandinavia on the border of Sweden and Norway. Conservationists insist this number is too low to ensure the long-term survival of the region's wolves. But farmers and many villagers maintain the number is too high.

Marty Smith, conservation biologist for Defenders of Wildlife, lived for many years in Norway. Smith believes fear and hatred among rural people make it difficult to create cooperative



Viggo Ree



For the original map and more information on this subject, go to www.fvr.no/nyheter/hunt.html

management schemes. "It is quite surprising the depth of the animosity toward predators in many areas of Norway, as well as an exaggerated fear," he said.

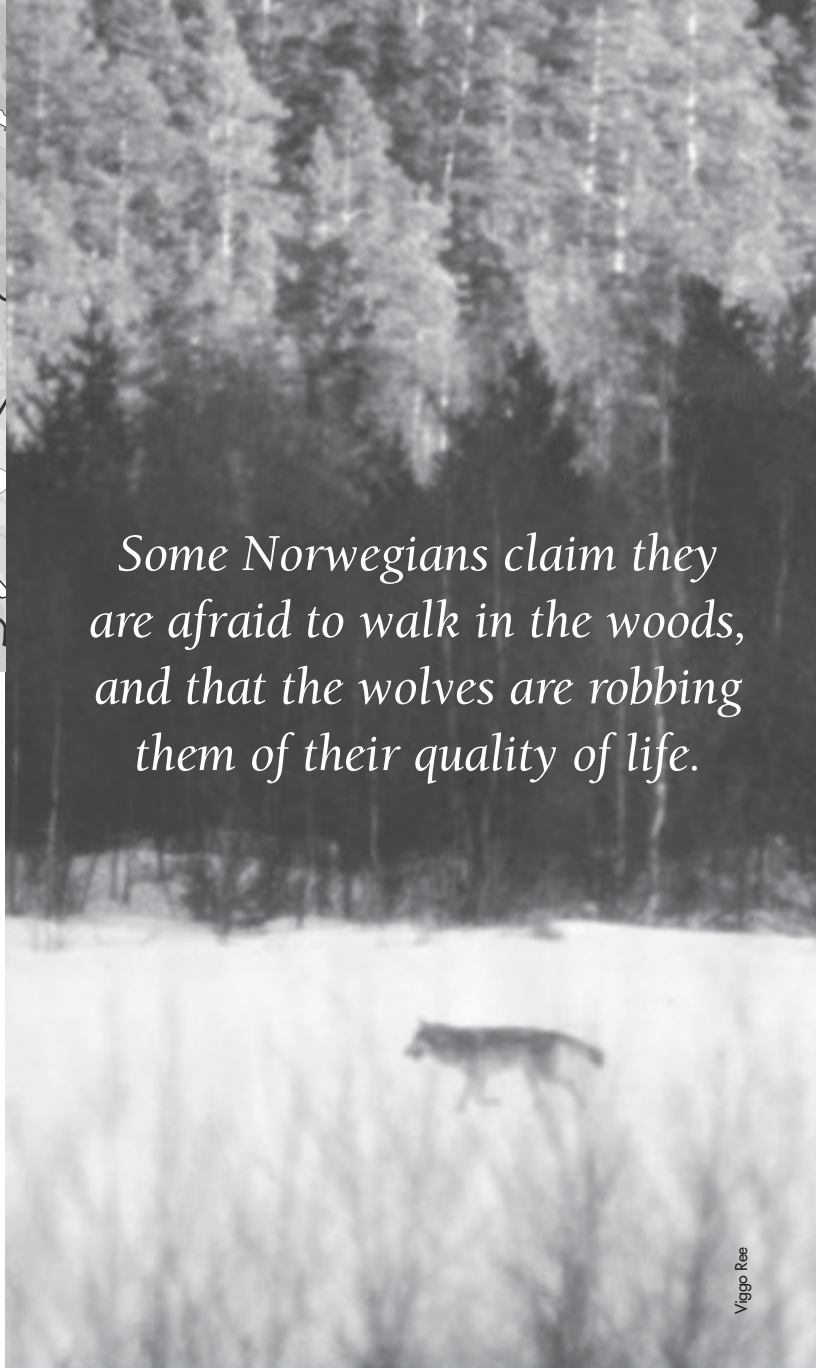
The Norwegian Directorate of Nature (DN), which compensates farmers for loss of sheep and lambs to wolves, authorized the killing of nine wolves in Norway. The hunt, which began on February 10, is scheduled to end in early April. The DN justified the plan by citing its interpretation of a 1998 cooperation agreement between Norway and Sweden. The goal of the bilateral agreement is the establishment of viable populations of large carnivores in southern Scandinavia. Norway claims a prerequisite for a government-sponsored wolf hunt is the verification of nine "family groups" in the region. The agreement defines a "family group" as a breeding pair with one pup; however, said Swedish biologist Anders Bjarvall, the agreement still considers a pack that has lost one of the adults a family group.

By this definition, some Swedish researchers insist only five family groups exist in southern Scandinavia, not 10 as the DN claims. Sweden has, therefore, raised objections to the proposed hunt. Bjarvall pointed out that under the agreement, "permits may be given to kill single wolves that cause serious damage on domestic or semi-domestic animals." Bjarvall noted, however, the agreement also requires that both Norway and Sweden exercise great care "not to interfere with family groups of wolves or with established pairs."

Criticism has also mounted over Norway's idea to define special wolf zones where wolves would have more strict protection than elsewhere, a practice recommended by the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Wolf Specialist Group. The Sweden-Norway agreement states that such zones cannot be formed until family groups of wolves have been established. Ironically, Bjarvall observed, now that three family groups have been formed in Norway, a suggested protected zone is actually outside the territories of two of these packs.

Marty Smith observed that such a scheme defeats the goals of wolf recovery. "As long as the wolf population is so limited, it should be allowed to expand naturally and the management zones set in relation to where the wolves wind up settling. In this way, there is a better chance that future management will be inclusive of all the resource requirements needed to sustain wolves over the long term," Smith said.

A 1998 Swedish and Norwegian scientists' advisory panel concluded that a minimum of 500 wolves is needed to sustain the Scandinavian wolf population.



Some Norwegians claim they are afraid to walk in the woods, and that the wolves are robbing them of their quality of life.

Viggo Ree

Viggo Ree of the Norwegian Raptor and Carnivore Society agrees. In Ree's opinion, the proposed reduction negates the recommendations of the 1998 Swedish and Norwegian scientists' advisory panel that concluded a minimum of 500 wolves is needed to sustain the Scandinavian wolf population.

Some conservationists have observed that government money targeted for the wolf cull would be better spent implementing effective livestock protection methods. Otherwise, they say, it will be impossible to reach the opposing goals of restoring and maintaining large carnivore populations while at the same time protecting farmers' livelihoods.

Meanwhile, a lawsuit to stop the hunt was rejected by the court. Despite vigorous protest from wildlife groups and wolf advocates, official hunters killed three adult female wolves in Hedmark County where Norway's Environment Ministry says farmers lost 612 sheep to wolves last year. ■

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

As of the printing of this article: "Norwegian officials have shot all 9 of the wolves they sought to kill in response to depredations on sheep, and approval was given to kill one more. A helicopter was used to kill 8 of the 9."

For reference materials and more information about the preceding articles, see the International Wolf Center Web site, at http://www.wolf.org/learn/iwmag/2001/summer2001/sum2001w1.shtml.

Personal Encounter

Witnessing Ancient Survival Instincts

by Michael Nelson

It was 2:26 p.m. on August 7, 2000, and U.S. Forest Service pilot Dean Lee and I radio-located the alpha male of the Pike Lake wolf pack a mile southwest of the town of Isabella, Minnesota during a routine flight. As we spiraled down toward the radio signal, we both observed a disturbance on the surface of a small beaver pond.

Descending, we could see two wolves surrounding a cow moose, all swimming in the pond. A third wolf watched attentively while sitting on the beaver dam. One wolf swam away from the moose, but the other was very aggressive in continuing the attack; it tried a frontal approach, but the cow reared up and pummeled the wolf with her front legs, obscuring the wolf in a froth of water. She must have missed the wolf, because when it surfaced, the wolf immediately continued its attack, this time approaching from the rear. The moose only had a 10-yard area of water to swim in, forcing her to turn in a circle with the wolf swimming either behind or beside her.

After four minutes, the wolves took a break on the dam, and the moose waited in the shallows, water touching her belly. Twenty-three minutes after we first spotted the attack, all three wolves re-entered the water to attack the moose again. The moose stepped into deeper water and started swimming in a circle again. As the wolves lunged at the cow's sides and rear, one wolf crawled onto the cow's back and proceeded to grip the lower side of her neck. The second and third wolves continued attacking, although one wolf was clearly very timid about the entire business.

The moose appeared to be tiring, but four minutes after this second

Michael Nelson does radio-tracking from his plane. He witnessed an amazing wolf attack while looking for wolves southwest of Isabella, Minnesota. U.S. Geological Survey


Rolf Peterson

A moose makes her way through deep water. Moose are a common prey of wolves.

attack, the two wolves headed for shore. The wolf gripping the cow's neck continued holding on for another three minutes before it too, gave up. The moose stood in the shallows and the wolves rested on the dam for 17 minutes before we left to locate other radioed wolves nearby.

When we returned 15 minutes later, one wolf was shaking water off while standing on the dam. The pond appeared muddy from fresh disturbance, and the moose again waited in the shallows. After five minutes of inactivity we left again, but returned 30 minutes later only to observe the moose standing and the wolves resting. Dean and I called it a day and returned to our home base. We would have to wait to learn the outcome of this encounter.

Although we were eager to observe what may have transpired overnight, poor flying weather grounded us the next morning. We were fortunate to finally fly in the afternoon, and took off to document the final scene of the previous day's action. As we descended to the pond, a wolf stood up, entered the water and swam to the other side. After much sniffing on the grassy shoreline, it disappeared into the woods. The moose was gone. There was no evidence of a carcass or of ravens, which have the uncanny ability to locate wolf kills, sometimes even before they occur.

To be sure we had not missed some aspect of the attack, we located the wolves again several hours later. They had traveled 1.5 miles north, and no ravens circled the pond.

The next day, my field assistants Shelly Szepanski and Paul Frame hiked with me to the pond to confirm the lack of a kill and to examine the scene more closely. It was like entering another reality, stepping back to an earlier time when our hunting ancestors were full participants in similar struggles.

As we climbed through thick cedars, alders, and blow-downs, we knew we were approaching the pond by the increasing wetness of our route. Our anticipation increased along the moose trail, cut deep into the moss and thick with tracks. A little further along, wolf tracks appeared on top of the moose tracks, all heading toward the pond. We finally met standing water, and skirted its edge until reaching the beaver dam.

Walking on the dam, we identified the beds where the wolves had rested while they watched the moose. We could smell wolf. Moose hair floated at the edge of the pond. No more than 15 steps had separated moose and wolves as they carried on their instinctive behavior, the wolves trying to kill, the moose trying to live another day. Both shared the same purpose—to sustain life and pass it on to the next generation.

Only the abundance of moose hair provided evidence that something ancient and primeval had occurred here. At the moment, it was just another serene pond, like countless others the Pike Lake wolves encounter in their travels. ■

Dr. Michael Nelson is field supervisor for the northeastern Minnesota wolf research conducted by L. David Mech of the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey.

News and Notes

Check www.wolf.org for further wolf information

WOLVES AND HUMAN COMMUNITIES, a new book covering the biology, politics, and ethics of reintroducing wolves into the Adirondack Mountains of New York State, was recently published by Island Press. Edited by V. A. Sharpe, B. Norton, and S. Donnelly, the book is a most interesting compendium of papers presented at the American Museum of Natural History in New York during October 1998.

A WOLF SHOOTING is the subject of a $10,000 reward posted on January 31. Mexican wolf male 590 was shot on December 16, 2000 near Aragon, New Mexico on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. A member of the reintroduced Francisco Pack, the wolf was part of the tiny wolf population being nurtured in the Southwest. Information should be reported to 800/432-GAME.

WOLVES ON THE ROOF. That's what a January 13, 2001 article by Agence France Presse datelined Moscow reported about central Siberia. According to the article, the coldest spell in 50 years has driven wolves into villages to attack livestock, and the animals have been "digging under fences or climbing onto roofs in order to break into enclosures." So far, 40 wolves have been shot, the article stated.

AQUATIC WOLF? According to Nicholas Read in the Vancouver Sun, a radio-tagged wolf swam 6.6 miles from Prince of Wales Island off the coast of Southeast Alaska. The wolf had been monitored by biologist Dave Person since 1998, and when about 2-years old, she swam a mile from her natal Hercata Island to Prince of Wales Island and then embarked on the 6.6- mile swim from that island. Although wolves are excellent swimmers and in some areas probably swim every day, this is a record distance for a swimming wolf.

ISLE ROYALE WOLVES decreased from 29 in 2000 to 19 in 2001. According to Dr. Rolf Peterson, director of the study, this change was the net result of last year's reproduction and a 50% rate of mortality from unknown causes. Moose numbers reached 900, perhaps a slight increase from last year.

ANTI-WOLF SENTIMENT is alive and well in the Idaho State Legislature. That body is holding hearings on a "House Joint Memorial" directed towards President Bush, Congress, and the Secretary of the Interior demanding that the restored Idaho wolves be removed by any means necessary.

A WOLF IN JAPAN was photographed last July, according to "The Daily Yomiuri Shimbun Online." Whether it was a genuine Japanese wolf, thought to have become extinct in the early 1900's or whether it could have been a released captive animal is still undecided, although preliminary analyses of the photos are encouraging. More information is available at www.wolf.org/news/japanesewolf.shtml.

WOLVES KILL LLAMAS In another dramatic triumph over experimental non-lethal methods of minimizing wolf damage to livestock, a wolf pack southwest of Marion, Montana has killed 2 of 3 llamas being kept there. "Guard llamas" have been the latest hope of many people trying to figure out ways to alleviate livestock losses without killing wolves. Useful to reduce loss by coyotes, llamas prove no match for the wolf which is used to killing such animals as horses, moose, and bison.

WOLVES IN CROATIA: good news and bad. A third wolf was captured and radio-tagged for study in Croatia last fall, according to Djuro Huber and Josip Kusak, biologists conducting the study. It took 1,300 trap nights (10 traps for 5 nights = 50 trap nights) and 500 km (300 miles) of hiking to check the traps that caught the wolf. A month later, however, the wolf was shot. ■

Moving Right Along

by Kelly Burns
International Wolf Center Intern

Have you ever gone for a visit somewhere, then wished you could stay? Maybe you have a summer cottage you like to visit. Lots of animals travel around, too: birds fly south for the winter, monarch butterflies go to Mexico, deer gather in herds during winter, and some fish travel from inland riverways to the ocean. Can you think of more examples?

When animals travel (what scientists call "migrating"), it's not just to enjoy some new scenery. Certain species of animals have regular routes they travel, migrating back and forth between the same places every winter and summer. Other animals are on the go most of their lives. When animals travel, they find new opportunities for feeding, breeding, surviving the cold, or protection from predators. Depending on the species, migration could be as short as a few miles, or as far as traveling from one country to another.

Wolves are travelers, too, but they usually stay within a certain home range, known as a territory. In the spring and summer, a pack will stay close to their pups first at a den and then at a rendezvous site (a meeting place). By wintertime, the pups will travel with the pack to seek food throughout the whole territory. Sometimes a wolf might venture outside of the territory and leave home for good; other times they may wander around and come back.

As animals move repeatedly over familiar travel routes, the landscape may change significantly between visits. Sometimes they even find roadblocks in their path. Humans change the landscape with buildings and roads, which may reroute an animal or stop the trip all together.

Check out the article, "Preserving Corridors for all Species" in this issue to learn how scientists and other concerned people are working to connect wildlife habitats to make movements easier. ■

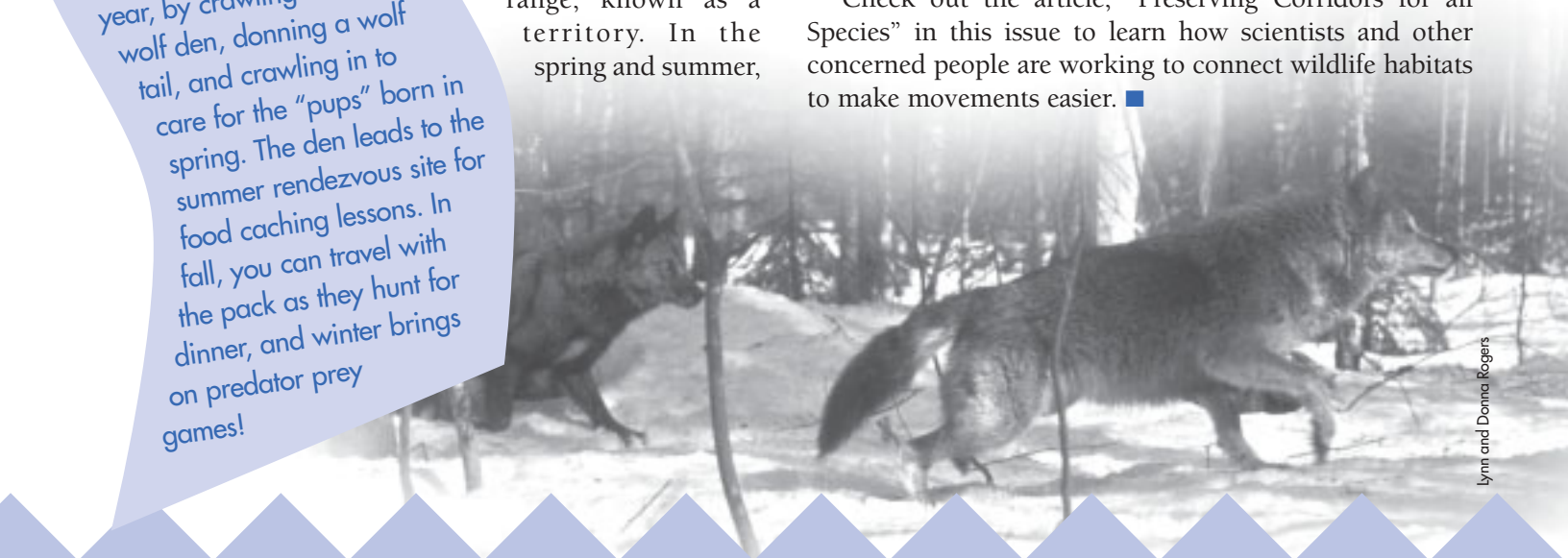
Travel Trials:

Humans have a big impact on how and where animals travel. Using the map on the opposite page, do this activity to see how animals must adjust to our presence.

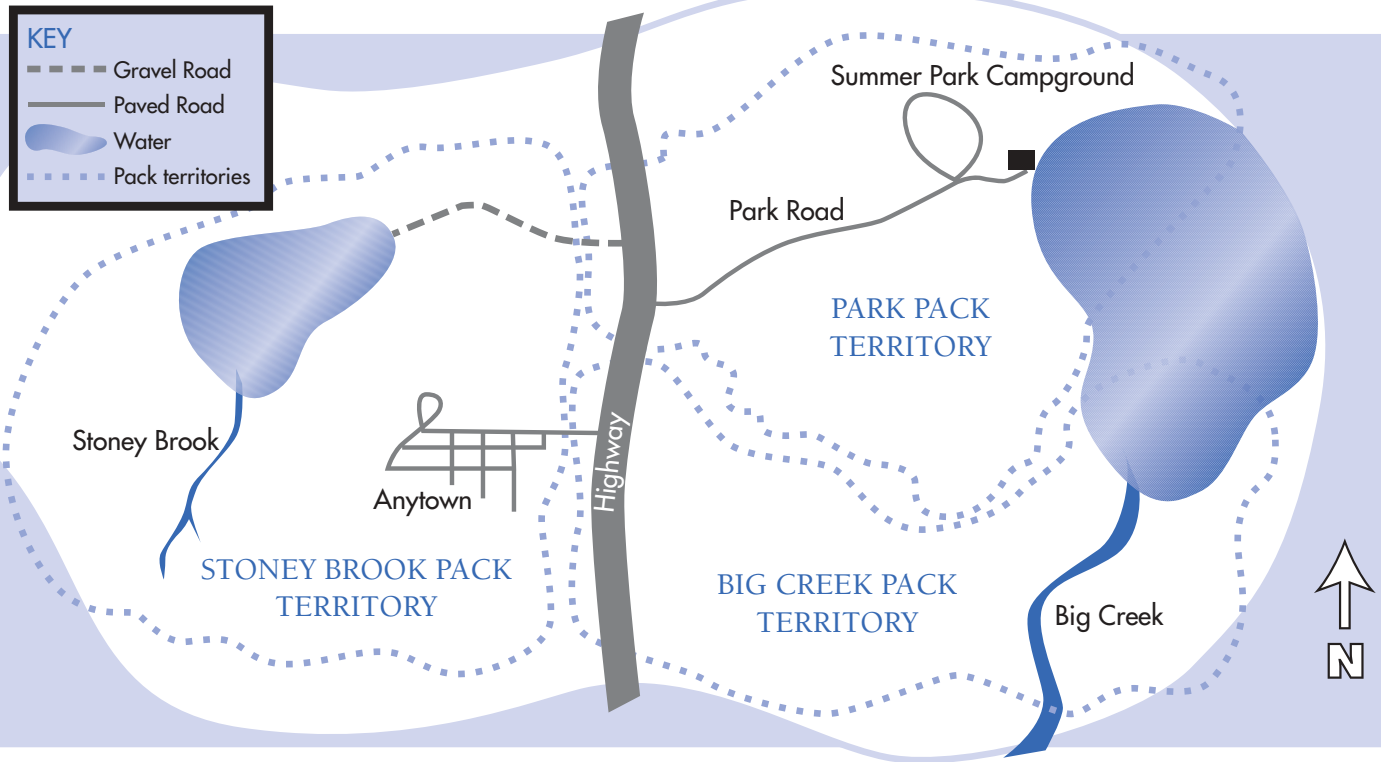
1. **Using a colored pen** or pencil, place an X where human disturbance might interfere with animal migration movements. Are there places where a human's presence might not affect wildlife movement?
2. **With a second color**, draw arrows to indicate the route a deer might take if traveling from north to south. How does that route change if there are wolf packs in the area?
3. **Discuss with a friend:** How might the deer's travel be different in summer compared to winter? Which causes a deer more limitations: the presence of wolves, or humans? What other factors might cause deer to go one direction or another?

Make a migration to our new exhibit!

Travel through a pup's first year of life in our new exhibit for kids and families. In one day, you can experience all the seasons of the year, by crawling into the wolf den, donning a wolf tail, and crawling in to care for the "pups" born in spring. The den leads to the summer rendezvous site for food caching lessons. In fall, you can travel with the pack as they hunt for dinner, and winter brings on predator prey games!



Lynn and Donna Rogers



A Look Beyond

Making a Difference, Together

by Gale H. Ford, DVM, MS

Educational venues to view, interact with, and learn about wildlife occur in many settings, including zoos, preserves, refuges, rehabilitation centers, national parks and other wild lands. Urban living situations, increased job demands, different multicultural perceptions, an aging human population and changes in nuclear family structure, are but a few of the major changes drastically affecting the nature education of our young people. The connection between young people and wildlife must be nurtured and not left to chance.

Alternative avenues for inspiring an interest in wildlife and wild lands must be recognized and enhanced for their ability to establish a personal relationship between people and wildlife. The desire to understand or merely view animals has been joined by the need to conserve their populations and ecosystems. The understanding of animals' needs and of human impacts on animal populations has become critical, because the future of these animals depends on people.

Today, conservation education needs to be recognized as a specialty that benefits from diverse technologies, varied educational efforts and multi-disciplinary expertise. The conservation message needs to shift from merely endangerment, captive breeding, or even reintroduction to include and emphasize the importance of saving habitat. As one biologist once asked, "What good is it to try to save an individual muskrat when someone is draining the marsh?"

Captive wildlife facilities have historically been considered substandard or poor substitutes for wildlife experiences. Hearing a pack of wolves howl at the International Wolf Center or at the Grizzly Discovery Center is not the same as hearing a pack of wild wolves howl in the Lamar Valley, but it still allows the visitor to have a personal and relating moment with this species. The next headline about a wolf is much more likely to be read by a person who knows that sound than one who does not.

New exhibit techniques, husbandry programs, and educational outreach offered in today's zoological institutions need to be embraced as viable, non-consumptive augmentations to wildlife education. For the general zoo visitor, zoos and aquariums serve the conservation community by providing information in a relaxed family-oriented setting.

Advocacy groups, wildlife protection groups and zoological educators share a common goal…to instill in others the passion to protect, conserve, restore and ultimately live harmoniously with the wildlife and wild lands that are such a unique part of our environment. I urge us to put aside our differences and foster the partnerships that are needed to make our conservation message reach as many ears as possible in the most effective and humane manner possible. We can make a difference. ■

Gale H. Ford is the executive director and veterinarian for the Grizzly Discovery Center in West Yellowstone, Montana.

Calvin Abernathy

Pack behaviors, such as howling, allow visitors at the Grizzly Discovery Center to experience the essence of the wolf. Wolves Hayden and Granite in the foreground are often seen interacting at the center.

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(CYBERSPACE THAT IS)
www.wolf.org

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Whether searching for information on our resident wolf pack or looking for details on wolves around the world, the International Wolf Center Web site has volumes of information at the ready for you! With over 700 pages of information there's bound to be an area of the site you haven't seen before. Find out about telemetry, discover how wolves are viewed in Europe, take a virtual tour of our Ely facility. Go exploring today!

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Together we can work to secure the survival of wolves.

Photo by Lynn and Donna Rogers

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