



INTERNATIONAL WOLF

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INSIDE!

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
FALL 2007

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INTERNATIONAL WOLF

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
VOLUME 17, NO. 3 FALL 2007

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"Autumn Eyes" by Collin Bogle

Collin Bogle's ability to capture detail and his mastery of the use of light in natural settings are hallmarks of his work. He has exhibited in art shows throughout the United States.

To view additional artwork, visit www.collinbogle.com.



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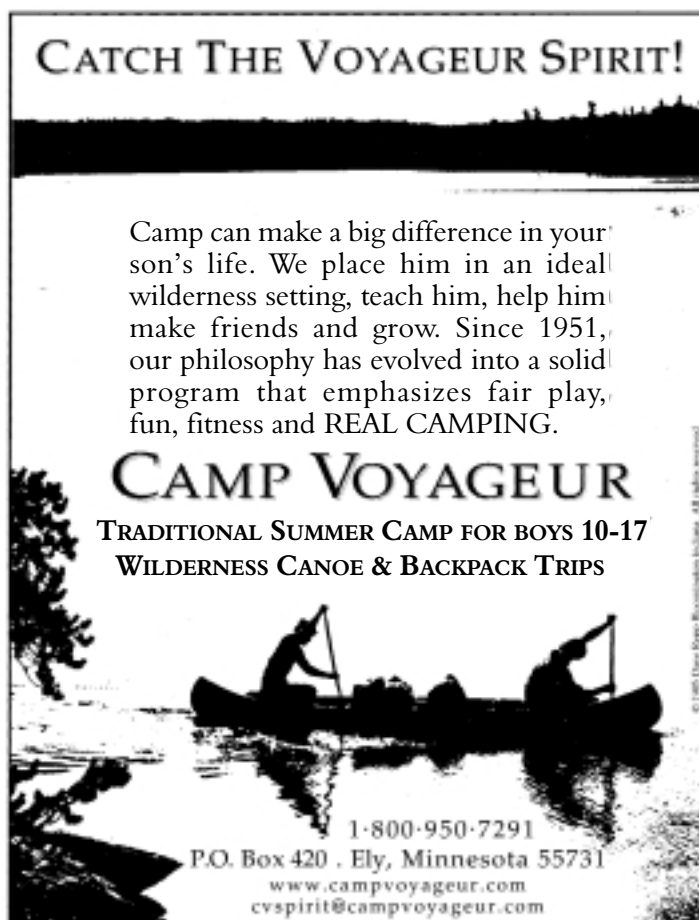
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PHOTOS: Unless otherwise noted, or obvious from the caption or article text, photos are of captive wolves.

UPDATE: Lawsuit Filed to Block Delisting of Western Great Lakes Wolves

Following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) decision to delist gray wolves in the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment, the Humane Society of the United States, Help Our Wolves Live, and the Animal Protection Institute filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on April 16, 2007. The lawsuit asks the court to issue an injunction to prevent the delisting from being implemented and to order the delisting be vacated. The delisting will remain in effect while the court reviews the allegations made in the complaint and the USFWS responds to the allegations. Visit www.wolf.org for more current information. ■



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From the Executive Director

An Evolving Relationship, an Evolving Understanding

This issue of *International Wolf* contains an article describing a number of wolf-human encounters in Ontario last year. We should view that article in context.

The mission of the International Wolf Center is to educate people about wolves. It never has been to “promote” wolves so much as to promote a better understanding of wolves so that the decisions we make about their management are informed, as opposed to the many decisions we’ve made that have been fear- or ignorance-based. In the early days, there was so much uninformed hostility to wolves that our primary message had to be: this is a misunderstood animal that deserves its rightful place in our ecosystems. But then, as now, we always tried to tell the whole story, including parts that are not “pro-wolf,” like depredation on livestock or domestic pets.



Walter Medwid

As wolf acceptance and a far more rational understanding of the species has become more widespread (clearly with some notable exceptions), the Center naturally has broadened and modified its message. We have always tried to make it clear that wolves are not pets. They sometimes attack livestock, and as recent events have shown us, they can even be aggressive to humans.

There are now early signs that some wolves are habituating to humans, and in the process losing some of their fear of us. That is opening the door to more conflicts since wolves are not automatically running away when they see us.

The long list of unpleasant encounters between wolves and humans in Ontario last year has no simple explanation, and we should not jump to quick conclusions about it. That said, it seems that wolves might be generally coming to fear us less. It might now be necessary to add a certain measured amount of aggression toward wolves to our management programs to keep them worried about us. Paramount among the steps we need to take is the elimination or control of food sources near human habitation, which seem to be the precursor to the appearance of habituated wolves. Similarly we need to adopt a slogan for wolves that rivals, “A fed bear is a dead bear.”

Meanwhile it remains true that wolves are not a significant threat to humans. There is still not a documented case of a healthy wild wolf killing a human in North America in over a century. (I should note that the death of Kenton Carnegie in Saskatchewan in November 2005 remains under investigation by Canadian authorities. Several news reports and magazine articles have definitively pinned the cause of death on wolves despite the lack of any official finding of that nature.) This is an animal that deserves our respect and careful management. Even if it is altering its conduct in ways we should monitor, the wolf is not a menace to humans. ■

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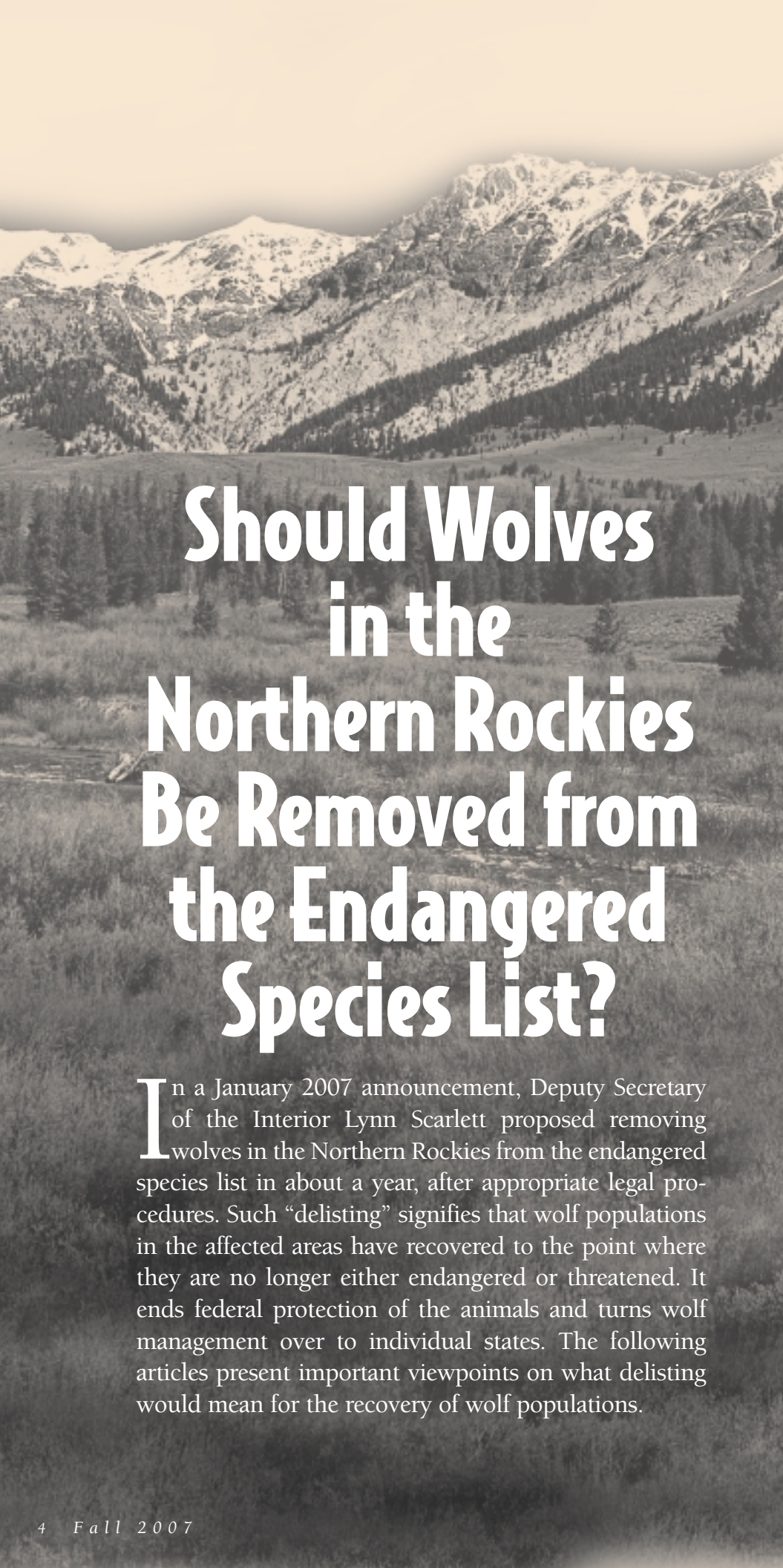
The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wildlands and the human role in their future.

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Should Wolves in the Northern Rockies Be Removed from the Endangered Species List?

In a January 2007 announcement, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett proposed removing wolves in the Northern Rockies from the endangered species list in about a year, after appropriate legal procedures. Such “delisting” signifies that wolf populations in the affected areas have recovered to the point where they are no longer either endangered or threatened. It ends federal protection of the animals and turns wolf management over to individual states. The following articles present important viewpoints on what delisting would mean for the recovery of wolf populations.

Removing Endangered Species Protections Would Jeopardize Northern Rockies Wolf Recovery

by
AMAROQ WEISS

In 1995, after a 70-year absence from the region, wolves were reintroduced to their former habitat in the Northern Rockies. Five years later, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) embarked on a series of efforts to remove federal wolf protections. The latest action proposes to remove endangered species protections for wolves in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, plus portions of Washington, Oregon and Utah. However, removing federal protections from this region at this time is not justified, because the wolves are still confronted with serious threats to their continued conservation.

In the Northern Rockies, wolves continue to face illegal killing by humans. Based on figures provided in the USFWS's 2007 delisting proposal, approximately 13 percent of the region's wolf population is lost to illegal killing each year. In April, an Idaho man was sentenced for attempting to kill wolves with poison-laced meatballs, a method he had posted on the Internet for widespread distribution.

Disease has also caused large wolf population fluctuations in Yellowstone National Park and on the park's Northern Range, where in 2005, sources report that anywhere from 68 to 80 percent of that year's pups died from a suspected parvovirus or canine distemper outbreak. Within a year, wolf numbers plummeted from 16 known breeding pairs to just 7. Recently, mange has been discovered among wolves in Yellowstone. Mange

can be so lethal to wolves that inoculations of the disease were historically used to eradicate them.

Perhaps the greatest threat to wolves in the region is the absence of adequate regulatory mechanisms. Of the three Northern Rockies states required by the USFWS to develop state wolf plans, only Montana's provides a balanced, conservation-based approach.

Idaho's plan, legislative actions, agency proposals and governor's rhetoric demonstrate that the state cannot be trusted to manage wolves. Idaho's official state position is that wolves should be removed by "whatever means necessary." In January 2006, Idaho proposed to kill up to 75 percent of the wolves in an entire district of a national forest to protect elk, despite years of scientific evidence that habitat condition, not wolves, was the main cause of elk decline there. In February 2007, Idaho governor "Butch" Otter proclaimed his intent to kill 75 percent of the entire current state wolf population through public hunting immediately upon delisting and stated his desire to shoot the first wolf himself. In addition, Wildlife Services' agents in Idaho have indicated that federal wolf delisting will result in the more wide-

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Robert J. Weselmann

Future Conservation of Northern Rockies Wolves Will Benefit from State-led Management

by
ED BANGS

The facts about wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains of the United States are indisputable but boring. Wolves are extremely adaptable and will flourish when given a chance. There are 1,300 wolves in 173 packs now raising pups in 100,000 square miles of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. Wolf packs occupy nearly all of the potentially suitable habitat left in the Northern Rockies. We now have more wolves in more places, with fewer problems than anyone imagined just a decade ago, and wolves in the Northern Rockies no longer meet the legal requirements for remaining listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

All potential threats to the wolf population have been resolved. There is plenty of suitable habitat, most of it on secure federal public lands. Disease and predation occur, but the wolf population certainly isn't at risk. Human-caused mortality will continue to be regulated to prevent it from ever threatening the wolf population again through approved state and tribal wildlife management laws and regulations. Human attitudes demand wolf conservation. The wolf population is genetically diverse, and even the most pessimistic doomsday scenario could be easily resolved by occasional natural dispersal or relo-



Betsy Downey

cation. In all the Northern Rockies states (except in northwestern Wyoming, where wolves will remain protected by the ESA until a Wyoming plan can be approved) laws and management plans commit them to monitor, manage, research, publicize and conserve the wolf population well above recovery levels into the foreseeable future.

A recovered wolf population should be managed, just like other resident wildlife, by the states, which have a proven record of highly successful, professional, science-based wildlife conservation. The practical benefit of state wolf management is the increased resources that are available for wolf conservation. When only the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] managed wolves in Montana, we had three field biologists and a couple of summer seasonal biologists and volunteers. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks currently has six wolf specialists and several seasonal workers and volunteers. In addition they have help from the nearly 350 researchers, educators, wardens, biologists, managers, veterinarians and administrators who work throughout Montana and also manage wolf food and those species, including hunters, that compete with wolves.

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Removing Endangered Species Protections Would Jeopardize Northern Rockies Wolf Recovery

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spread use of M-44s (a coyote-killing poison device) in wolf territory, placing wolves in further peril.

Wyoming's state laws and wolf plan allow wolves to be shot on sight in 90 percent of the state and killed as trophy game animals in the remaining portion. Wyoming's governor Dave Freudenthal has become the mouthpiece for wolf opponents, claiming the state's elk population has been decimated, and demanding that 16 of the state's 23 wolf packs be killed immediately, even though the state wildlife agency's figures show that Wyoming elk are at or exceed management objectives in all management units in occupied wolf territory. Until recently, the USFWS has declined to approve Wyoming's plan for failure to provide adequate regulatory mechanisms, but after years of litigation filed by the state, the USFWS is ready to concede approval to Wyoming's plan with only minor changes.

Despite overwhelming support for wolf protection at the first six hearings on the federal delisting proposal, a vocal minority continues to express public hostility toward wolves, which presents a significant hurdle for long-term wolf recovery. The seventh and final public hearing in Cody, Wyoming, exemplifies what wolves will face once protections are lifted. Over 600 people attended the hearing, at which wolf supporters were jeered, and the crowd of mostly wolf opponents became so raucous that the USFWS was forced to close down the public testimony room and hear individual testimony in a small room from which the larger crowd was barred.

Defenders of Wildlife has attempted to foster a more hospitable climate for wolves by pioneering the use of economic incentives to promote protection of endangered species on private lands. Experts credit our wolf

compensation trust, which pays for wolf-caused losses of livestock, as the most important factor contributing to social tolerance for reintroduction of wolves to the Northern Rockies. Defenders also works with ranchers to implement nonlethal predator control measures to minimize conflicts between wolves and livestock.

The USFWS has approached wolf recovery in the Northern Rockies with a series of premature actions and violations of law. The agency first attempted to delist the wolves in 2000, just five years after the reintroduction. Since then, the USFWS has sought to loosen ESA regulations regarding killing of wolves and has issued permits to states to kill wolves for livestock depredations (later deemed illegal by the courts). Additionally, the USFWS will soon be proposing to modify the ESA to further expand authority to kill wolves in the Northern Rockies for killing other wildlife, including elk, wolves' primary prey species.

In the past seven years the USFWS's proposals and actions regarding wolves in the Northern Rockies seem to be based far more on politics than on science or federal law. Removing protections for wolves in the Northern Rockies cannot be justified under the conditions described here, and for these reasons, Defenders is fully opposed to delisting at this time. ■

Amaroq Weiss is the Director of Western Species Conservation for Defenders of Wildlife. She is based in Defenders' Ashland, Oregon, field office and oversees Defenders staff efforts in the Northern Rockies and Pacific West to recover and conserve gray wolves, grizzly bears and other imperiled species in these regions.

In January 2006, Idaho proposed to kill up to 75 percent of the wolves in an entire district of a national forest to protect elk, despite years of scientific evidence that habitat condition, not wolves, was the main cause of elk decline there.

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Mentiy Sloan



There are 1,300 wolves in 173 packs now raising pups in 100,000 square miles of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. Wolf packs occupy nearly all of the potentially suitable habitat left in the Northern Rockies.

Future Conservation of Northern Rockies Wolves Will Benefit from State-led Management

from page 5

The ESA guarantees the wolf population will stay recovered. The USFWS can't propose delisting until it is assured that nothing will threaten the wolf again. All the scientific and public concerns must be addressed before delisting can occur. The wolf population and any potential threats to it must be monitored by the USFWS for at least five years. If the population ever sharply decreases or threats to it increase, it can be relisted by emergency order. Anyone can petition the USFWS to relist the wolf population at any time. Anyone can legally challenge the USFWS's decision to list, delist or not relist. The ESA mandates a huge safety net.

However, if I've learned anything over the past 30 years, it is that wolf issues have nothing to do with reality. People have used wolves as powerful symbols for human values for thousands of years, and neither our nor wolves' basic nature has changed much. We will continue to give wolves supernatural powers for good or evil, because in our hearts they represent our best and worst hopes, dreams and visions. Our views over wolf delisting will largely be formed by human symbolism, values, rhetoric, emotion, polarization and absolutes, not science or facts.

Delisting wolves arouses some people for many different reasons, but most of them have nothing to do with the ESA or wolves. Some don't trust the states to do the right thing. Given some of the

things a few politicians and others have spouted, often with the sole purpose of soothing or irritating folks, I can easily understand some apprehension. But the states' written legal commitments to reasonable science-based conservation reassure me. Some people don't want wolves killed, and the thought of a wolf hunting season horrifies them. Some naively believe that only ESA wolves can magically disperse into adjacent states and start new populations. Others perceive the ESA will let "progressive" national values trump local "parochial" ones. A few want the ESA to help raise money, membership and public awareness for other issues. These desires are mirrored by those who believe delisting will bring back the 1880s again, cause state or property rights to rule supreme, or allow wolves to be exterminated, thus proving the wisdom of their great-grandparent's values.

But none of that will happen. Under federal or state management wolves will still continue to be widespread. There will be a healthy viable wolf population, but wolves still won't be allowed to live everywhere. People will still kill some wolves to reduce conflicts. And the strong symbolism of wolves to people will continue to fuel public controversy and debate.

The ESA did what it was supposed to do. The Northern Rockies wolf population has exceeded its recovery goal and will remain viable under state-led conservation. Imagine, a federal program that actually kept its word and did what it set out to do. We should be rejoicing and boldly embracing the future challenges to wolves—not wringing our hands and clinging to the past. ■

Ed Bangs is the Western Gray Wolf Recovery Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Helena, Montana.

A recovered wolf population should be managed, just like other resident wildlife, by the states, which have a proven record of highly successful, professional, science-based wildlife conservation.

Robert J. Weselmann

Wolves in the Classroom

I am a middle-school teacher in an affluent suburban school system 30 miles outside of Washington, DC. The majority of my seventh-grade students live in a fast-paced world of cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, high-speed Internet, HDTV, a medley of electronic gizmos that I don't understand, and after-school activities that keep them busy from 3:30 to 9:00 p.m. I also have students whose parents are working two and three jobs to support their families. Thus, it is a challenge to find a topic that engages all types of learners from all socioeconomic groups. The wolf is the common denominator that levels the academic playing field.



Mike Possis, Wild Thing Photography

Engaging Students' Interest in the

Natural World

by ROBERTA POMPONIO

William Riege, Kishenehn Wildlife Works



Lynn and Donna Roers, www.bearstudy.org

I have taught Jack London's classic novels *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang* for almost 10 years. I call this my "wolf unit," and it enables me to fulfill academic requirements mandated by the school system while allowing me the freedom to excite my students about wolves. I'm not sure why children this age connect with wolves, but they do. Their fascination may stem from similarities between wolves and dogs, or maybe my students get hooked on wolves because middle-school students are intrigued by anything that looks scary and has a mean reputation. Whatever the reason, most of my students love wolves and want to learn about them. And I must confess that I'm in my element when I'm teaching about them!

Survival of the fittest, civilized (human culture) versus wild (animals in the natural world), the power of instinct, and the enduring quality of companionship are themes in London's novels, and parallels can be drawn

to wolves as well as to middle-school students. Since these themes are ones that my seventh-graders can understand, they are able to apply them to the real world. Studying wolves reinforces my students' ability to make personal connections to these universal themes. Once this connection occurs, true learning takes place.

Amazing things happen when students bond with an area of interest like wolves. Students are willing to step outside their often overscheduled lives, slow down and enjoy the moment. Getting started is fun! As an introductory brainstorming activity, I ask my students, "What comes to mind when I say the word *wolf*?" I record each answer on a two-column list on the board. One column represents myths, and the other represents facts. My students then take an informal "quiz" to test their current knowledge of wolves, and we "grade" these quizzes.

Next, I provide lessons to teach the children how to read for information. But instead of using "canned" selections from workbooks, I choose non-fiction articles about the biology and ecology of the

wolf. During these readings, we have many interesting discussions where provocative questions arise. Asking good questions is a hallmark of intelligence, and I am always amazed at the quality of the queries when children are interested in a subject.

Much of our school day is devoted to preparing for standardized performance tests. Pressure to perform well on these state tests is intense, and gearing up includes anticipating what questions will be asked. Thus, it is refreshing to have discussions with my students on a topic where they are demonstrating the development of critical thinking skills and asking probing questions. If I do not know the answer to a student's question, I e-mail a wolf educator and share the response. A dialogue begins, and learning goes beyond the walls of the classroom.

During my wolf unit, we view carefully selected documentaries. These documentaries accurately represent the real wolf in the wild. I do not show "docudramas" that depict humans interacting with captive wolves. We also discuss how a wolf pack is very like a human family with the parents in charge, and how the older siblings who have stayed with the pack assist in hunting and raising the new pups.

My culminating activity for this multiweek study is a hands-on presentation by wolf educators. In follow-up discussions, I can relate aspects of the presentation to the novels. For instance, after touching a real wolf pelt, students

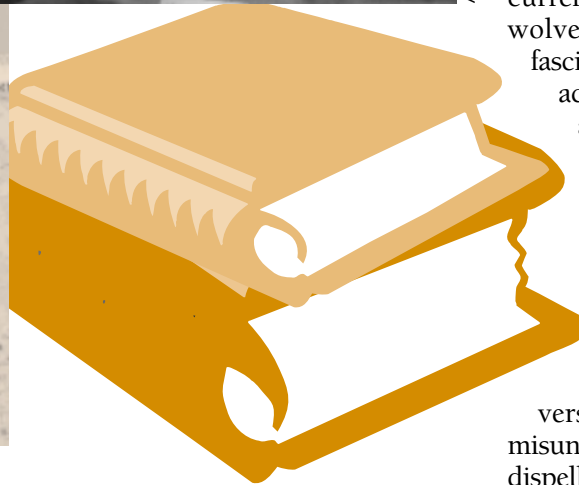
Wolf educator Colleen Coghlan shows Roberta Pomponio's students a wolf pelt during a hands-on presentation.

Amy Wide Grainey

Roberta Pomponio (below) has taught a unit on wolves to seventh-graders for almost 10 years. Wolf educators such as Colleen Coghlan (right) assist Pomponio by doing hands-on presentations.



Amy Wide-Grainey



can visualize how the wolves' guard hairs repelled the snow in *White Fang* and *The Call of the Wild*. Comparing a wolf skull to a deer skull enables students to see how different an herbivore's skull is from a carnivore's. By viewing actual raw video footage without any commercialized sound or narration, my students experience a wolf and a grizzly sharing the same carcass while a raven croaks in the background. Students are able to witness unedited footage of wolves chasing, attacking and killing elk in Yellowstone. Through the unbroken sequence, students discover how wolves approach their prey, how they select a vulnerable individual, and how they attack and bring down an animal much larger than they are.

As a teacher, my job is to educate my students with unbiased facts. Another of my tasks is to present arguments and perspectives from all sides of controversial issues so my

students can form their own conclusions. The children come to understand that wolves can be troublesome when they live in proximity to people. For example, they sympathize with ranchers who fear economic hardship from loss of livestock. Thus, my youngsters learn to think beyond themselves and beyond their immediate surroundings.

Above all, the kids learn to value the natural world. Now that wolves are on the landscape in many places for the first time in generations, my students are going to have to tackle two big questions when they reach adulthood: Can wolves and humans live together? If so, how will that happen?

I introduce all these activities and experiences in the hope that my students will apply the knowledge they have gained in their own lives. Once students become engaged learners, they become willing partici-

pants in their education. Knowledge applied then translates into action. And isn't action the goal of education?

My students take action in interesting and unique ways. Some children take the initiative to "adopt" a wolf through various organizations, while other students may bring me current newspaper clippings about wolves. However, I find the most

fascinating and important course of action is the dispelling of myths and misinformation about

wolves. Year after year, students tell me that when their parents ask, "What did you learn today?" they have an answer!

Instead of the standard response, "Nothing," these kids actually share what we are learning. In these con-

versations with their parents, misunderstandings about wolves are dispelled. I have had students tell me they were the ones who taught their parents that wolves are not the ferocious and savage beasts portrayed in fairy tales.

I have taught over 720 of my assigned students about wolves. This number does not include the hundreds taught by colleagues who have collaborated on the wolf unit over the years. I don't know how many students have educated their families and friends about wolves, but I do know that my students are qualified to do this. They are armed with factual information, and they know how to find sources to answer their questions. The soft spot they have in their hearts for wolves is now for the "real wolf," and even better, they have a commitment to the wolf's continued survival in the wild. ■

Roberta Pomponio teaches seventh-grade language arts at J. L. Simpson Middle School in Loudoun County, Virginia.

Ontario Experiences Cluster of Wolf-Human Encounters

by STEVE GROOMS

The most significant fact about wolf aggression toward humans is how rare it is. And yet wolves sometimes threaten or attack people. The province of Ontario recorded a surprising cluster of unpleasant wolf-human interactions in 2006 and early 2007. Some involved wolf attacks, and all involved wolves behaving atypically fearlessly toward humans.

Only one incident received much public attention. In that dramatic but confusing event, a single wolf attacked six people on September 4, 2006. The attacks took place at two popular beaches in Ontario's Lake Superior Provincial Park, south of Wawa.

Jerry and Rachel Talbot were traveling with their two granddaughters when they stopped at Katherine's Cove. They were preparing to go wading when what looked like a large black dog attacked three-year-old Leah. Grabbing the little girl's arm, the wolf began dragging her toward the bush. When her grandfather rushed screaming at the wolf, the animal dropped Leah and limped out of sight.

The same wolf attacked Brenda Wright's family that same afternoon on a beach of Bathtub Island, very near Katherine's Cove.

Brenda's son Casey Wright, 12, noticed a doglike animal running toward them. The wolf lunged at Casey's cousin, Jake, nipping him on the ankle. The wolf then turned on Casey, clamping its jaws around his buttock.

After Brenda Wright shouted for everyone to rush into the water, the wolf attacked her. Brenda threw her hands up to protect her face. The wolf bit her hands and legs.

Fourteen-year-old Emily Travaglini-Wright made a courageous decision. Running toward the wolf, she dis-



William Ridg

tracted it away from her mother. The wolf chased her when Emily retreated into the lake, biting her arm and face. When it pushed Emily underwater, she thought she would die.

Instead, Emily gave the wolf more fight than it could handle. Holding the animal's neck with one hand, she hammered the wolf's head with the other. Then she jammed her fist all the way in the wolf's mouth, striking the back of its throat.

Emily's screams attracted two strangers. The wolf ran away, although it later returned to rifle through the food packs on the beach. Eventually a park official arrived with a shotgun to kill the wolf. Six people suffered wounds of varying severity. Most of them were treated at a nearby hospital for multiple cuts and punctures. All have recovered, albeit with spooky memories.

The black wolf was a young, fully grown male. While it was not rabid, it was injured. Sometime in the past the wolf had been shot with buckshot,

some of which was still in the animal. The wolf suffered from chronic arthritis in one elbow joint, causing it to limp noticeably. And yet the wolf was fit and not starving.

Other incidents received no or little attention outside Ontario.

At a boat landing near Gogama, a wolf chased a woman to her car. It then nipped a nearby fisherman. When someone shot the wolf, it was found to have a mouth full of porcupine quills, which might explain its unusual behavior.

While there have been no attacks in the northern Ontario town of Foleyet, the town became home to a number of bold wolves in the early winter of 2007. These wolves were frequently seen strolling through people's yards and playing openly in the heart of town. Foleyet's frightened citizens experienced sleepless nights while nearby wolves howled in chorus.

A man was walking his dog on the outskirts of Kenora when a wolf approached and threatened the dog.

Wolf, dog and man menaced each other face-to-face at close quarters for perhaps 10 minutes before the wolf moved off. Because people have been feeding deer in that area, deer numbers have been high enough to attract wolves to the area. Also in Kenora, a pack of wolves showed up in an elementary school yard and seemed comfortable there during daylight hours.

In the town of Marathon the Ontario Provincial Police became worried about wolf-dog conflicts last year. The police issued a warning advising dog owners to keep pets leashed when traveling near the town landfill. Bold wolves have been frequently seen near the landfill and sometimes have appeared in town.

A young man on a bicycle near Thunder Bay was frightened last July when at least three wolves chased him persistently along the Trans-Canada Highway. He was on a personal adventure, biking the length of the province. Fearing for his life, the cyclist flagged down a truck. The wolves melted into the bush.

Reassured, the young man resumed his trip, but then the wolf pack resumed its pursuit. The cyclist stopped a passing car and asked for a ride to town. He was carrying no food in his gear that might explain the determined pursuit by the wolves.

Algonquin Park has a long history of problems with "fearless" wolves. This past summer, two especially bold wolves became a nuisance. One of them often lurked around campsites and pursued hikers, apparently looking for food. Park staff shot it with a paintball gun, hoping this aversive conditioning would change its behavior. But this and other hazing activities failed to instill a fear of humans, so the wolf was killed before it bit someone.

Another nuisance wolf acted as if it had been fed by campers. Park staff repeatedly shot the wolf with beanbags, hoping to make it fear people, but the wolf persisted in hanging around people. This wolf eventually bit a woman who was carrying a bag

continued on page 13 (after catalog insert)



of steaks, possibly acting out of frustration because it expected to be fed. This wolf, too, was shot and killed.

Taken all together, these incidents represent a troubling cluster of incidents in which wolves attacked humans or showed atypical boldness. It seems unlikely that anyone will ever know for sure why there were so many wolf-human encounters in Ontario in just a few months.

The Katherine's Cove incidents were the most dramatic. That wolf acted as if it meant to kill a human. The wolf might have succeeded had it attacked a single human in a remote area instead of launching attacks in an area filled with people celebrating the Labor Day weekend.

Attempts at Algonquin Park to alter wolf behavior with aversive conditioning have largely failed. A fearless wolf that was shot and superficially wounded with a .22 rifle learned to avoid the man who shot it but not anyone else. This does not prove that aversive conditioning doesn't work, but it is discouraging.

It is possible that this cluster of incidents was just a statistical fluke, but it is also possible that it represents a new reality that will require thoughtful responses from wolf managers.

Based on known facts, we can venture two general conclusions.

First, people are increasingly living or traveling in areas populated by wolves. That is a good thing in a way, for it signals the health of wolf populations in a number of areas. But increased contact between the species also means there will be more chances for aggressive wolf-human encounters.

Second, it appears that wolves are habituating to humans. Wolves are getting food from people or learning that they can find food near people. And wolves seem to be absorbing the lesson that humans are not a great threat to them. As wolves grow bolder, conflicts with humans are becoming more common. ■

Steve Grooms has recently rewritten his best-selling book, *The Return of the Wolf*.

It is possible that this cluster of incidents was just a statistical fluke, but it is also possible that it represents a new reality that will require thoughtful responses from wolf managers.



Emily Travaglini-Wright displays wounds she suffered while fighting off a wolf that chased her, biting her arm and face, at Katherine's Cove beach in Lake Superior Provincial Park.

CP/Sault Ste. Marie Star (Margaret Cameron-McQueen)



INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER

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Shirley and Joe Wolf

Thank You



Tracking the Pack

What's for Dinner?

by Lori Schmidt, Wolf Curator,
International Wolf Center

Visitors to the International Wolf Center's captive wolf exhibit often ask about the pack's diet. The Center feeds the wolves natural prey including road-killed deer and beaver that are purchased from local trappers. The wolves are fed weekly, usually a large deer carcass or several beavers, and are allowed to interact socially over the food.

A wolf is a carnivore, or meat eater, that may be successful in making a large kill once every 10 to 14 days in the wild. Given this frequency of hunting success,

it's easy to understand why the wolf has several physiological traits that aid a feast-and-famine feeding pattern. Feeding in wolves begins with salivation; three glands, the parotid, mandibular and sublingual, secrete slightly acidic saliva that aids in swallowing large quantities of meat. The next time you visit the Center or check our images in the wolf logs look closely at the sides of a wolf's mouth, and you will see a slight stain from the active salivary glands stimulated prior to a feeding.

The most unique characteristic of wolves' feeding is the ability of a wolf to consume up to 20 percent of its body weight. This is possible due to stretch receptors that detect distension of the stomach wall when a wolf is consuming a carcass. Have you heard the expression "wolf down your food"? If small quantities of food are given daily, the wolf quickly and aggressively consumes the food. The pack is most comfortable feeding on large quantities of meat and following their natural patterns such as caching food, playing tug-of-war with food items, defending food, begging for food, and, of course, sleeping after a big meal.

At our facility, in addition to providing dinners of natural prey, we give each wolf a daily multivitamin and other nutritional supplements, hidden in a meatball, to maximize their health. The wolves have become conditioned to this daily delivery, and it's a good tool for managing captive wolves. Wolves focus intently on food acquisition and are easily conditioned. But when food is used to attract wild wolves, it can have a negative effect. The implications of food conditioning and habituation on wild wolves are addressed in this issue (see "Ontario Experiences Cluster of Wolf-Human Encounters") and are an important message for wolf managers.

If you'd like to get a glimpse into the feeding patterns of wolves, attend our weekly program "What's for Dinner." Check the Center schedule for dates and times. ■



A slight stain from the saliva stimulated prior to feedings can be seen on this wolf's mouth.



Playing tug-of-war with food items is a common part of wolves' feeding behavior.

Jonathan Chapman

International Wolf Center



INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER

Notes From Home

The Center and Walter Medwid Honored Twice for Contributions to the Recovery of Gray Wolves

by Steve Lokker

The International Wolf Center and Executive Director Walter Medwid were honored in two ceremonies recently for leadership, achievement and cooperation that contributed to recovery and delisting of gray wolves in the Midwest earlier this year.

Medwid was one of two individuals to receive the

Silver Eagle Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Great Lakes/Big River Region Three. Pam Troxell, coordinator of the Timber Wolf Alliance at the Sigurd Olsen Environmental Institute of Northland College in Ashland, Michigan, was also honored.

The award has been presented since 1970 and is the most prestigious honor given by the region to individuals outside the USFWS. Recipients were announced at the 2007 Midwest Wolf Stewards meeting in Cable, Wisconsin, on April 25.

"Walter and Pam stepped forward to take on a difficult challenge when the need for leadership became apparent," said Lynn Davis, deputy assistant regional director of ecological services for the region, in presenting the award. "They put their

Mary Ortiz



skills and passions to work through the organizations they direct. We can credit Pam and Walter for playing key roles in successfully restoring wolves to the upper Midwest. It is easy to speculate that, without their help, wolf recovery in the western Great Lakes area would still be only a dream.

"Walter has ensured that the International Wolf Center has kept its programs fresh, the information it disseminates accurate and current, and its handling of ever-controversial wolf issues well-balanced, civil and informative."

The Center is also one of 10 organizations to receive the Cooperative Conservation Award from the U.S. Department of the Interior for a leadership role resulting in the delisting of the Western Great Lakes wolf population on March 12.

The Department of the Interior noted the efforts of nonprofit organizations, including the Center, that helped federal and state agencies educate the public with objective, science-based information about wolves, wolf ecology, management and recovery.

The Cooperative Conservation Award, presented by the secretary of the Interior

in Washington, D.C., to Medwid and the Center, was given "for outstanding cooperation and achievement in the delisting of the Western Great Lakes wolf population." Other recipients include the following:

■ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ron Refsnider

■ U.S. Geological Survey, L. David Mech

■ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, William J. Paul

■ U.S. Forest Service, Abigail R. Kimbell

■ Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Mike DonCarlos

■ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Adrian Wydeven

■ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Brian Roell

■ Timber Wolf Alliance, Pam Troxell

■ Timber Wolf Information Network, Richard Thiel ■

Steve Lokker is a freelance writer and friend of the International Wolf Center. He lives in Madison, Wisconsin. His writing and photographs have appeared in past issues of International Wolf.

Left: Walter Medwid, executive director of the International Wolf Center, and Pam Troxell, coordinator of the Timber Wolf Alliance at the Sigurd Olsen Environmental Institute of Northland College in Ashland, Michigan, received the Silver Eagle Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes/Big River Region Three. Next to them is Ron Refsnider, a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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Notes From Home

Wolf Park Celebrates 35th Anniversary

by Holly Jaycox

Wolf Park, a nonprofit education and research center in Battle Ground, Indiana, and Dr. Erich Klinghammer, its founder, are celebrating 35 years of working on behalf of wolves. Founded in 1972, even before the Endangered Species Act had been passed to protect the wolf and other species, Wolf Park started small but today is home to 18 wolves, 3 red foxes, 2 coyotes, and a small herd of American bison, and the main wolf enclosure has grown to 7 acres.

In 1968 when Klinghammer, with a Ph.D. in ethology from the University of Chicago, arrived in West Lafayette, Indiana, to teach at Purdue University, wolves were still on most people's list of scary, bloodthirsty wild animals and had been eradicated from most of the continental United States. While in Chicago, Klinghammer had met George Rabb, from the Brookfield Zoo, who had done a groundbreaking behavioral study on socialized wolves. Klinghammer grew up raising German shepherds, but when one of Rabb's wolves jumped up to greet him, he was amazed by how different she was from any dog he had known. As an animal behaviorist, he was inspired to

know more about this amazing wild canid.

Studying under ethologist Eckhard Hess, Klinghammer became a follower of Konrad Lorenz, known for his pioneering studies on imprinting and socialization of animals. An allergy to his first study subject, doves, solidified Klinghammer in a lifelong pursuit of understanding the wolf.

Some of the most important figures in wolf conservation also emerged from Purdue University including Durward Allen, who initiated the studies of wolves on Isle Royale in 1950, and David Mech and Rolf Peterson, Purdue alumni who also worked on Isle Royale and have continued in wolf research to this day. Klinghammer says his experiences visiting Isle Royale and talking to Allen significantly influenced his overall perception of wolves.

In Indiana, Klinghammer and his then wife, Suzanne, purchased a 75-acre farm 10 miles from Purdue. Rabb provided two socialized wolves, Koko and Cassie, who became the founding members of the Wolf Park pack. Klinghammer built a 1-acre enclosure next to his house for the wolves. Soon he and his graduate students were studying wolf behavior.

A transplant from



Above: Tristan, Wolf Park's alpha male.

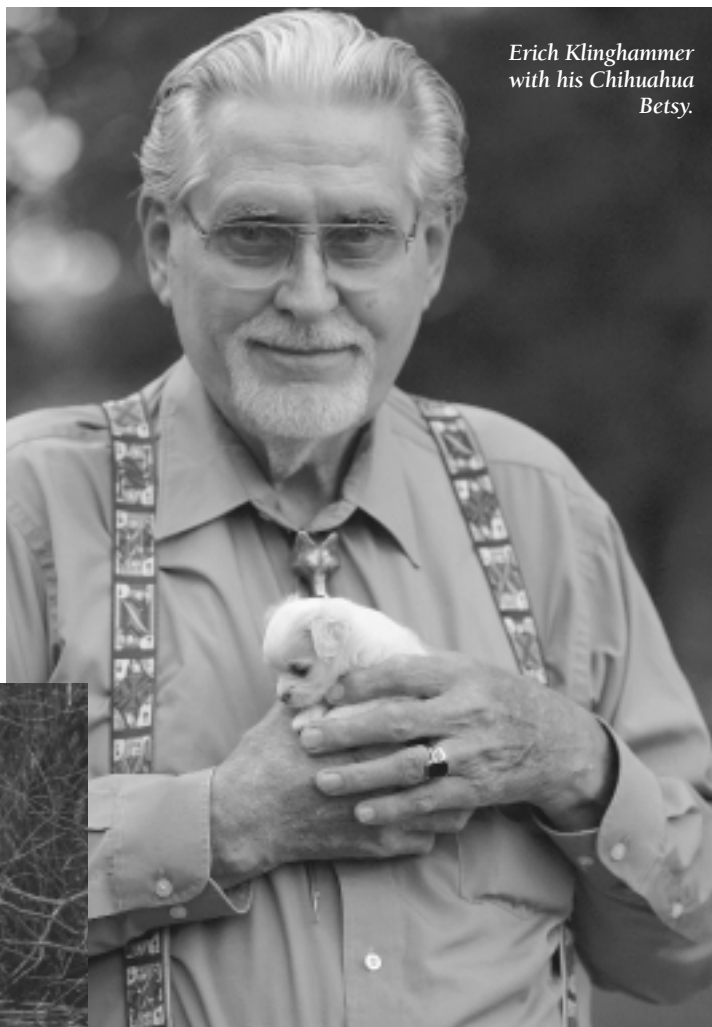
Right: Renki, a male in Wolf Park's wolf pack, leaps into the lake.



Germany, Klinghammer developed a deep appreciation for the wildlands that still exist in the United States. In Western Europe there are few wild areas left untouched by the pressures of human development. On a flight across the United States, as he looked out over expanses of forests, Klinghammer pledged to himself that he would find a way to contribute to preserving wildness in his adopted country.

Now, after 35 years of operation, Wolf Park is the result of Klinghammer's goals and dreams. The organization maintains a pack of captive wolves, has a staff and volunteers dedicated to learning about wolves and passing along their knowledge and passion to visitors, and has fostered wolf researchers and advocates as they took their first steps toward working with wolves.

Klinghammer and his associate Pat Goodmann



Erich Klinghammer
with his Chihuahua
Betsy.

Monty Sloan



Renki, Wotan, and Kailani, all wolves from Wolf Park's main pack,
participating in a wolf-bison demonstration.

Monty Sloan

have spent countless hours watching wolves engaging in social behavior and breeding season behavior, amassing a great depth of knowledge from observing wolves up close year-round. From their experiences evolved Wolf Park's *Wolf Ethogram*, a dictionary of wolf behavior used by wolf researchers around the world.

Klinghammer and Goodmann have also developed techniques for keeping their ambassador animals healthy and happy in captivity. Environmental enrichment and creative solutions to management problems are necessary to the care of such intelligent animals. Staff from other captive wolf facilities have come to Wolf Park to learn techniques for handling their wolves.

Wolf Park serves more than 20,000 visitors annually, who make their way to Indiana from across the United States and around the world. A variety of seminars—from in-depth looks at wolf behavior, to dogs and wolves, to wildlife art—are offered year-round. College students from the United States and abroad spend one to three months working at Wolf Park while learning about wolves and behavior. Wolf Park alumni include animal behaviorists and wolf conservationists working around

the world, including at Yellowstone National Park and in Canada, Italy and Australia.

At Wolf Park's 35th anniversary celebration, two alumni paid tribute to Klinghammer: wolf advocate Karlyn Atkinson Berg and Yellowstone Wolf Project Leader Doug Smith. Both testified that Erich's encouragement and belief in them at the beginning of their career was a foundation for their continued work. Smith, who interned at Wolf Park when he was 18, noted that Klinghammer's recommendation to Rolf Peterson launched Smith's career with wolves.

Wolf Park and Klinghammer are celebrating 35 years of working on behalf of wolves. We are in a changing world, and although the range and populations of wolves have grown significantly since 1972, they still face considerable challenges and a world full of misinformation. The staff of Wolf Park are proud that their organization, a place providing solid factual information, will continue to work, alongside organizations like the International Wolf Center, for the future of wolves. ■

Holly Jaycox has been working on behalf of wolves since 1992. Formerly the editor of WOLF! magazine, she is currently managing director at Wolf Park.

Wolves of the World

WOLVES IN ISRAEL

“Security Barrier” Means More Livestock Losses in Israel

In 1954, six years after the State of Israel was established, the government enacted the Wild Animals' Protection Law, a novel regulation protecting all but one of the 17 carnivore species in the country, including the wolf. Only the jackal remained officially listed as a “pest,” and this exemption from legal protection proved to be a mistake. In an attempt to eliminate jackals, pest control officers in the Ministry of Agriculture organized a wide-scale poisoning campaign. Because other animals were

wiped out by the misguided plan, the jackal was subsequently added to the list of protected carnivores.

At present, the Israeli public generally accepts the legal protection of carnivores. In 1999, the World Wolf Status Report estimated that a stable population of between 150 and 200 wolves lives in Israel. Adult male wolves (*Canis lupus pallipes*) weigh 55 to 75 pounds, although females are much smaller. Wolves in northern Israel are slightly larger.

Wolves have long roamed the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, the rugged, sparsely populated region east and north of the Sea of Galilee, captured by Israel from Syria in the 1967 war. In the Golan, wolf predation has always been particularly severe because livestock are traditionally kept on open range all year. Calves born on unfenced land frequently fall victim to wolf-dog hybrids as well as to wolves. Guard dogs, whose purchase cost is now government subsidized, are sometimes utilized, and the Nature Reserves Authority partially compensates farmers for livestock damages. Wildlife rangers or hunters with special permits can cull problem wolves, and when dens are found inside fenced areas, the wolves are removed and transferred to captive facilities. The Nature Reserves Authority also conducts a long-term research project on wolf-dog hybridization.

In recent years, wolf numbers in Israel have reportedly increased, and packs are now established south of the Sea of Galilee in the region between the Golan and the Palestinian West Bank. Reports of wolf attacks on sheep in the Western Galilee region are on the rise.

Until fairly recently, complaints from Palestinian shepherds in the West Bank were also increasing. Wolves living south of the Sea of Galilee had begun to roam into northern regions of the Palestinian-occupied region. Near the Palestinian town of Janin (also spelled Jenin), wolves sometimes preyed on livestock, especially if food was scarce in the nearby Gilboa Mountains. Then the wolf forays into the rural farmlands around Janin slowed and finally ceased. The reason? Israel's “security barrier,” a highly



controversial project begun in June 2002 that supporters assert is necessary to protect Israeli civilians from Palestinian terrorism.

As of June 2006, this formidable 30-foot-high chain-link and concrete separation fence winds through 436 miles of the West Bank. While most Palestinians bitterly resent its presence, the series of walls, trenches, electric fencing and barbed wire has one advantage for West Bank shepherds. It prevents wolves from ranging south and preying on Palestinian flocks and herds. While wolves and other animals such as porcupines and wild boars can dig under most fencing, the West Bank barrier has proved to be an impenetrable barricade. Thus, as the wolf population in the Israeli-occupied Golan increases, so does the number of complaints from Israeli ranchers.

Livestock growers in the Golan and south of the Sea of Galilee, frustrated by what they claim are considerable losses, sometimes ignore the strict protection regulations and try to shoot wolves whenever they can. Eight-foot electric pasture fences can be purchased with government financial assistance, but these and other preventive measures have limited success against a smart and adaptable predator like the wolf.

In January 2007, the Nature Reserves Authority tried a new tactic. Soldiers in the Israeli army were mobilized to capture a wolf from a pack alleged to be killing livestock. A two-year-old male was live-trapped and fitted with a radio transmitter. Managers hoped to obtain information about pack location and activities, thus enabling authorities to decide whether or not to cull any or all of the wolves. Meanwhile, Israel's Nature and Parks Authority is recommending that holes be dug under the fences in order that animals, particularly wolves, can get through the barrier. If this plan is approved, it may put an end to the respite from wolf predation enjoyed by Palestinian shepherds in the West Bank.



International Wolf Center

Pictured here is a wolf that although not from Israel, is similar to the wolves found there.

WOLVES IN GERMANY

Increasing Wolf Numbers Stir Up Familiar Controversies

Once again, wolves have shown that they are ready to reoccupy our landscapes, even if we humans are not quite ready to receive them. Showing no respect for borders, they in many ways reflect modern EU (European Union) citizens. If only they got to vote in the elections!

—John Linnell

Wolves were exterminated in Germany in the 19th century, although individual dispersers have wandered from time to time across the border from Poland. German reunification in 1990 led to protected status for the wolf, and in 1998 a wolf that had established territory on a military training base in the Upper Lusatia region of northern Saxony was joined by a mate. The pair produced pups in 2000, an event widely covered by the media and celebrated by conservationists.

At first, the wolves remained for the

most part within the boundaries of the military training area, and the general public joined the media in acclaiming the return of the wolf to Germany. However, in 2003, six wolf-dog hybrid pups were born in the adjacent Neustadt Heath. Photographs and genetic analysis confirmed that a female wolf had mated with a domestic dog, no doubt because the tiny population of Saxon wolves is relatively isolated from packs in Poland and the Czech Republic, thus preventing the female from finding a wolf for a mate. Controversy erupted over what to do about the hybrids. Wolf conservationists worried that hybrid genes would swamp the fragile Saxon population. But they were also concerned that shooting the pups would inflame animal rights groups. Eventually, two of the four surviving hybrid pups were live-trapped and transferred to a captive facility. The other two disappeared before they could be captured. But this event demonstrated one of the several diffi-

culties of securing long-term wolf recovery throughout eastern Germany even though an estimated 20 wolves, perhaps more, were reported to be roaming the Lusatia region in February 2007.

With wolf numbers increasing, it may be that the honeymoon is over. Despite reassurances from the German Environment Ministry that wolves pose no significant threat to people, a campaign has been launched by the "Sicherheit und Artenschutz" (Security and Species Protection) association, a group organized by local hunters proclaiming the wolves may be a danger to humans. Although the German Environment Ministry considers the wolves in Saxony and adjoining Brandenburg a plus for species conservation, the Security and Species Protection group predicts that it's just a matter of time before someone is attacked. (See "Ontario Experiences Cluster of Wolf-Human Encounters," this issue.)

Hunters and others opposed to the return of the wolf also say

the wolves are preying on livestock, thus causing economic hardships. The German Environment Ministry acknowledges that wolves may indeed kill domestic animals but that farmers are entitled to compensation for livestock damages. To arguments that wolves will reduce game populations, the Ministry counters that more deer and wild boars roam the region than ever before.

The Ministry is cautiously optimistic that wolves will increase in eastern Germany, still a relatively rural region even though it does not remotely resemble true wilderness. Farms dot the landscape, and forests are strictly managed by individual states. In his article "Wolves Returning to Germany: Opportunity and Challenge," John Linnell of

the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research pointed out the need for national and regional coordination of environmental issues as well as for coordination at national and international levels. To address this need, the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) brought stakeholders in Germany together in 2004 for a workshop to wrestle with the issue of wolf conservation. Perhaps, given a chance, wolves will increase in parts of the country, but what is true in other places will be true for Germany: humans will determine the future of the wolf. ■

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



Above: Reunification of Germany in 1990 led to protected status there for the wolf, and an estimated 20 wolves were reported to be roaming northern Saxony in February 2007.

Right: The German Environment Ministry is cautiously optimistic that wolves will increase in eastern Germany, although hunters and others are opposed to the return of the wolf.



William Rideg, Kishenehn Wildlife Works

A Look Beyond

What If?

by Bruce Weide

This article is adapted from a version that appeared in Wild Sentry's newsletter, Winter 2006.

This is a test. Please, before you flame Wild Sentry for irreverence, read on. Because, this is a test. In a sense, you could call it a final exam.

Now be honest—what was your first reaction upon seeing Koani with the baby? Did you think, “That’s crossing the line of propriety”? Or did you coo, “Ohhh, that’s so cute”? What initially flashed through your mind? Did you view the wolf as benevolent or as a threat?

Wolves and babies do mix on occasion—at least in stories. In reality, no way. Before we go any further, I want to deal with the issue of biology and dispense with it: Don’t try this at home! The purpose of the image and this essay is to examine the wolf conjured by human imagination, the creature that stalks the imagination, not the biological animal that hunts the forest. But in terms of positive stories regarding babies and wolves, there’s Romulus and Remus cast adrift on the Tiber River in a basket (much like Moses). Fortunately for the twins, after the current washed them ashore, a female wolf rescued Romulus and Remus from their floating casket. She suckled and sheltered the boys until a shepherd took over the role of caregiver. Romulus grew up to found Rome but not before he killed his brother. So, but for a wolf, Rome would never have been . . . according to the story.



Bruce Weide

Rudyard Kipling’s *The Jungle Book* begins with the infant Mowgli abandoned in the jungle and rescued by a pair of wolves who raise him with kindness and wisdom. Baby Pecos Bill bounced out of a covered wagon and was reared by coyotes. Granted, coyotes aren’t

wolves . . . but close enough to maintain the motif (especially here in the inland Northwest, where coyotes are constantly mistaken for wolves).

There exists an established folk belief and narrative convention surrounding the romantic notion of a babe raised by wolves. The point here

West Gate

is that the story wolf doesn't, by default, devour babies—though this does occur in plenty of fiction. In his novel *The Loop*, in which wolves play a major role, Nick Evans wrote a scene where a wolf eyes an infant and dog on a porch and approaches, albeit from quite a distance. Nevertheless, the mother, certain the wolf is intent on devouring the child, dashes indoors, babe in arms, and bolts the door.

While asking questions following a Wild Sentry program, an audience member surprised Pat and me when she brought up the wolf and baby scene in *The Loop* and expressed with utmost certainty that “the wolf was obviously going to eat the baby.” We found this a curious interpretation, given that throughout the scene, Evans’ depiction of the threat posed by the wolf or lack thereof remains neutral. He does not guide readers toward a judgment—readers go there on their own. Later in the story, via a wildlife biologist character, Evans makes it clear that the wolf’s attention was focused on the dog, not the infant. I brought this up because the anecdote is an example of an individual forming a rock-solid perception based on the influence of stories heard in her past.

For more than two decades, Pat and I have endeavored to motivate people to question their perceptions of the wolf. Are their beliefs based on facts or stories? Hopefully, we raised awareness that stories exert profound influence on attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions because, and make no mistake about it, stories trump facts any day of the week. Humans create order and make sense of the world through stories. Joseph Campbell, a mythologist whose works influence Pat and me, speaks to the importance of stories: “Myths (stories) are the instinctual nest that humans build to protect their young.”

The stories heard in childhood (as well as the stories we hear as an adult that reinforce childhood stories) influence our perceptions and beliefs far more than most people give them

(or care to give them) credit for. I’ll have to let that summation of a crucial concept suffice for the time being because addressing the impact and influence of stories is the subject of a book-length discussion.

But for now, back to the picture; the judgment that immediately flashed through your mind—wolf bad, wolf good, wolf eat baby—is a reflection of the wolf that resides in your imagination. And stories molded your imagination-wolf.

What did you see? If you saw the wolf in a negative light, don’t feel bad—that doesn’t mean Wild Sentry’s work has been in vain—it points to how entrenched the shadow wolf is in our minds, it points out the influence and staying power of childhood stories on malleable minds that seek guidance, answers and reasons. The fact that you did a mental double take on the picture—that you reacted to your initial reaction—points to progress.

So if you looked at the picture and said, (a) “That baby is meat,” or said, (b) “That’s the wolf that protected the Roman twins,” and (c) walked away without a second thought, then Wild Sentry failed in its quest. Whereas if you reached “b” or “c” and then reflected, “No, wait a

minute. I’m profiling. This image is playing with my mind, it’s making me confront my stereotypes,” and then you laughed at yourself—well, we couldn’t ask for more.

Which brings to mind a bigger “What if?” What if people when confronted with something that disrupted their internal status quo or their routine vision of the “way things should be,” and this thing that disrupted their vision of normal ignited a visceral reaction . . . what if they closed their mouth and engaged their brain? What if people stepped beyond certainty, muzzled judgment, and questioned their perceptions? What if? ■

For the past decade and a half, Bruce Weide co-directed Wild Sentry: The Northern Rockies Ambassador Wolf Program, along with his wife, Pat Tucker. The program blended science and the humanities to promote a better understanding of wolves and wildness. Koani, the ambassador wolf, died in February 2007. She was almost 16. Bruce is currently working on a documentary about Koani and Wild Sentry in order to carry on Koani’s educational legacy. Wild Sentry’s Web site is www.wildsentry.org.



William Rideg, Kishenehn Wildlife Works