

INTERNATIONAL WOLF



A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
FALL 2013

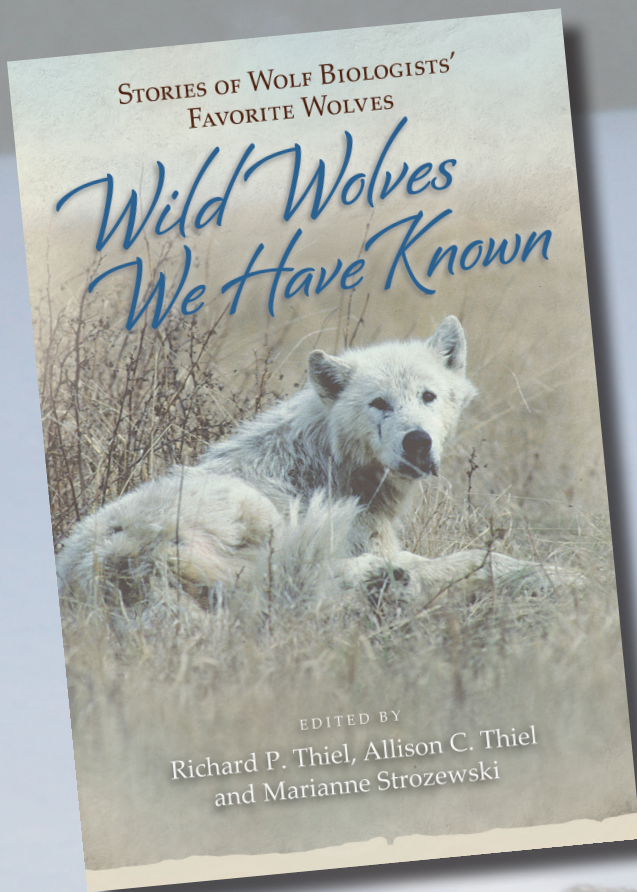
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a Wolf Den, PAGE 4

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Wild Wolves We Have Known

Edited by Richard P. Thiel, Allison C. Thiel and Marianne Strozewski

Most wolf biologists have encountered hundreds of wild wolves in their careers, and in that process, many have become witness to the intimate lives and fates of a select handful of individuals. Over the years, these biologists have occasionally shared stories of their 'favorite' wolves with one another, often over drinks at the local pub during wolf conferences. Few outsiders have been privy to these stories—until now...

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INTERNATIONAL WOLF

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VOLUME 23, NO. 3 FALL 2013

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How Not to Find a Wolf Den

A five-day odyssey, spanning 58 hours without decent sleep or meals, taught these researchers one thing—how not to find a wolf den.

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Tales From a Wolf Manager

Central to wolf recovery under the Endangered Species Act was the promise that, once wolves were recovered, public hunting would be a management tool for controlling expanding wolf populations. Today, however, some wolf advocates have forgotten that promise.

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Counting Wolves, Not a Perfect Science

Taking into consideration the time of year when wolf counts occur is critical to wolf management. Because wolf populations fluctuate during the year, peaking in late spring before hitting a low in late winter, many states count wolves in winter.

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Acrylic/mixed media painting of Aidan by Michael J. Perkins

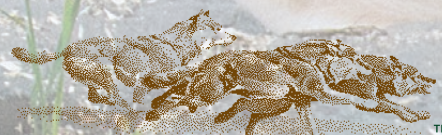
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Red Wolf Coalition Proudly Sponsors Color in This Issue

The red wolf's return to the wild in North Carolina is a remarkable conservation success story. But like all great predators in today's world, the red wolf confronts the twin crises of limited habitat and human intolerance. The Red Wolf Coalition's mission is to teach about red wolves and to advocate for them.

For years, the struggle of the red wolf to dodge extinction languished in the shadows. Few people knew about these animals, and public engagement in recovery was minimal. Over the years, *International Wolf* has been instrumental in helping the Red Wolf Coalition and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Red Wolf Recovery Program put red wolf recovery out front. The Summer 2013 issue, with the spectacular color photos of red wolves, revealed this animal in all its beauty and grace.

This sponsorship is the Coalition's thank-you to the International Wolf Center for showcasing America's "other wolf." Our ambassador red wolves welcome you to red wolf country and to the Red Wolf Education Center!

Gregory Koch



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From the Executive Director

Wolves and Humans at the Crossroads

In a few short weeks wolf experts from 19 countries will arrive in Duluth, Minnesota, for our long-awaited International Wolf Symposium 2013. More than a year in the making, this event should be on everyone's bucket list. CNN founder Ted Turner will kick off our symposium, and many other experts and luminaries will be there to present some truly fascinating topics.

One that I am particularly looking forward to is the presentation by cinematographer Bob Landis on Wolf '06. This iconic Yellowstone wolf captured the hearts of so many of us across the world. Landis has a passionate and breathtaking story to tell and show about her tragic death last year and the subsequent disruption to the pack she led for many years. To witness never-before-seen footage of this beloved wolf will be nothing short of unforgettable.



Rob Schultz

With the looming possibility that wolves will soon become extinct on Isle Royale, renowned wolf researcher Rolf Peterson's presentation will, no doubt, be on everyone's symposium agenda. Wolves at Isle Royale National Park in Michigan have both a symbolic and ecological importance. Should we introduce new wolves to save the population, or should nature be left to take its course? This is the dilemma that ecologists and managers must confront along with the subsequent effects on other animal populations. We have a fascinating primer for Peterson's presentation that you can watch at www.wolf.org.

Perhaps the greatest highlight of the Symposium will be the unveiling of our new book *Wild Wolves We Have Known* edited by wolf biologist Dick Thiel. The International Wolf Center is honored to present this unique collection of wolf encounters by noted field biologists and researchers from around the world. I know you will enjoy these captivating stories of the most memorable wolves these experts have studied and the struggles they overcame to learn what we now know about these amazing creatures. To advance order the book visit www.wolf.org.

As significant changes continue throughout the world regarding the status and protection of wolves, the International Wolf Symposium 2013 will be where wolf experts rendezvous to share their knowledge and discuss what can be done to advance their survival. We hope you will be a part of these conversations by attending this important event. ■



Rob Schultz, executive director



Wolves and Humans at the Crossroads

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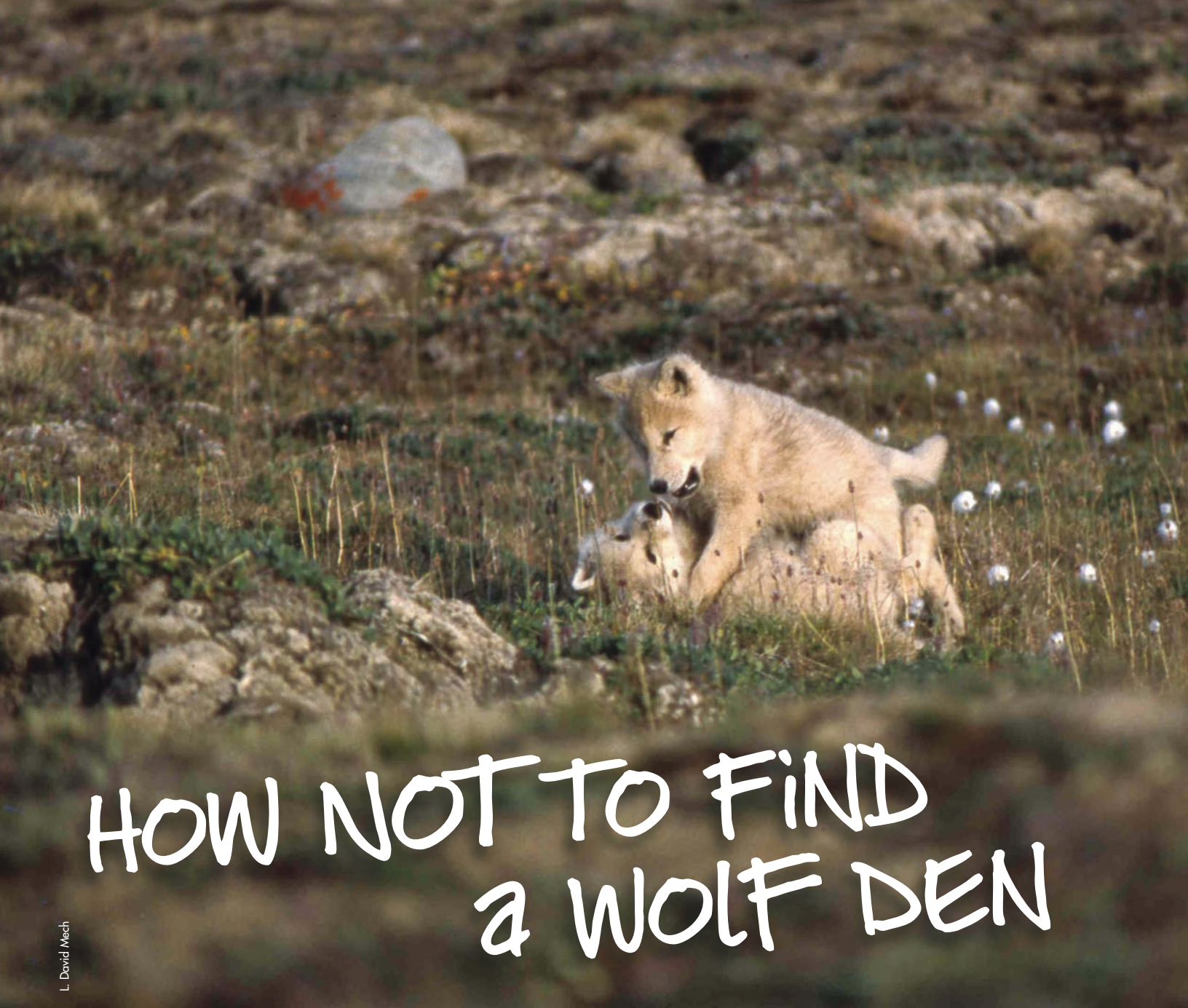
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L. David Mech

HOW NOT TO FIND a WOLF DEN

by L. DAVID MECH

It had been 40 hours since my assistant, Mary Maule, and I had slept. On this five-day, all-terrain-vehicle trip away from our base camp on Canada's Ellesmere Island, 600 miles (966 kilometers) from the North Pole in early July 1989, our food was almost gone. We were down to one "boil-in-the-bag" lasagna and one beef stew, 2 ounces (57 grams) of cashews, 40 chocolate "pills" and eight licorice sticks. We hadn't eaten anything in a day and a half, and even then we had only split two tiny cans of ham and a few crackers, washed down with glacial melt water. We had been searching for a pack of wolves but had

given up and were driving our all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) back to camp.

Suddenly we spotted our quarry chasing a herd of musk-oxen. The pack killed a calf and then a yearling right in front of us, and we had settled into a small tundra depression to watch the wolves feed and wait for one to start taking parts from the kill back to the den. Our ultimate goal those last five days had been to find the den. We thought that we were on the verge of that now that the wolves had made their kills. Thus it was critical to stay awake while the wolves fed until at least one of them left to take food to the den.



The last few hours of our vigil seemed utterly interminable. So much was riding on what those six wolves would do: (1) our plans for the rest of the summer, (2) plans for Mary's replacement, (3) my plans for the next year, and (4) my extreme curiosity about what was

going on. Fortunately the weather was holding. The sky was cloudless, and miracle of miracles, no wind. At least our padded wind pants, parkas, and down vests were keeping us warm while we hugged the ground.

However, as time passed it began to look like something was wrong. We knew that these wolves could not have been at the den in at least 22 hours. It was now about 7 a.m., and with 24-hour arctic sunlight, we had been watching for 17 hours since they made their kills, yet still no wolf had headed off to the den. Usually the prime function of a pack's hunting contingent is to procure food for the breeding female and the pups. The pups remain at the den this early in the summer, and their mother stays with them most of the time.

All my observations during the past three summers had shown that the breeding male and pack members carry food to the den regularly both in their mouths and by regurgitating their stomach contents, sometimes more than once per day. At the only other two musk-ox kills I had seen, the wolves did the same thing. In 1986 the wolves had nailed three calves one day in July—probably 300 pounds (136 kilograms) of meat—and delivered food to the den within hours. Those kills were only a mile (1.6 kilometers) from the den, but after completely consuming them, the whole pack was at the den a few hours later. In 1987, even though the kill was 20 miles (32 kilometers) straight-line from the den, two pack members left the kill for the den immediately after feeding, and the whole pack was back to the den within eight hours.

This time the wolves had essentially cleaned up both the yearling and calf within 11 hours and now were merely sleeping it off, with no one heading off to a den. The unspeakable thought kept creeping into my mind: "Maybe there is no den this year." That would be the only explanation I could think of for this behavior. First 2, then 3, 4 and 5 a.m., etc. rolled by, and still the wolves just slept. Every now and then one got up, stretched and curled back down again. When would we know our answer? I have watched wolves sleep as long as 19 hours. Would we still have to endure that? 6, 7 and 8 a.m., and no movement.

It just didn't make sense. The pack is a pack because of the breeding pair. The bond between the adults and the ties of offspring to their parents are what hold the pack together. We knew there was a breeding female this year because we had seen her and confirmed that she was nursing only a week ago. We also had good reason to believe that she was still part of the pack because eight wolves had been seen only two weeks before, which would have included the six we were watching, plus the breeding female and a non-breeding female (probably her daughter) that usually accompanied her.

Still, all day went by, and Mary and I took turns dozing off, not wanting to miss the crucial departure that should allow us to follow the wolves to the den.



Dean Cluff



L. David Mech

Our field notes told what happened next:

"5:50 p.m.—four wolves arise and one goes to the calf kill and works at further reducing it. Now two more join it and pick at the carcass. Two scuffle over some last bit of intestine, and others peel off the shaggy hair on the bottom side of the skin. These wolves were hungry. One goes off to raid caches, some as far as 250 meters (273 yards) away."

"6:47 p.m. —the last wolf is done at the carcass. The whole pack meets, wrestles, troops and plays and then sleeps. How long must we wait?"

Mary and I continued to take turns snoozing on the tundra, until suddenly Mary poked me. "They're leaving!" she announced. It was 8:22 p.m., some 30 hours since we had plopped down to watch and wait, and now finally the wolves were heading out, hopefully to the den.

Within a few minutes, however, the pack ran into more musk-oxen, two herds and a single bull. The wolves charged a group of five adults and a calf, but as usual the adults tightened their

group and protected the calf, and the wolves quickly gave up. A few minutes later the scene repeated itself, this time with a herd of 10 adults and 2 calves. The single bull then grabbed the wolves' attention, and they chased it up and down over rises and depressions for five minutes and then relented. Ditto with a musk-ox duo that they only focused on for a couple of minutes. When would the pack ever head back to the den?

Not now, we soon found out to our great dismay. The six wolves veered off away from the musk-oxen. They then headed right back in the direction from which we had just come and which we had searched thoroughly. We had watched from every hilltop and howled every few hours with no success for five days. We were convinced the den was nowhere near that area.

As we watched the wolves disappear over the tundra, we boiled our last meals over our single-burner stove. We



Deon Cluff



L. David Mech



L. David Mech

had already finished our cashews and eight licorice sticks while we watched the wolves feed and sleep for 30 hours. Now it was our turn. Each of us had only caught a few fitful winks during the past 58 hours, but it was still a three-hour very-rough ATV drive back to base camp. Thus we just crashed where we were. Ellesmere Island is a desert, so rain is usually no problem.

Or so we thought! Some 15 hours later light rain began to fall, and we started back to camp. The wind and rain picked up, the rain turned to sleet and then big flakes of snow covered us. ATVs are wonderful vehicles, ideally suited for tundra travel. But they quickly turn into mud-mobiles in rain and snow. Ours threw mud up all over us every inch of the way back. We even had trouble climbing hills with the machines. Their four-wheel drives merely spun the wheels on the slippery slopes such that we had to pick our way up the gentler ones.

When within a half mile (0.8 kilometer) of our tent, lo and behold, there was the wolf pack again, hunting musk-oxen in the snow. No way could we repeat our past vigil, even though the wolves did kill another calf in front of us out of a herd of 10 adults and 3 calves. After completing my notes and snapping a few pictures, we continued on to the warmth and dryness of our tents and the contentment from our food cache.

And the den? There certainly was one we eventually found, with four pups, the breeding female and her 2-year-old daughter. However, during the two weeks that we got to watch the den, only a single member of the pack of six ever joined these stay-at-home wolves, and then only for a few days. Contrary to all the other observations we or anyone had ever made, the breeding male, the yearlings and the 2-year-old male operated independently of the den wolves, at least for several weeks during sum-

mer. Based on observations by weather station personnel in the area long after we were gone, both groups finally did merge again in the fall.

Thus our five-day odyssey, our 58 hours without decent sleep or meals, and our 30-hour watch of the pack at the kills were all for naught so far as finding the den was concerned. We had made a new discovery: This was not the way to find a wolf den! ■

L. David Mech is a senior research scientist for the U.S. Geological Survey (Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, 8711 37th St. SE, Jamestown, ND 58401-7317) and founder and vice chair of the International Wolf Center. He has studied wolves for more than 50 years and published several books and many articles about them.



Landscape: Dean Cluff
 Wolf pup: L. David Mech

Mike Jimenez (right) and USFWS Director Dan Ashe in Wyoming discussing wolf management and the size of a wolf pack's home range.

Tales From a Wolf Manager

by MIKE JIMENEZ



Tom Kilner

Thirty years ago if you had asked me whether someday thousands of wolves would run wild on the landscape of the lower 48 states, I would have laughed at the notion. But with federal recovery programs and the cooperation of state agencies and rural communities, wolf populations have recovered in the Upper Midwest and Northern Rocky Mountains. Maintaining wolf populations into the future rests not only on the protection of suitable habitat but also on ensuring public tolerance of wolves, particularly from those living close to wolf populations.

Wolf recovery has occurred mainly on public and private lands often dominated by human activities. However, as a wolf researcher and now as a wolf manager, I have learned that wolves are habitat generalists and can be quite tolerant of humans. Minimizing wolf-human conflicts has been an essential ingredient in successful wolf recovery; thus our restoration effort began by working with the people most directly affected by wolves, reassuring livestock producers and rural communities that we would remove wolves that killed livestock. Once wolves were recovered, public hunting would be a management tool used to control expanding wolf populations and distribution. Honoring that promise allowed our wolf



recovery program to become a remarkable success story for the Endangered Species Act. Recently, however, many wolf advocates have forgotten our original promise or are unaware of it and are utterly opposed to killing wolves for any reason. Saving wolves from state management has become a rallying cry for many passionate wolf lovers.

Fortunately, most wolves don't cause chronic depredation problems, but depredations occur when wolves are continuously exposed to livestock. Wolves and sheep can be especially problematic. For example, three wolves settled into the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming and killed more than 113 sheep within a few months. The following summer, a pair of wolves denned in southwest Wyoming where tens of thousands of sheep give birth to lambs and spend the summer grazing large tracts of public and private lands. After the wolves developed a pattern of killing sheep, both the adults and their pups were removed in a control action. Pro-wolf groups and many wolf advocates mounted a huge negative media campaign and criticized the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for killing these wolves. They suggested that the wolves be allowed to remain in the area and that additional depredations could be avoided by harassing the wolves away from sheep.

Wolves are well known for their dispersal abilities, and we have seen that dispersing wolves are more than capable of recolonizing areas close to humans. A few years ago, two dispersing wolves settled near a populated housing development within the city limits of a Wyoming town. Within a short time the wolves became habituated to humans. They walked along the streets of the housing development, through people's

backyards, and near school-bus stops. One neighborhood dog was severely injured. There was even an online video of the wolves walking in broad daylight between houses. Half the community was thrilled, seeing the situation as a chance to coexist with wolves. The other side blamed me for allowing wolves to move into a residential area and threaten their children. School-bus schedules and drop-off sites were changed, and I received threatening phone messages.

We know that the likelihood of wolves injuring humans is incredibly rare, but recent documentation of fatal wolf attacks in Alaska and Saskatchewan remind us that concern for safety cannot be discounted. For a management agency, human safety is paramount, and wolves can't be allowed to hang around populated residential areas. The decision was made to remove the wolves, but it turned out to be nearly impossible to find a location where I could catch them. One resident would say, "Sure, trap here and get rid of the no-good varmints." The neighbor would say, "Don't you

wolf advocates have enjoyed watching wolves in national parks in Wyoming. Several years ago, wolf management in Wyoming became even more controversial when wolves that denned in a national park traveled outside the park and repeatedly killed livestock on private property. The conflict ended when three wolves were killed in a control action at the depredation site. Unfortunately, one of the depredating wolves killed was the breeding female. At that time the pack consisted of at least nine wolves with six pups approximately 5-6 weeks old.

Members of the livestock community felt their concerns were heard because we removed the depredating wolves as promised. Wolf advocates criticized this management action. However, five pups survived, and the pack remained intact and successfully reproduced the following year at the same den. Wolf watchers continue to enjoy wolves in the park. The lesson from this depredation incident was that managing agencies must maintain local tolerance of wolves by resolving conflicts when wolves kill live-



To watch a video on the wolves in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, visit the following site: www.lifewithwolves.org/home/?p=11888 Feb 25, 2012: Video: Wolves in Jackson Hole, Wyoming/Life With Wolves

dare bother our wolves. We love having wolves here." While the story was followed intently in the daily headlines and on social media, I eventually trapped and euthanized both wolves. It was a sad but predictable outcome when wolves lose their wildness.

One of the surprises of wolf recovery was that some wolf packs even denned in areas accessible to people, becoming very visible to the public. These packs became celebrities, and many

stock but also must maintain tolerance of management actions in the eyes of an urban public that has sympathy for wolves but little empathy for livestock producers.

Sometimes controlling problem wolves can resolve livestock conflicts, but this can be at the expense of the biologists trying to solve the problem. One winter several wolves developed the habit of chasing horses on a large ranch in Wyoming. It became a game—like



A few members of the Canyon pack were feeding on an elk carcass near Alum Creek in Yellowstone National Park. The two lighter-colored wolves were tussling at the remains of the elk, while the dark wolf was busy chasing off the ravens, which were looking for some morsels.

Patrick Connolly



Mike Jimenez, wolf coordinator for the Northern Rocky Mountains, draws blood from the back leg of a collared wolf.

dogs chasing cars. The owner scared the wolves away during the day, but the wolves returned at night to harass the horses. The game continued until one of the rancher's favorite horses fell, broke a leg and had to be euthanized. The wolves continued to chase his horses, and we issued the rancher a shoot-on-site permit to kill one wolf on his property. That night he shot a wolf caught in the act of chasing his horses. The problem animal was a GPS radio-collared wolf that we had just recently collared for an

ongoing research project, and as frustrated as we were about the loss of this wolf, we thanked the rancher for his assistance. For the rest of that winter the wolves never came back to his pasture, and to this day the pack persists in that area.

Wolf restoration in the Upper Midwest and the Northern Rocky Mountains has been an impressive success story. It has been a long journey over many decades, relying on the efforts of literally thousands of people. Now that wolves are recovered and management is transferred to states, it's important to honor

our original commitments to minimize wolf depredations and use hunting as a management tool to control wolf population size and distribution. Public tolerance of wolves has allowed wolves to persist on many different landscapes as long as conflicts are kept to a minimum and the size of the wolf population remains in proportion to available prey and suitable habitat.

From a personal perspective, I have been involved in wolf conservation, research, reintroduction in central Idaho

and management in the Northern Rocky Mountains for the USFWS for my entire wildlife career, spanning the last 27 years. I began working with wolves when they first dispersed from Canada and began recolonizing northwestern Montana. My goal has always been to encourage wolf recovery in as many different areas as possible by promoting tolerance and respect for people who see wolves from different perspectives. It benefits all wolves when urban wolf advocates understand and respect viewpoints from rural communities where people often feel the direct effects of wolves. Likewise, rural communities can diffuse the controversy by better understanding why so many people want to see wolves back on the public lands shared by us all. Managing wolves is very doable, but managing people and the controversy that comes with wolves will always be a challenge. ■

Mike Jimenez has worked with wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains (NRM) for the last 27 years. He currently works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the NRM wolf management and science coordinator, and is stationed in Jackson, Wyoming.

Counting Wolves, Not a Perfect Science

Editor's note: The most recent wolf censuses for many states were not available when International Wolf went to press. Check www.wolf.org in coming weeks for the most current data.

by JESS EDBERG

information services director, International Wolf Center

Each year several states release their annual wolf census reports based on late-winter minimum wolf counts.

Many wolf managers and biologists around the country have just finished their annual count of wild wolves to determine whether populations are meeting management objectives. Wolf populations are generally counted by the states or by the recovery areas, depending on which agency is responsible for wolf management.

For example, wolves in Arizona and New Mexico are a managed recovery population protected by the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and monitored primarily by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In Minnesota and Montana each state's respective department of natural resources monitors and manages the wolf population within its state.

Generally speaking, wolves managed under the ESA are counted annually. However, not every state conducts an annual census. Individual states have different management objectives and can adjust their census style to fit those goals.

Minnesota conducts a wolf census approximately every five years. Minnesota is the only state in the lower 48 where wild wolf populations maintained a foothold on the landscape throughout European settlement of the United States. At the time of ESA listing, there was a stable population of 500 to 1,000 wolves in Minnesota. Within a decade, the population almost doubled, and in the 1990s it reached 2,000. A minimum of 1,600 wolves was established as a maintenance goal in Minnesota's wolf management plan, but the wolf population in the state has remained roughly stable at around 3,000 for more than a decade. If a significant drop below 1,600 wolves were to occur, Minnesota would take action to both determine the cause and address the issue per the state's management plan as well as the ESA delisting agreement.

Montana conducts an annual count of wolves in areas where the population is relatively new in terms of years on the landscape. Wolf populations in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana are still changing and adapting to the natural and cultural landscape since reintroduction in the mid-1990s. Counting wolves annually allows Montana to monitor population trends more accurately.

The methods used to count wolf populations also vary by state. The monitoring methods used are influenced by a number of factors:

- Type of population (state managed vs. federally protected)
- Topography
- Vegetation/foilage
- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Climate
- Snow depth in winter
- Person power (volunteer or agency staff)



Ronald Schultz



Chris Crowe

- Resources (ground patrol, helicopter and radio telemetry)
- Collaboration with other agencies or groups

The wolf population that lives within Yellowstone National Park is highly visible, and a high proportion wear radio collars and are regularly tracked. The expansive river valleys and lack of tall vegetation allow observers frequent opportunities to see wolves and count their numbers even from miles away with the use of spotting scopes. Additionally, the park has a host of volunteer “wolf watchers” who spend significant amounts of time in the park monitoring both wolf packs and individual animals. These data help park staff collect information about the wolves living in the park and save the park valuable resources that can be applied elsewhere.

In Wisconsin, trained volunteers collect wolf sightings and complete track and howling surveys for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These volunteers log thousands of hours, which frees DNR staff to analyze and combine the data with its own radio-tracking data to produce a wolf census report for the state.

Minnesota also combines multiple data sources to determine the number of wolves on the landscape. Due to dense vegetation and the size of the population, counting every wolf isn’t practical. Therefore, a collaborative effort is made

to gather data from research entities and individuals throughout the wolf’s range. This information might come from sightings of wolves on the ground, locations taken using radio telemetry, scent posts or track surveys. Analyzing these data requires Minnesota DNR staff to incorporate a variety of factors such as road and human density, prey populations, vegetative cover, inland lakes and incidence of disease.

This method doesn’t give an exact count, but it does provide a solid number for wildlife managers to use as a starting point. A “confidence interval” describes the probability of a number being higher or lower based on the data available. In Minnesota, the confidence interval for an estimated wolf population is approximately 500. This means that if every wolf could be counted, there could be between 2,500 and 3,500 wolves. This confidence interval is in place because it is impossible to count every single wolf in Minnesota.

When a wolf census is conducted, it is done in mid- to late-winter, which is the time of year when a wolf population is almost at its lowest. A count at this time of year indicates whether or not population management objectives are being met and whether action needs to be taken.

In late spring, when pups are born, the population is at its highest. However, this is a transitory situation. Pup mortality varies considerably depending on the

overall condition of the pack, availability of food resources, weather, disease and security of the den.

This high springtime number decreases throughout the year as some pups die. Additionally, adolescent and adult wolves disperse and die each year with the most common causes being accidental, incidental and depredation-control human take, starvation and intra-specific strife or wolf-on-wolf aggression, usually related to territorial disputes.

The methods used by state agencies also work for recovering populations under federal management. However, wolf populations that are federally protected and managed are under greater scrutiny from the agencies responsible for them as well as the public.

With the census data collected, managers can determine how to prudently move forward with management decisions such as increasing or decreasing protections or implementing a hunting or trapping season. Evaluation of past management practices are also measured against the outcome of a population count.

Several states have already provided 2012-13 wolf population numbers in press releases and/or posted them on their respective Web sites. However, due to the amount of data that must be collected and analyzed, census result release dates vary from late spring to summer.

Updates on wolf populations in the United States are posted as they become available at www.wolf.org in the Wolves of the World section. ■

To read more about wolf counts, visit any of the links below:



Montana wolf census report

http://fwp.mt.gov/news/newsReleases/headlines/nr_4073.html



Volunteer trackers of Wisconsin

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/volunteer.html>



Watch a video about how Minnesota wolves are counted

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/wolves/mgmt.html>



Following Yellowstone’s wolves

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/wolves.htm>



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Andre DeCarie



WOLF EXPERTS

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SHARING 99 WOLF PRESENTATIONS

Elizabeth Murray



**“To say there’s something
for everyone is a bit of
an understatement.”**

—Rob Schultz, executive director
International Wolf Center



Mike O'Connell



2013 INTERNATIONAL WOLF SYMPOSIUM

Wolves and Humans at the Crossroads

OCTOBER 10-13, 2013

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International Symposium Presentation Sampling

Lessons from wolf restoration in the northwestern United States

Ed Bangs, retired wolf recovery coordinator for the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Helena, Montana, USA

Bangs will discuss the history, science, and politics behind restoring wolves to the Northern Rocky Mountains as well as possible implications for future wolf restoration efforts.

Causes of mortality in endangered red wolves (*Canis rufus*): Lessons in recovery and management

Becky Bartel, Red Wolf Recovery Program,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Manteo,
North Carolina, USA

Twenty years of data show that causes of mortality in red wolves include suspected illegal activities, involving gunshot, poisoning, and other suspected illegal take. In fact, 60 percent of all observed mortalities were potentially avoidable.

Challenges and opportunities for wolf conservation in Europe

Luigi Boitani, University of Rome, Italy

In this presentation, Boitani will report on the current status, trends and main challenges of managing the expanding wolf population in Europe.

If you wander, they will eat you: Conflicting knowledge, environmental justice, and wolf attacks in central Asia

Adam Hermans, University of Colorado,
Boulder, USA

Hermans uses a political ecology to critique stories of wolf attacks in Central Asia, offering perspective for wolf conservation.

Where wild prey do not exist anymore: A summary of wolf research in agricultural habitats in Spain

Juan Carlos Blanco, Wolf Project, CBC, Madrid

Blanco will present a summary of a more than 10-year study conducted in agricultural areas of Spain that will promote the understanding of the ecology and behavior of other wolf populations living in habitats where natural prey are absent or very scarce.

Influence of wolf predation risk on elk movement in northern Yellowstone National Park

Michel Kohl, Utah State University, Logan, USA

This presentation will provide an increased understanding of wolf spatial impacts on prey species, critical for conservation and management of predator and prey.

Wolves brush with extinction at Isle Royale—again

Rolf Peterson, Michigan Tech University,
Houghton, USA

Wolves at Isle Royale have symbolic and ecological importance; as they brush with extinction ecologists and managers must confront basic values associated with protected areas.

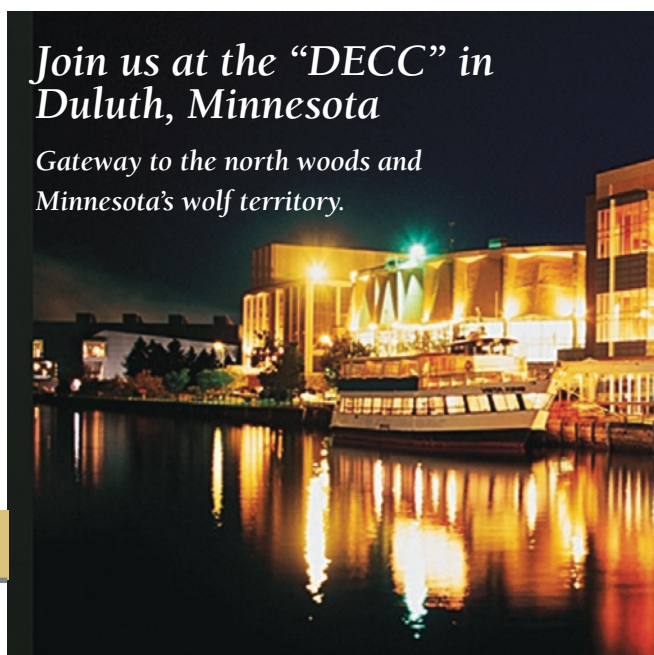
Prey of the Mexican wolf: Enough, the right kind and how many will they eat?

Doug Smith, Science and Planning Subgroup
of the Mexican wolf recovery team, Yellowstone
National Park, Wyoming, USA

Mexican wolf recovery in the Blue Range of Arizona and New Mexico has been slowed by numerous setbacks. Poor population performance has been blamed on several factors; one of them is that the presumed natural prey of Mexican wolves is deer-sized or smaller, yet extant wolves are preying primarily on elk—despite deer being available. Why?

*Join us at the “DECC” in
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Minnesota’s wolf territory.*



Wolf photo this page: Robert Dewar; Opposite page: Mike Possis

To register or for more information: www.wolf.org

Effects of wolf predation on hunter harvest of moose—an empirical approach

Hakan Sand, Grimsö Wildlife Research Station, Riddarhyttan, Sweden

Moose management in Sweden is highly adaptive, and both managers and hunters respond to changes in predation pressure.

Analysis of wolf-human conflicts in Turkey: Encounters, depredation and preventive measures

Hüseyin Ambarli, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

To reveal the consequences of wolf-human conflict in Turkey, Ambarli compiled data on 139 incidents from the archive of national media over a 10-year period.

The silent strategy of conservation: The case of the Mexican Wolf

Jorge Servin, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Unidad Xochimilco, Mexico

This presentation details the results of a survey taken in rural communities in selected areas of Mexico to evaluate the perception these communities have of efforts to reintroduce the Mexican wolf in Mexico.

Recent trend of public attitude on wolf restoration in Japan

Narumi Nambu, Japan Wolf Association, Tama City, Tokyo, Japan

Since 1993 a citizen movement by the Japan Wolf Association (JWA) has encouraged the wildlife administration to restore wolves in Japan and has conducted programs to get public consensus on it. Survey details will be presented.

Conflict mitigation and attitudes toward wolves in a rural community

Robin Rigg, Slovak Wildlife Society, Liptovský Hrádok, Slovakia

Rigg will present results of a baseline survey of public perceptions, attitudes and knowledge of large carnivores and their management among 10 target groups in a rural community and the changes that followed the implementation of conflict mitigation and awareness raising measures.

Ma'iinagan and the Anishinaabeg

Reyna Crow and Sandra Skinaway, Northwoods Wolf Alliance, Duluth, Minnesota, USA

Crow and Skinaway will discuss the unique cultural and ecological importance of the wolf to the Anishinaabeg people.

Enemy of the shepherd, wolf in dog's clothing? Wolf as deity, devil, menace, mistreated

Renée Worringer, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

This paper explores the wolf's role in human history through a cross-cultural perspective comparing Christian and Muslim attitudes and examines humanity's unbreakable tie to the wolf.

Parasites of wolves and their ecological correlates in Yellowstone (USA), Abruzzo (Italy) and Mercantour (France) national parks

Barbara Molnar, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

The potentially highly damaging impact of infectious diseases on free-ranging carnivore populations is investigated in 11 wolf packs belonging to three populations.

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Reservations: 218-722-1202 or toll free 800-477-7089.
Ask for International Wolf Center Symposium rate.

For additional lodging and dining options
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Early Registration Discount Ends August 16!

To register or for more information:

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UPDATED SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

*Schedule subject to change.

Wolf photo: Martin Harvey

Thursday, October 10

7 a.m.–5:30 p.m.	The International Wolf Center's Wolves and Wilderness Bus Tour
6–9 p.m.	Registration open at the Holiday Inn
7–9 p.m.	Welcome reception at the Holiday Inn, cash bar available

Friday, October 11

7 a.m.	Registration open at the DECC
8:30 a.m.	Welcome/opening remarks
8:45 a.m.–10 a.m.	Panel: What is wolf recovery and how is it best achieved? Ed Bangs, Mike Phillips, Larry Voyles, Nancy jo Tubbs as moderator
10 a.m.–11 p.m.	Individual sessions
12–1:15 p.m.	Keynote Ted Turner: Wolves and a world full of challenges and opportunities <i>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</i>
1:30–2 p.m.	Keynote Jamie Clark: Mexican wolf recovery
2–4 p.m.	Panel: Mexican wolf recovery plan, Sherry Barrett, Rich Frederickson, John Vucetich, Doug Smith and Carlos Lopez-Gonzalez, Mike Phillips as moderator
4–5:30 p.m.	Individual sessions
7–8 p.m.	Dogs' relationships to Wolves: genetics, behavior and conflict, Ray Coppinger <i>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</i>
8:15–9:15 p.m.	Film: <i>The Life of Wolf 06</i> , Bob Landis <i>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</i>

Saturday, October 12

8:30–10:15 a.m.	Individual sessions including state management of wolves: How are we doing? Bob Ream
10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Panel: Working toward consensus Alistair Bath presenter and panel moderator, Jim Hammill, Gary Leistico, Paul Paquet, Howard Goldman
12:30–1:30 p.m.	Poster session and exhibit review
1:30–4 p.m.	Individual sessions
6–8:30 p.m.	Banquet, awards, <i>Wild Wolves We Have Known</i> , Dick Thiel
8:30–9:30 p.m.	Book signings

Sunday, October 13

8:30–10:35 a.m.	Individual sessions
11 a.m.–12 p.m.	Dr. L. David Mech: 55 Years of Wolf Research
12–12:10 p.m.	Closing remarks
1–3:30 p.m.	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Wolf Specialist Group (WSG) lunch and meeting at the Holiday Inn. Observers allowed.

Registration Fees

International Wolf Center Member.....	\$249.00
after Friday August 16, 2013	\$275.00
Non-Member	\$299.00
(Visit shop.wolf.org to become a member & save!)	
after Friday August 16, 2013	\$325.00
Student Registration	\$199.00
after Friday August 16, 2013	\$225.00
1-Day Registration	\$159.00

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Nan Fry

Honorary

In honor of Aidan's and Denali's birthdays:
Betty Magnuson

Happy Birthday Gary Alex:
From the wolves, Oompa and GG, and Timber and Dakota.

In honor of Matthew Arasin:
Risetta Jacobs

Happy Birthday Boltz and friends! Eat well and have a long, happy healthy life. One of your blessed pup-care assistants:
Melonie Shipman

Happy Belated Birthday Boltz and Luna:
Betty Magnuson

A tribute to the work of the International Wolf Center, and a howl-out from the red wolves of North Carolina:
Neil Hutt

Thanks to the International Wolf Center for being the best source of factual information about wolves out there. Keep up the good work:

Deborah Hinchcliffe

In honor of Pam Churn:
Lorianne Churn

In honor of Don Craighead:
Anonymous

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Ronald and Shirley Zimmerman

In honor of Luna and Boltz:
Joyce Wells

In honor of Luna's, Boltz's, Aiden's and Denali's birthdays:
Gail Ramee

Happy Birthday Grizzer:
Carl Anderson

In honor of Lori and all the crew:
Joyce Wells

In honor of Malik and Shadow:
Patricia and Richard D'Antoni

In honor of Amber Tamblyn:
Jeanne Gehrman

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Andy Schmidt
Ray Wells

Thank You!

Tracking the Pack

Biology 1476–Wolf Ethology

by Lori Schmidt, wolf curator, International Wolf Center

In a post-pup year, we spend a significant amount of time analyzing the behavior of our captive wolves to determine how the newest members of the Exhibit Pack are progressing. With the 2012 pups, Luna's medical challenges and Boltz's age at the time of acquisition were concerns as they joined the pack. As a policy at our facility, wolf management priorities are established based not only on pack dynamics but also on the quality of life for each individual wolf. To make these decisions, we must have

sound data that is acquired through unbiased, uniform behavioral observation periods. Thanks to Vermilion Community College's Biology 1476–Wolf Ethology course, we got that data in April 2013. Vermilion's students logged more than 100 hours of observations. Below are some of the results.

How does the International Wolf Center's Exhibit Pack spend its time? Anyone who has visited a wolf exhibit can probably guess that resting behavior is the most common. Our pack rested 34 percent of the time, and when the wolves weren't resting, they were investigating 26 percent of the time. As social pack animals, they spent 16 percent of the time greeting, and because

Denali is alert but aloof.



International Wolf Center

a group is not without its conflict, 18 percent of the time, the pack was engaged in behavior related to competition. The remaining 6 percent of the behaviors involved scent marking.

In a captive situation with non-related pack members, rank order established by dominance behavior is more commonly observed than what might be witnessed with a wild wolf pack. Data support that concept, and it appears that Denali received 67 percent of the “mob” behavior, which means all other packmates are dominating one individual. “Food and predatory aggression” seemed to be aligned with the age structure, meaning the pups showed equal food and predatory aggression with each other (Luna 29 percent and Boltz 31 percent), and the adults, while at a lower percentage than the pups, displayed similar behavior with each other (Aidan 19 percent and Denali 21 percent). The adults appeared to display less food competition than the pups. Why the age dichotomy? This could be correlated with adult tolerances for pups, allowing them to feed first, or it could be related to pups beginning to establish themselves in the rank order. The students observed many other behavioral traits that helped reveal the dynamics of the Exhibit Pack. The observations also resulted in some thought-provoking discussion and insight into the profession of captive wolf management.

If you would like to observe the ambassador wolves’ weekly behaviors, which provide insight into the dynamics of both the Exhibit Pack and the Retired Pack, log into the Center’s YouTube channel at www.wolf.org. Just follow the Video link. ■



Time engaged
in competition
behaviors

18%

Denali displays dominance over Boltz, putting him at the bottom of the male order.

Aidan asserts dominance over Denali as Boltz rides up.

Aidan, left, and Boltz, right, sniff snow on a log. Wolves spend a lot of time exploring scents within their territory.



26%

Time
investigating



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Wolves of the World

Ecotourism in Ethiopia— Turning Wolves into Honey

by Alyson Baker
Photos by Tim Leyland

We left for Ethiopia with some uncertainty; we were hoping to see the rangy, rodent-hunting wolves¹ but knew their numbers were falling. But even if we were lucky enough to see these endangered animals, we wondered what impact our presence might have. Nancy Gibson, International Wolf Center board member, had suggested ecotourism might be the best solution for saving them in “Hiking the Roof of Africa in Search of Ethiopian Wolves,” *International Wolf*,

Fall 2011, but could human encroachment on wolf territory be hindering their conservation?

Most visitors go to Ethiopia to experience the country’s rich history and culture, dating back 4.4 million years to the proto-human finds of the Rift Valley. Abeba Tours, which specializes in independent travellers, told us that ecotourists make up only about 15 to 20 percent of the company’s clients and that only 5 to 10 percent of these mention wanting to see wolves.

Ethiopian wolves (*Canis simensis*) are relative newcomers to Ethiopia, arriving about 100,000 years ago and settling in the alpine moorlands, evolving into



highly specialized hunters, with rodents making up to 96 percent of their diet. The wolves are now restricted to this alpine habitat, and anyone hoping to see them needs to head for the highlands. The Simien Mountains, Guassa Plateau and the Bale Mountains were our destinations.

Visitors to Simien Mountains National Park might be startled at the level of agriculture within the park. While the skill of farmers plowing the steep terrain is impressive, one of the main threats to the wolves is the expansion of farming. Cultivation destroys wolf and rodent habitat, and stock grazing deprives the rodents of food and their ability to sur-

vive the rains—no rodents means no food for the wolves. Things are not looking great for the wolves in the Simiens—numbers are low and sightings rare.

It's estimated that if the land were protected, it would regenerate within five years. The government has started a voluntary relocation plan for park inhabitants. But many are skeptical about finding suitable land for relocated villagers. One family we spoke to said it would move only if the government paid it far in excess of the true market value of its property. However, the government refuses to do that and is offering the family far less than the amount it demands.

Agriculture remains the principal economic activity in the Simiens, and tourism is not yet a viable replacement. Tourists go primarily for the spectacular scenery and the geladas (*Theropithecus gelada*), a species of Old World monkey found only in the Ethiopian highlands). The money collected from park fees goes

to the government, and although there are some local employment opportunities in tourism, these cannot be relied on to provide a secure living. If tourism is going to help the wolves, it needs a different approach.

We found one alternative model on the Guassa Plateau, one of the smallest blocks of Afroalpine habitat in Ethiopia. The local Amhara people have conserved the grasslands using a 400-year-old tradition of communal land management. The Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program (EWCP) are now working with the community to use this tradition to protect the wolves' habitat—each village has a wolf area to protect, and elected village officials decide on protection bylaws and manage guiding and enforcement.

The FZS has built a tourist lodge on the plateau, and the money raised from tourism goes directly to the villagers, who already have raised enough funds to consider substantial projects such as



Habitat protection is critical to the well being of the wolves.

electricity and irrigation schemes. The number of tourists visiting Guassa is still low, but the prospects for a tourism-based economy are strong. And there is a good likelihood of wolf sightings; Abebe, the Guassa tourism manager, spotted a pack for us on our second evening, and we spent over an hour watching five to eight wolves in the tufted grass as they joyfully reunited after a day of hunting. It was magical; any misgivings we had for the future of wolf preservation in Ethiopia went out the window—habitat for these animals just has to be protected.

Our final destination was Bale Mountains National Park, home to more than half the global population of Ethiopian wolves and the headquarters of the EWCP. Like the Simiens, Bale suffers from extensive stock grazing. Apart from habitat loss, other associated threats to

the wolves include diseases caught from domestic dogs and risk of hybridization. Sixty percent of one population under study was lost in a rabies outbreak in 2008-09 before the EWCP stopped the spread through a targeted vaccination program. The following year a severe distemper outbreak significantly reduced the Bale wolf population².

But things are looking promising in Bale. There are currently no reports of disease, and since the EWCP sterilized two wolf hybrids there are currently no new known hybrids. Signs are also positive for the national wolf population: Despite the isolated ranges, DNA studies have shown no evidence of inbreeding, and wolf numbers across Ethiopia are thought to be recovering, with 2012 figures showing the population at around 450 adults and juveniles.



The skill of farmers plowing the steep terrain is impressive, but the expansion of farming is one of the main threats to the wolves.



Wolves will sometimes follow livestock to catch the rodents the stock disturb.

Bale definitely attracts wolf tourists. One survey found half the visitors had come to see wolves. The EWCP has had few reports of tourists stressing the wolves, and the organization is confident that ongoing education of guides can address such problems—as well as the issue of guide misinformation³. The Ethiopian government is beginning to see the benefit of outside organizations working in Bale. Various new tourist ventures are being planned including community-based activities such as personalized trekking tours and wolf watching trips, where some of the proceeds will go back to the villagers, providing alternative livelihoods for those currently using the park for grazing and crops.

Even given Bale's reputation, we were unprepared for the quality and number of our wolf encounters; in one day on the Sanetti Plateau we had eight sightings from at least three packs and saw singles, pairs and pack reunions as well as a wide range of wolf behaviors. It was a fantastic conclusion to our trip and a great credit to the many people who are working so hard to preserve these beautiful animals.

Finding a tourism model that generates benefits for local communities will be crucial for the conservation of the

Simien Mountains National Park



wolves and Ethiopia's other endemic species. On our last night in Bale we discussed this with Daniel and Dereje, our guide and driver. Daniel told us that in the park the biodiversity of the Harennna Forest is maintained because beehives are traditionally placed high in the trees, ensuring the trees are not felled for firewood or construction. The honey provides over half the income needed to feed a household, protecting the trees and the forest ecology—a win for everyone. We tried to imagine a model where wolves were as valuable as honey and tourism helped protect both the moorlands and the wolves⁴.

We left Ethiopia convinced that given the right model ecotourism can play an important role in wolf conservation, and that any associated risks are entirely manageable. Being an ecotourist in Ethiopia is not always easy—accommodations are often basic, and at 3,500–4,000 meters (11,480–13,100 feet) above sea level the air is thin, the sun burning and night time temperatures can drop below freezing. But these are minor discomforts compared to the rewards offered: The people and the scenery are wonderful and, most importantly, there's no better place to see Ethiopian wolves! ■

Alyson Baker is a librarian with a life-long interest in wolves. She has been a member of the International Wolf Center since before it opened its doors in Ely, Minnesota, and visited when it opened in 1993. She has been on two Center trips to the Northwest Territories and two to Yellowstone National Park. Baker lives in New Zealand with her partner, Tim Leyland, who took the photos for this article. Many of their overseas trips are planned around wildlife viewing, especially wolves and other wild canids. The author would like to thank the following people for their input into this article: Lijalem Meserate, her guide in Simien Mountains National Park; Dr. Jorgelina Marino, EWCP ecologist; Tania O'Conner, director of sales and marketing for Abeba Tours; Claudio Sillero-Zubiri, founder and director of EWCP; Abebe Sintayehw, tourism manager for Guassa Community Conservation Area; Anne-Marie Stewart, EWCP field director; Daniel Tiaeyz, her guide in Bale Mountains National Park; and Dereje Yilma, her driver.

1. Ethiopian wolves are not true gray wolves but a close relative.

2. EWCP has been working in Ethiopia for more than 20 years. To date, it has vaccinated close to 70,000 domestic dogs, significantly reducing the occurrence of rabies outbreaks (of benefit both to wolves and local communities), and has pioneered the first trial of oral vaccinations for wolves, offering proactive and effective protection.

3. Our local guide in Guassa told us the wolves prey on indigenous bushbuck and donkeys. Although there are unconfirmed reports of wolves switching prey when they are stressed due to habitat loss, lambs would be their largest target because Ethiopian wolves hunt alone. What could confuse people is that they see wolves following livestock to catch the rodents the stock disturb.

4. Another wolf species, *Canis lupus lupaster*, was recently confirmed in the Ethiopian highlands, providing even more incentive to conserve this unique habitat.



Alpine rodents make up 96 percent of the wolves' diet.

Visitors to the Simiens will see geladas if not wolves.



with great surprise I realized what I was looking at; six sets of eyes were staring at me from 100 feet away. And then, I heard a muffled half-bark followed by a deep, smooth, heavy sound rising into the air. None of the other

Personal Encounter

Wolves and Coyote

Text and photos
by Stan Tekiela

Editor's note: This article is reprinted from Nature Smart Wildlife with the author's permission.

I inadvertently once saved the life of a coyote. I know that sounds a bit strange; however, if you knew me, it might not sound so strange. As a naturalist and wildlife photographer I tend to get into some very interesting situations. In 2012 I returned to Yellowstone National Park for a second winter adventure. As always the landscape photography opportunities were amazing, but I was there for the wildlife, in particular the wolves.

With this in mind, my photo partner and I located a bison kill that a pack of wolves had made several days before. Figuring this was our best opportunity to get close enough to the wolves to get some images, we decided to concentrate our efforts at this location. Every

morning we would arrive at the break of day and begin the long process of waiting for something to happen. Sure, the wolves were there, but they were too far away, and the falling snow was making obtaining quality images very difficult. Nonetheless, we stayed put.

In the morning of the third day, while large fluffy snowflakes filled the air, all 10 members of the pack got up and walked off single file, down the river bottom, deep into the valley and well out of sight. Of course we were disappointed in this development, but since there was nothing we could do, we just waited.

We spent the rest of the day looking around for other wolves, returning to the bison kill around 3 p.m. We were sitting in the car looking out at the snow that was coming. A coyote had moved in on the kill since the wolves were absent. I am sure the coyote was happy to get a free meal courtesy of its larger cousin. It fed for several hours.

Around 4 p.m. we could see 10 dark dots way out in the valley moving toward us. It was the pack returning. We quickly set up our camera gear anticipating the wolves' return. Unfortunately for the coyote, it couldn't see the returning wolves from its vantage point. Knowing the rivalry between wolves and coyotes, we knew this could be a very interesting encounter.

The wolves dropped into the river valley and thus out of sight as they returned to their rightful kill. Suddenly the wolves popped up near the bison kill and caught the coyote red handed. At first the coyote lay flat down in the snow and flattened its ears hoping it would go unnoticed. However, these are wolves it was hiding from, not some near-sighted non-predator. The wolves spotted the coyote right away. Knowing it had been spotted, the coyote sprang up to flee.

What I found amazing right away was the coyote didn't run off to the right or

left but instead turned and started running directly toward us without hesitation. All 10 wolves started in hot pursuit. Five of the wolves in one line charged after the coyote, which meant they were running right at us. I thought, "This is amazing!" and I couldn't believe our good luck.

The coyote ran directly up to us, passing by to our right and then did something amazing. It lay down about 20 feet (6 meters) behind us and curled up into a ball as if to say, "Tell the wolves I am not here." The wolves wanted to get the coyote so badly that they quickly surrounded us keeping back about 50 to 70 feet (15 to 21 meters). This left us and the coyote completely surrounded by about five or six wolves. Again I couldn't believe our luck. I was capturing one



amazing image after another of wild wolves at point-blank range. This is a wildlife photographer's dream come true.

I also realized that we were being used by the coyote for protection. Somehow the coyote knew that if it got close enough to us and lay down, the wolves wouldn't come any closer. And do you know what? The coyote was right. The standoff lasted only about five or six minutes before the coyote got up. It moved closer to us, drawing all the wolves over to our right side. Once all the wolves were concen-



Book Review

trated on one side, the coyote ran right in front of us to the opposite side and then really put on the speed leaving the wolves and us behind.

The wolves watched as the coyote ran as fast as it could away. The looks on the wolves' faces said it all. "Ok, you'll get away this time, Mr. Coyote, but you won't be so lucky next time." About four of the wolves trotted up the mountainside while the remaining five or six returned to the kill. Shortly after visiting the kill, the remaining wolves gathered together and started to howl. All total the event lasted about 15 or 20 minutes, and I shot nearly 900 images. This encounter will be burned into my memory forever. ■

Summer of the Wolves

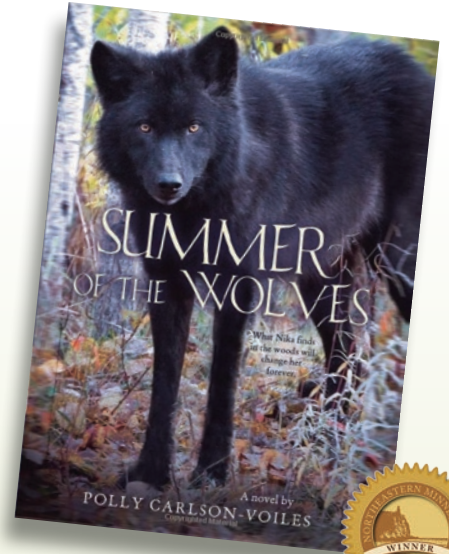
Polly Carlson-Voiles

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Publishing Company:
New York, 2012

by Nancy jo Tubbs

Life had just reached a happy normal for a California foster family of orphans, 10-year-old Nika and her brother, but then came the upsetting news that the children would be uprooted to live in the wilds of northern Minnesota with a wolf-biologist uncle they'd never met.

In *Summer of the Wolves*, a new work of fiction by Polly Carlson-Voiles, Nika decided she would have to be the girl in her own *Brave Girl Movie*. Her estranged uncle Ian McNeill lived on an island reachable only by seaplane, inhabited by wolves and dangerous wolf poachers. Uncle Ian and Nika found a mother wolf shot dead and the remaining pup of the litter so young its eyes weren't yet open. The uncle, orphaned child and



Winner of the
2013 Northeastern Minnesota
Book Awards for Children's Literature

wolf pup formed a bond of trust over bottle feedings during nights of little sleep. Nika's nightmare turned into a girl's proud bond with a wild wolf and a family she could trust.

Carlson-Voiles warmly and authentically shares the reality of raising a young wolf full of curiosity, fear, fight and needle-sharp puppy teeth from her own experiences in northern Minnesota helping to raise a pack at the International Wolf Center. ■

"Nika knew that some animals just plain die when they lose a parent. They give up. It was easy to understand how that could happen."

Naturalist, wildlife photographer and writer Stan Tekiela is the originator of the popular state-specific field guides on birds, wildflowers, trees, cacti, mammals, and reptiles and amphibians. Over the past two decades Tekiela has produced more than 100 field guides, nature appreciation books and wildlife audio CDs for nearly every state in the nation. Holding a Bachelor of Science degree in natural history from the University of Minnesota and as an active professional naturalist for more than 20 years, Tekiela studies and photographs wildlife throughout the United States and has received various national and regional awards for his books and photographs. Visit his Web sites at www.naturesmart.com and www.naturesmartimages.com.

Wild Kids



Wolves live together in family groups. These groups are called packs. Packs of wolves hunt within their habitat to find food. Wolves are meat eaters, and their food often consists of mammals in the ungulate family such as deer, moose or musk-oxen. If you were a wolf, would you rather be part of a big pack or a small pack? Why?



Nancy Gibson

Vocabulary

Carnivore: An animal that eats meat.

Prey: An animal that is captured and eaten by another animal.

Ungulate: Hoofed mammal such as deer, elk, mountain goat, musk-oxen, bighorn sheep, moose, antelope, caribou, bison, cows, and domestic sheep.



Malik

Malik, along with his brother Shadow, turned 13 this past May, a milestone for captive wolves. They were born May 8, 2000, and now can be viewed on the International Wolf Center's new retirement Web cam. Malik's and Shadow's white coats are not due to age. Their coats are white because they belong to the arctic subspecies of *Canis lupus*, the gray wolf.

During the 2000 Name-the-Pups contest, Malik was named in memory of Minnesota Timberwolves player Malik Sealy. It is hard to distinguish Malik from Shadow. One trick is to look for the cowlick, a tuft of fur that grows in a different direction from the rest of the fur, between Malik's eyes. Members of the Wolf Care staff describe Malik as an easy-going wolf, but as a lower-ranking wolf, he can be suspicious of Wolf Care staff and veterinary care. However, Malik loves the enclosure enrichments. He displays a high tail and shows a tall posture if he finds hidden treats. One thing that scares Malik is the big metal scale used to weigh the wolves. His nails scrape across the metal, and it makes him nervous. He might put his front feet on the scale and stretch to get the treats placed there, but he will keep his back feet on firm ground. This makes it hard to weigh him during his yearly spring health check. The last time the Wolf Care staff got an accurate weight (with all four feet on the scale) on Malik, he weighed 92 pounds (42 kilograms) on May 25, 2011. Every spring, adult wolves receive a physical check and are weighed and vaccinated, but Malik wouldn't get on the scale during the 2012 exam. The Wolf Care staff gave him his vaccinations, but it took a lot of patience since Malik doesn't like the exams. ■



International Wolf Center



Word Puzzle

Name that ungulate.
Using the letter "e" as
a clue, fill in the spaces
for a common ungulate
in North America.

__ e __

__ __ __ e

e __ __

__ __ __ __ __ e __ __
(two words)

__ __ e __ __

__ __ __ - __ e __
(two words)

Answers: Deer, Moose, Elk, Bighorn sheep, Antelope, Musk-oxen

A Look Beyond

The Grand Bargain

by Steve Grooms

Because wolves have done so well in the Rocky Mountains it is easy to forget what a difficult struggle was required to restore them. That battle was fought for about 15 years, from 1980 until 1995. Having waged a deadly campaign to eliminate wolves from the West in earlier decades, livestock producers were fiercely opposed to seeing them come back.

Wolves themselves weren't the only issue. Indeed, those who opposed wolves often seemed more afraid of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and of "federal meddling in local affairs" than they were of wolves. Everyone knew that wolves would eventually disperse from public land, and some would attack livestock. Earlier federal efforts to aid endangered grizzly bears alarmed ranchers who feared that depredating wolves would be protected as an endangered species, leaving landowners unable to defend their livestock. Wolf opponents also feared that the ESA would impose restrictions on how lands could be used.

The political battle was complicated by a division among wolf advocates. Some felt the ESA could be used to force a return of wolves, for it seemed that a very powerful law was on their side. Other wolf advocates argued that wolves could prevail only if people tolerated them. To get wolves restored, they had to nullify fears about the ESA. These more pragmatic wolf fans turned to a feature of the ESA that allowed more flexible management of endangered species. If wolves were classified "experimental non-essential," those wolves that habitually attacked livestock could be removed.

In the end, wolf fans and wolf haters struck a bargain. "If we can have wolves back," advocates said, "we promise that those wolves that attack livestock will

be eliminated." This bargain was written into the Environmental Impact Statement that was adopted by federal authorities and used as a blueprint for managing wolves after they were restored.

As Mike Jimenez describes in this issue of *International Wolf*, that bargain is breaking down. Wolf advocates are increasingly intolerant of lethal control on wolves.

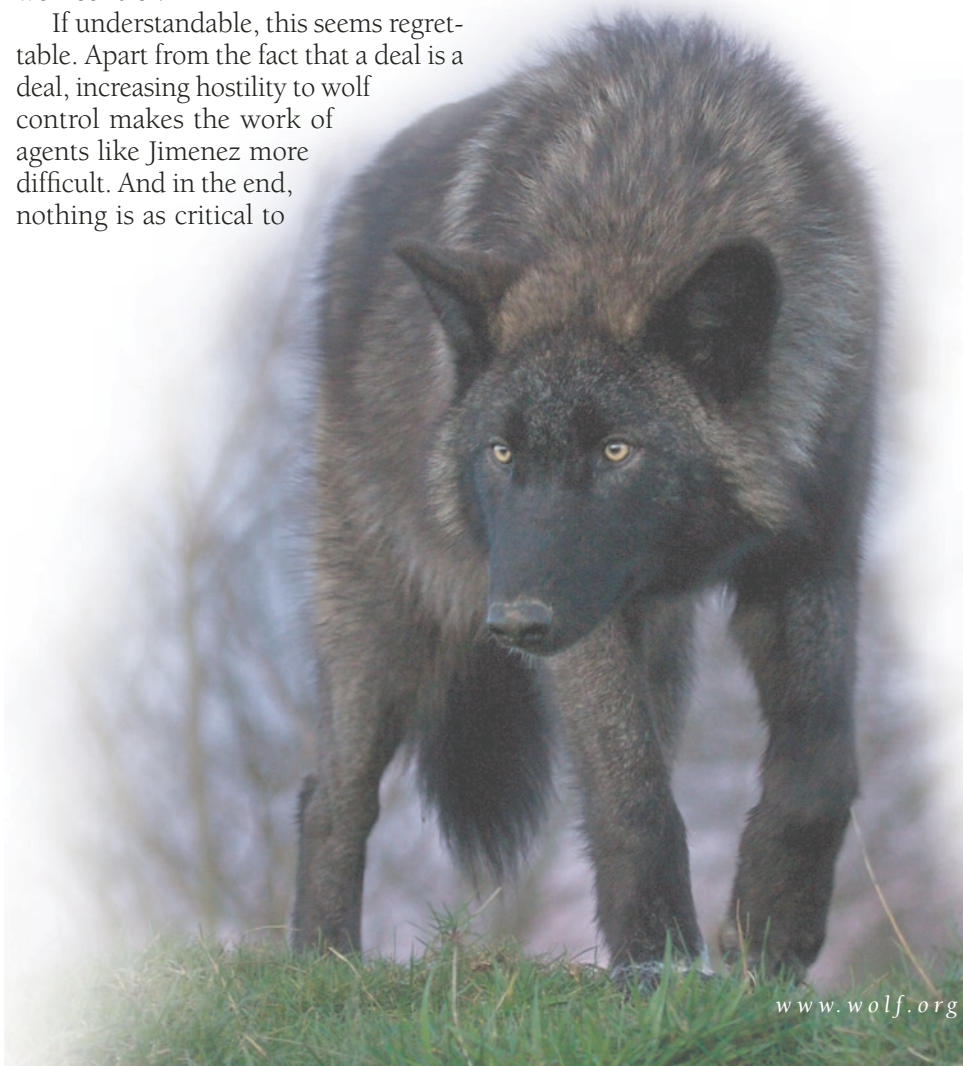
This shouldn't be surprising. Younger wolf advocates have only known a West with wolves. They might not know much about the bitter battle to restore wolves. They might not know that control of wolves that attacked livestock was an essential part of the grand bargain that made it possible to bring wolves back. Others know that but have never accepted the legitimacy of any lethal wolf control.

If understandable, this seems regrettable. Apart from the fact that a deal is a deal, increasing hostility to wolf control makes the work of agents like Jimenez more difficult. And in the end, nothing is as critical to

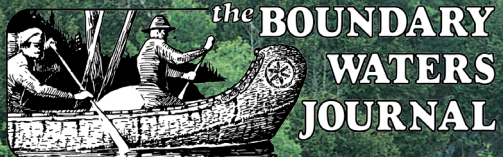
keeping wolves restored as strong public support for wolves. Getting rid of the bad actors is a necessary element of the effort to keep people favorable toward wolves.

The particular genius of the American political system is that it permits majority rule while trying always to protect the interests of the minority. Inevitably, there will be more bitter battles over the management of natural resources in the West. It won't be good for those other debates if the grand bargain that allowed wolves to return is violated. ■

Steve Grooms is the author of the best-selling, award-winning classic Return of the Wolf, now in its third edition. He has written 13 books and many articles for sporting and conservation magazines.

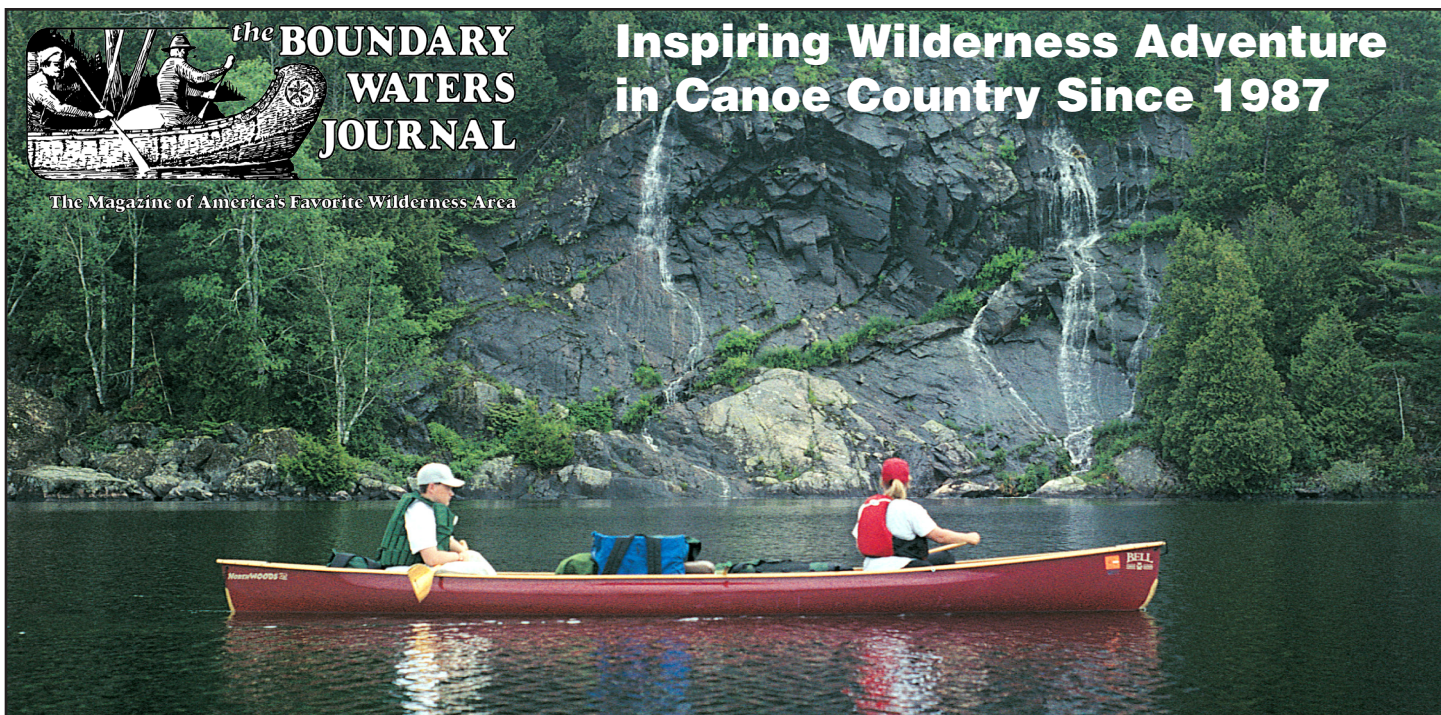


George Hughes



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Luna—Photo by Darcy Berus

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