

INTERNATIONAL WOLF

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
SUMMER 2007



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THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
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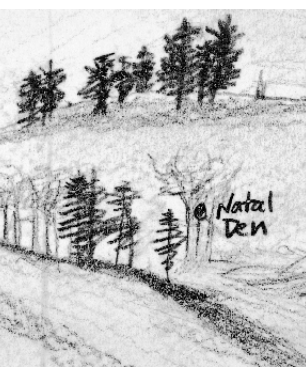
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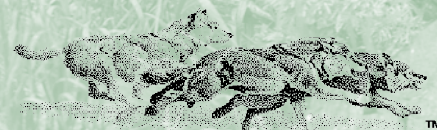
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Photographed by Monty Sloan

Monty Sloan has been photographing wolves since 1984. He has been a handler, educator, researcher and photographer at Wolf Park in Battle Ground, Indiana, since 1988.

To view and purchase additional photographs, visit www.wolfphotography.com.



International Wolf Center

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Publications Director
Mary Ortiz

Graphics Coordinator
Carissa L.W. Knaack

Consulting Editor
Mary Keirstead

Technical Editor
L. David Mech

Graphic Designer
Tricia Austin

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

Alpha Legacy Profile

Webster's dictionary defines the word chance as something that happens without plan or intent, such as the relationship between the International Wolf Center and Barbara Chance of Rogers, Arkansas. It was by chance when she saved a hybrid puppy that she learned about the Center.

Barbara first became interested in wolves when she adopted what was to be her first of several rescued wolf-dog hybrid puppies. (She is also quick to point out that she does not advocate the breeding of wolf hybrid animals.) Barbara says that her affiliation with the Center "became instantly important to me." She has come to understand that wolves are wonderfully complex animals. It is obvious to her that humans can learn from wolves' collaborative approach to raising pups and other social interactions.

Barbara praises the Center's educational work. She believes the organization has made enormous contributions worldwide toward a greater understanding and appreciation of wolves, which has led to their continued and viable presence in many countries.

Barbara promotes the Center each time she uses her Bank of America International Wolf Center credit card for purchases. One of her favorite wolves, Lucas, is proudly displayed on the front of the card.

As another example of her support, Barbara introduced her mother, Orpha Bannister, to the Center, and she also deeply embraced the organization's mission. When her mother died in 1997, Barbara honored her with a contribution to the Center in her memory.

Barbara also credits her work with the Center for many lifelong friendships. She tries to make the two-day drive to visit the Center each year. She has documented the growth of the organization through mementos and photos. One such item is a letter recognizing her membership in 1989, the Center's inaugural year. As one portion of including the Center in her estate plan, Barbara will donate many of these items to the Center.

The Center has greatly benefited from Barbara Chance's many different forms of support and affirmation. Thank you, Barbara! ■



Mary Ortiz

West Gate



From the Executive Director

Delisting: Throwing Wolves to the Wolves?

The announcement by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in January to delist the western Great Lakes population of wolves and to start the clock on the delisting of wolves in the Northern Rockies will cause a ripple (or a tsunami) of concern among wolf advocates. Only 30 years have passed since wolves in the lower 48 hung on only in Minnesota and on Isle Royale, so this concern about a fundamental shift in wolf management is not without basis. Idaho's governor has alarmed many people with his inflammatory proposals to significantly reduce wolf numbers in his state. In Wisconsin, similar steps have been suggested by two groups to lower the wolf population.



Walter Medwid

Two key measures can bring some degree of comfort about the wolf's future. First, the federally approved state management plans establish thresholds to ensure sustainable wolf populations while providing more flexible options to address conflicts. Second, any delisted population may be relisted under the protections of the Endangered Species Act if the thresholds are not maintained.

What this means is that any state could attempt to eliminate all wolves above the recovery threshold levels, as Idaho's governor has threatened to do. If that happens, there will doubtless be strong opposition from the general public. But the good news is that sustainable wolf populations will continue to exist in states with approved management plans. The five-year USFWS oversight role will help to ensure that the trust Americans have placed in the wolf recovery process will not be broken.

The outcome of this new chapter in our complex history of living with wolves is hard to predict. Despite legal safeguards for the threshold numbers, many wolf advocates and organizations will object strenuously to the killing of large numbers of wolves. It's clear the battle lines have been drawn. But one thing is certain. Americans have asked for and gotten wolves back on the landscape in the western Great Lakes and in the Northern Rockies. And it's probably safe to say that Americans will insist that wolves remain on the landscape for the long haul.

As we watch the unfolding of the pending battles with one eye, we also must keep a guardian eye on the landscape—literally. We must protect the wild lands that provide habitat for wolves and the myriad of other creatures that are part of the essential fabric of the wild so many of us cherish. Each battle is important, but the war is paramount. ■

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1396 Highway 169

Ely, MN 55731-8129, USA

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e-mail address:

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Web site: <http://www.wolf.org>

Wolves Removed from the Federal Endangered Species List

by CORNELIA HUTT

Mammals

Bat, gray
Myotis grisescens
Bat, Hawaiian hoary
Lasiurus cinereus semotus
Bat, Indiana
Myotis sodalis
Bat, lesser long-nosed
Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae
Bat, little Mariana fruit
Pteropus tokudae
Bat, Mexican long-nosed
Leptonycteris nivalis
Bat, Ozark big-eared
Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii ingeni
Bat, Virginia big-eared
Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii virginianus

Mouse, Anastasia Island beach
Peromyscus polionotus phasma
Mouse, Choctawhatchee beach
Peromyscus polionotus alloprius
Mouse, Key Largo cotton
Peromyscus gossypinus allapaticola
Mouse, Pacific pocket
Perognathus longimembris pacificus
Mouse, Perdido Key beach
Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis
Mouse, salt marsh harvest
Reithrodontomys raviventris
Mouse, St. Andrew beach
Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis
Ocelot
Leopardus (=Felis) pardalis
Otter, Northern Sea

Squirrel, Mount Graham red
Tamiasciurus hudsonicus grahamensis
Squirrel, northern Idaho ground
Spermophilus brunneus brunneus
Squirrel, Virginia northern flying
Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus
Vole, Amargosa
Microtus californicus scirpensis
Vole, Florida salt marsh
Microtus pennsylvanicus dukecampbelli
Vole, Hualapai Mexican
Microtus mexicanus hualpaiensis
Whale, blue
Balaenoptera musculus
Whale, bowhead
Balaena mysticetus
Whale, finback
Balaenoptera physalus
Whale, humpback
Megaptera novaeangliae
Whale, right
Balaena glacialis (incl. australis)
Whale, Sei
Balaenoptera borealis
Whale, sperm
Physeter catodon (=macrocephalus)
Wolf, gray (inside W. Great Lakes
Distinct Population Boundary)
Canis lupus
Wolf, gray (outside W. Great Lakes
Distinct Population Boundary)
Canis lupus
Wolf, red
Canis rufus
Woodrat, Key Largo
Neotoma floridana smalli
Woodrat, riparian
Neotoma fuscipes

Wolves in the Midwest were removed from the federal endangered species list, according to a January 2007 announcement by Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett. The deputy secretary also proposed removing wolves in the Northern Rockies from the 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.

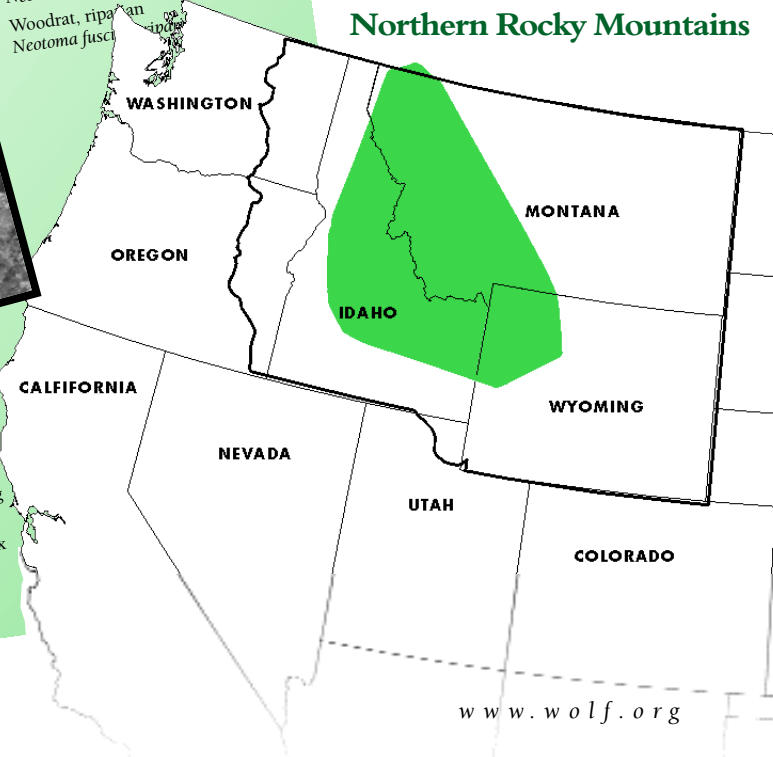
A smart, flexible predator with amazing physical adaptations, the wolf can live almost anywhere; so at one time wolves thrived in a variety of habitats through-



Mike Possis, Wild Thing Photography

Sheep, bighorn
Ovis canadensis
Sheep, Sierra Nevada bighorn
Ovis canadensis californiana
Shrew, Buena Vista Lake ornate
Sorex ornatus relictus
Squirrel, Carolina northern flying
Glaucomys sabrinus coloratus
Squirrel, Delmarva Peninsula fox
Sciurus niger cinereus

Northern Rocky Mountains



out Eurasia and North America. But by the middle of the 20th century, these animals had, in the expanding United States, been pushed to landscapes either inaccessible to humans or to regions of little interest to people as they sought to tame the natural world and civilize the savage wilderness. Colonists and settlers in the new nation trapped, shot and poisoned wolves to protect livestock, eradicate the evil they ascribed to the wolf and make money from bounties. Singled out for systematic extermination by the U.S. government, wolves were killed in some of the most brutal ways imaginable. The most effective method was poisoning. When the systematic slaughter on federal lands ended in 1941, few wolves remained in the lower 48 states. Except for remnant populations in the upper Midwest, the wolf had disappeared from the landscape, the victim of ruthless and unrelenting persecution by humans.

But in the last decades of the millennium, wolves rebounded in the lower 48. Despite some fierce opposition to reintroduction and recovery, mainly from livestock growers, the wolf has been successfully restored by the federal government to portions of its former range. Much of the support for the return of the wolf has arisen from urban areas where wolf

restoration has become a symbolic gesture, a determination to right the wrongs of the past, a commitment to the “re-wilding” of America. Thus, when President Richard Nixon signed the Endangered Species Act of 1973 into law, the besieged wolf was, for the first time in the long and savage history of this country, afforded legal protection as of August 1974. This “crown jewel” of environmental legislation was applauded by the supporters of a conservation ethic born of new attitudes toward wildlife and wild places.

The wolf restoration effort has succeeded beyond the expectations of many biologists and managers. The Endangered Species Act and the recovery goals it set forth have made that possible along with the efforts of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) officials committed to fulfilling the promise of the recovery plans. The recent delisting of the wolf in the western Great Lakes and the proposed delisting in the Northern Rockies are testimony to the effectiveness of this remarkable piece of legislation and to the implementation process.

Notice of Intent to Sue on Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment Wolf Delisting

On February 12, 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) received a Notice of Intent to sue from the attorney for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Help Our Wolves Live (HOWL), the Minnesota Wolf Alliance and the Animal Protection Institute. The Notice of Intent alleges that:

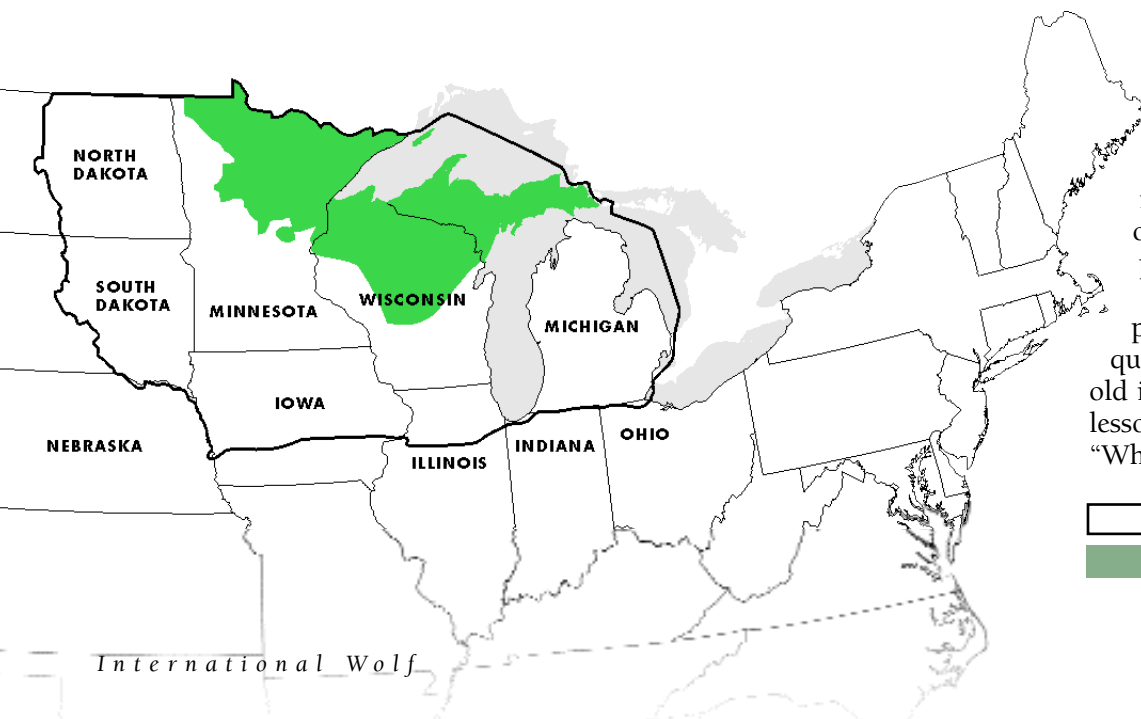
- *The USFWS cannot lawfully designate a Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment (DPS) for delisting purposes as this violates the obligation under the Endangered Species Act to restore a species “throughout all or a significant portion of its range.”*

- *The DPS boundaries are arbitrary and capricious.*

- *The gray wolf does not satisfy the statutory criteria for delisting.*

Check the International Wolf Center Web site (www.wolf.org) for updates on this issue.

and Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segments



Recovery criteria were met years ago, and wolf populations have increased to numbers far higher than required by long-agreed-upon plans. With wolf management the responsibility of the states, it will be up to them to secure a place for wolves in the future.

However, long-term sustainability of wolf populations will require more than not killing wolves outright. Two trends in particular threaten wolves and other large carnivores much more than citizen harvests or depredation control. Human population growth and the loss of habitat due to development prompt us to ponder the ultimate question once posed by a ten-year-old in a fifth-grade classroom after a lesson on wildlife and wild lands: “Where is wild?”

□ Distinct Population Segment
■ Current wolf range

What does all this mean? To further explain the implications of these significant decisions, here is a set of questions and answers:

1. How do we know the states won't exterminate the wolves or cause them to be endangered again?

Wolves will not be exterminated or become endangered again because state management plans ensuring sufficient protection to retain viable populations have been approved by the federal government. The government will monitor wolf management for five years after delisting and can relist and protect wolves quickly again if necessary.

Information about the delisting in the western Great Lakes:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/wolf/2007/delisting/index.htm>

This link includes the following information:

- January 29, 2007, news release: Interior Department Announces Delisting of Western Great Lakes Wolves; Proposed Delisting of Northern Rocky Mountain Wolves
- Summary of the Final Rule to Delist the Gray Wolf Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment
- Questions and Answers about Final Rule to Delist the Gray Wolf Western Great Lakes DPS
- Map of the Gray Wolf Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment
- Wolf Recovery in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan
- Wolf Populations in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan 1973–2006
- Gray Wolf Fact Sheet
- Questions and Answers about Gray Wolf Biology
- Gray Wolf Current Populations and Range in North America

Information about the proposed delisting in the Northern Rockies:

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/wolf/SuggestedDPSMapANPR.pdf>

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/wolf/>

http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/wolf/ANPR_Feb_8_2006.pdf

2. What states that have wolves are affected by the new rulings?

In the Midwest, the states that contain breeding populations of wolves are Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin, with some 4,000 wolves in total. In the Northern Rockies, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming host over 1,200 wolves.

3. Can wolves be killed under state management?

Yes, wolves can be killed with various restrictions on numbers taken, depending on the state. Manner and conditions of lethal taking will be prescribed by each state. All states will no doubt allow killing of wolves in response to depredations on livestock, just as was being done under federal protection. In addition, probably each state will eventually manage wolves like they do bears, deer and other wildlife.

4. If wolves will be killed, how will their numbers be maintained?

Wolves are prolific breeders and could almost double their numbers each year if none died or were killed.

5. How will Mexican wolf and red wolf recovery programs be affected by the new ruling?

They will not be affected but will continue as they are now.

6. What about wolves that disperse to neighboring states?

In parts of neighboring states closest to the above states (see map), such wolves would also be subject to state management. Elsewhere, wolves will remain federally protected by the Endangered Species Act. Thus, for example, if a Minnesota wolf heads to western



North Dakota, it would be federally protected there; in eastern North Dakota it would be managed by the state.

7. Does the federal government have plans to reintroduce wolves into any new areas, other than where Mexican wolves and red wolves are being restored?

At this time, the federal government has no such plans.

8. How can individual citizens express their wolf management wishes?

Citizens can express their wishes and opinions by contacting the state legislators in the affected states.

9. Does this mean that the job of the International Wolf Center is now over?

No, the work of the International Wolf Center is not over. The Center advocates for the long-term survival of wolf populations around the world, and there remains much educational and informational work to be done to ensure that the public understands the complexities of maintaining viable populations of wolves in the face of ever-expanding human populations and loss of wild lands. ■

The author wishes to thank Dave Mech for his assistance and for answering the questions in the Q and A section of this article.

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



For further information, please visit the International Wolf Center's Web site at www.wolf.org.

SIEGE



SLOUGH CREEK:

Yellowstone Wolf Packs Vie for Territory

by RICK
MCINTYRE

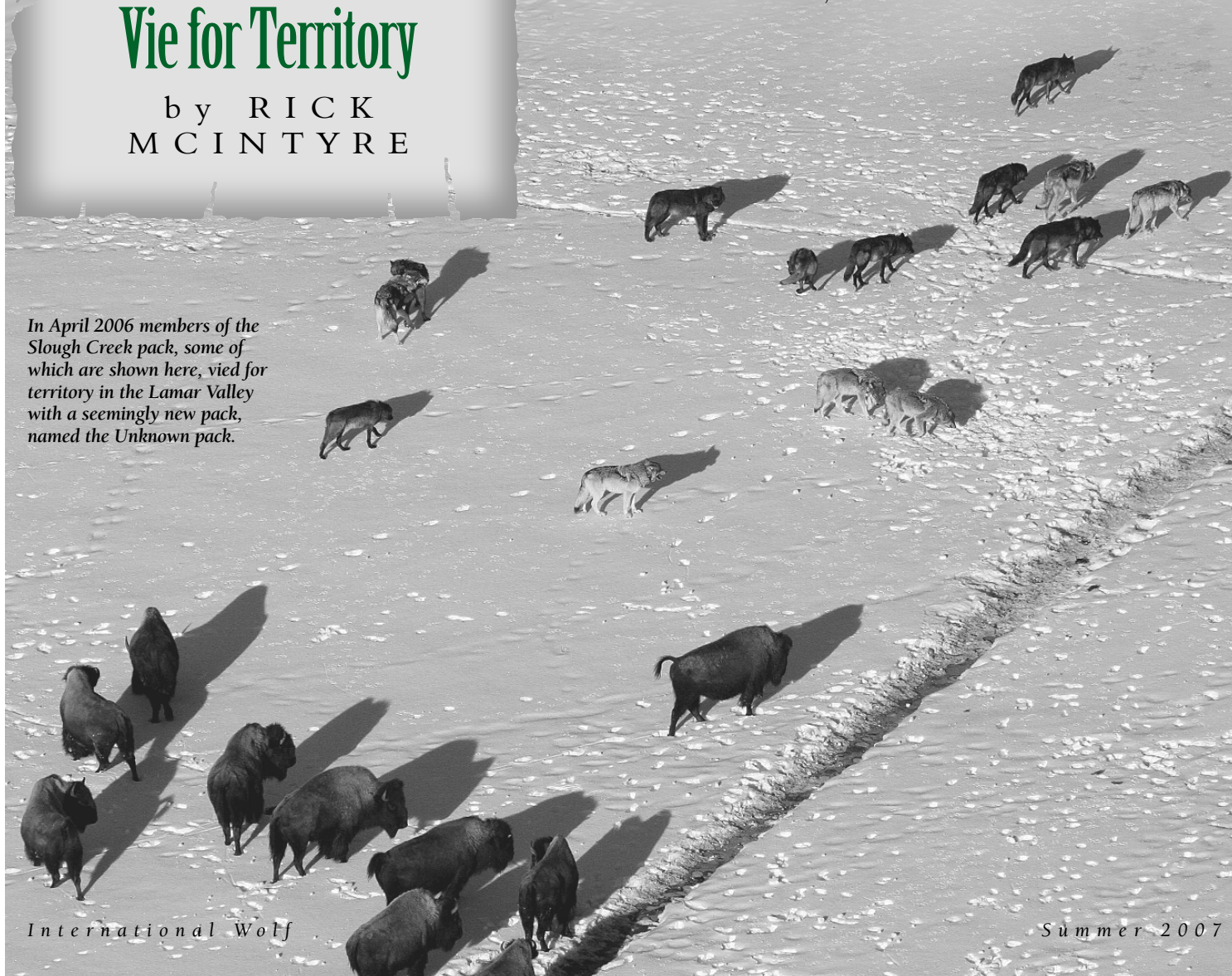
In April 2006 members of the Slough Creek pack, some of which are shown here, vied for territory in the Lamar Valley with a seemingly new pack, named the Unknown pack.

On April 4, 2006, crew members of the Yellowstone Wolf Project spotted what seemed to be a new pack of 12 wolves (6 adults and 6 pups) in Lamar Valley in the northeastern corner of Yellowstone. Since we did not know who they were, we called them the Unknown pack. For the next few days, we saw them off and on in the valley. At times the Unknowns would look toward Slough Creek, a mile or two to the west, and howl. The Slough Creek pack, numbering 9 adults and 3 pups, would howl back.

On April 8 we discovered that wolf 489, the number three male in the Slough Creek pack, was dead. It appeared he had been killed by wolves, most likely the Unknown pack.

Two pregnant Slough Creek wolves, 380 (the alpha female) and 527 (the beta female), went into a shared den on April 12 to have pups. That evening other Slough Creek wolves killed a bull elk about a mile south of the den. At dark, the Unknown pack, located about two miles east of the Slough Creek den, started to move west, toward Slough Creek.

The next morning I saw the Unknown wolves near the Slough Creek den. There was no challenge from Slough Creek wolves, but a yearling from the Unknown pack had a freshly injured ear, an indication of a fight between the two packs the previous night. The Unknown wolves had probably arrived in the night when some of the Slough Creek wolves were feeding on the elk carcass and had chased them off, then followed their scent back to the



den. Telemetry signals indicated that radio-collared Slough Creek females 380, 526 and 527 were hiding in the pack's den.

Thus began a siege by the Unknown wolves, which, except for hunting trips, stayed within a few hundred yards of the Slough Creek den for 13 days. They regularly went to the den and looked inside, and some even went a short way into the den tunnel. At times, Unknown wolves that went into the den suddenly jumped back out. We assumed that a Slough Creek female had lunged at them. Eventually we saw all three radio-collared Slough Creek females—380, 526 and 527—and at least three additional uncollared females slip in and out of the den.

One day the Unknown wolves spotted a Slough Creek yearling approaching the den after feeding on a nearby carcass. They charged at her, but she got safely inside. The yearling likely shared meat from the carcass with the mother wolves.

On another occasion, the two Slough Creek mothers came out of their den when 10 Unknown wolves were resting 75 yards downhill. The mothers slowly moved uphill but

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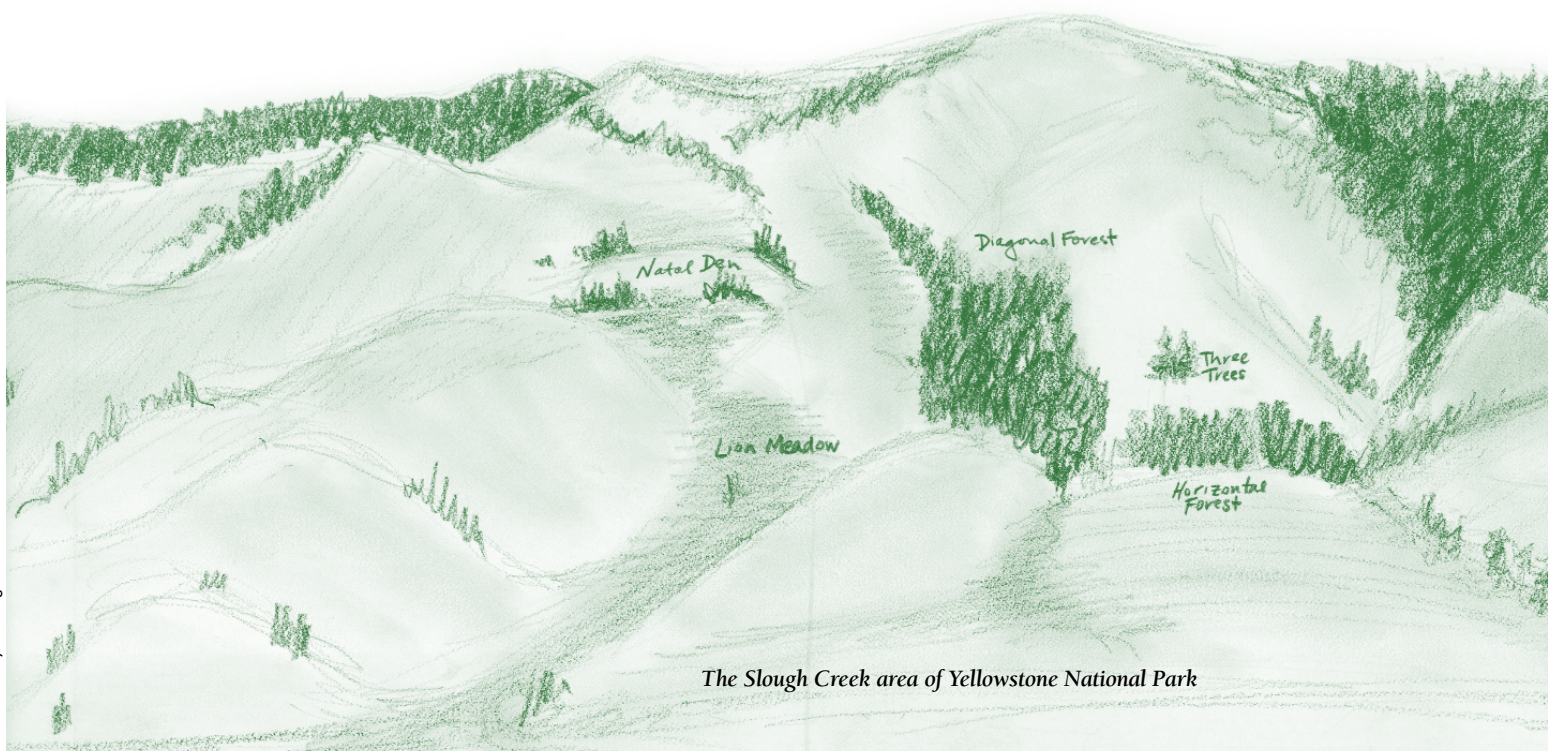
frequently stopped to look down at the other pack. Suddenly both females ran back down the slope as fast as they could. I looked downhill and saw the Unknown wolves running uphill at top speed. Both

mothers reached the den entrance and slipped inside just moments before the Unknown wolves arrived.

At that point, the two packs seemed to be at a stalemate. The Unknowns were not able to get into the den, due to the defense by the Slough Creek females. The Slough Creek mothers had survived but probably were not getting enough food and water to support their litters.

Wolves 490 and 377, the Slough Creek alpha and beta males, stayed in the area a few days, then retreated east in the Lamar Valley. They linked up with an uncollared gray female, and the three scent marked together. The female took advantage of the opportunity to behave like the new Slough Creek alpha female. It looked like the two Slough Creek males had given up on females 380 and 527.

The adult female in the Unknown pack did not look pregnant, a possible reason why the pack had wandered outside of their territory during the denning season. However, one of the subordinate fe-



The Slough Creek area of Yellowstone National Park

males was clearly pregnant. She entered a burrow only a few hundred feet from the Slough Creek natal den and on April 24, the 12th day of the siege, appeared to have had pups there.

The next day we discovered that wolves 380 and 527 had left the area. I later got their signals about nine miles to the east. Other Slough Creek wolves, including 377 and 490, reunited with the two females, who probably drove off the new gray female.

The two Slough Creek mothers likely lost their litters due to stress and inadequate food and water. They probably could not produce enough milk to sustain the pups. After a few days, the Unknown pack's female stopped going into her den and traveled full time with the pack. That mother was also enduring stress from denning so close to rival wolves, and that may have led to the loss of her pups.

On the evening of April 27, the Slough Creek wolves traveled west and were within a few miles of their den as it was getting dark. The next morning I found male wolf 377 severely injured at Slough Creek. He died later that day of wounds inflicted by wolves. Wolf 490 howled almost continually that morning

from a nearby location, but 377 never howled back, and 490 eventually retreated eastward in Lamar Valley.

After the siege ended, 8 of the 10 surviving Slough Creek wolves traveled together: male 490, the three collared females (380, 526 and 527), a two-year-old female, and three female yearlings. We occasionally saw the two other pack members traveling together, apart from the main group: a two-year-old male and an adult female.

The Unknown pack gradually split into subgroups. On June 17, four Unknowns encountered four adults from the Druid Peak pack. The Druids decisively defeated them. After that, we only occasionally saw Unknown wolves. Last fall we saw that nine of them had reunited.

We still do not know who the Unknown wolves are, but I speculate that they could be the Rose Creek pack, last seen in summer 2004. At that time the pack included wolf 150, a collared gray male. That fall his collar stopped working. The dominant male of the Unknown pack is an old gray, with a nonfunctioning collar. We know that 150, born into the Leopold pack in 1998, joined the Rose Creek wolves in 2000. They lived in the Slough Creek area before being pushed out by the Druids. They eventually settled into a remote area north of the park border.

In late December the Slough Creek wolves suffered another loss. Male 490, the pack's only male, was found dead in upper Slough Creek, not far from where 489 was killed. The state of his remains prevented us from determining the cause of death. Within a few days, a male yearling from the nearby Agate Creek pack joined the Slough Creek females and became the only male. A two-year-old Slough Creek male, who had dispersed, has come back to the area and is now a part-time member of the pack. He is

willing to be subordinate to the Agate Creek male.

If the Unknowns return to Slough Creek, they will likely meet the Slough Creek pack again. The packs are somewhat evenly matched, and the outcome of an encounter could go either way. If the Unknowns



Daniel Stahler, National Park Service

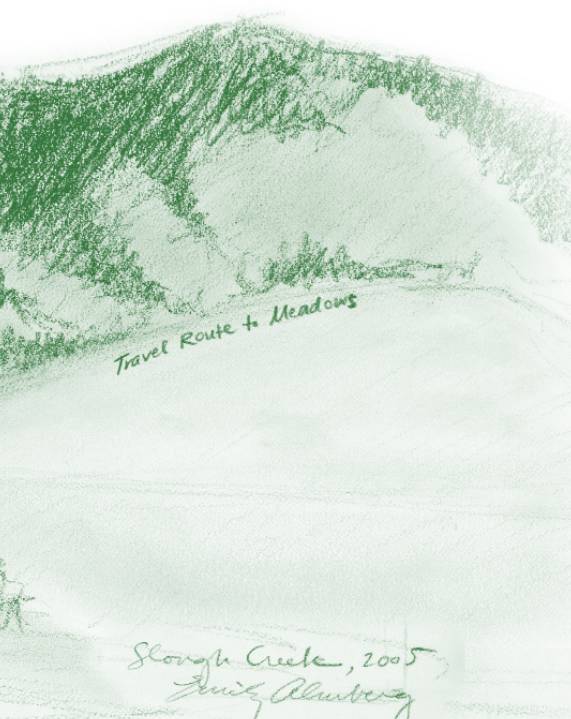
If the Unknowns return to Slough Creek, they will likely meet the Slough Creek pack again. The packs are somewhat evenly matched, and the outcome of an encounter could go either way.

return farther east in Lamar Valley, they will run into the Druids, a pack that outnumbers them and would drive them out.

The Druids had lost a substantial section of their original territory to the larger Slough Creek pack over the past few years. But the Druids had good pup survival in 2006. The conflict between the Slough Creek and Unknown wolves, which wiped out both packs' pup production for the year, has given the Druids an opportunity to dominate the area again. They have already taken back nearly all of Lamar Valley.

There is an old saying, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." The Unknown wolves may turn out to be friends of the Druids. ■

Rick McIntyre is a biological technician for the Wolf Project at Yellowstone National Park. He is the author of A Society of Wolves and War Against the Wolf.



A Rare and Historic Glimpse of a Wolf in the Swiss Alps

When I was a kid, nothing caught my interest more than TV documentaries on wild places and wild animals. When I was grown, I went out in the world to see the wild places for myself. In places like Alaska and Canada I could find what I was missing in Switzerland, my home country, namely, big wide-open spaces free of human activity and filled with big game and plenty of predators. Every time I returned to my home in Switzerland I dreamed of the wild places I was able to visit only during my vacations.

An artist has the advantage to re-create experiences in words, songs or

Swiss Alps

Text and photos by
PETER DETTLING

In a brief encounter, Peter Dettling photographed the first wolf to live successfully in Switzerland in recent times.

Dettling joined a local game warden in his tracking of the lone wolf high above the tree line near the city of Ilanz.

pictures. Back then I hadn't yet discovered my love of photography, and so I painted. One of my favorite paintings, "The Return of the Wolves," didn't show a scene from North America, though. In this painting, I depicted a lone wolf walking through a thick forest in deep snow. It was on its way home to its lost territory in the Swiss Alps. At the time I painted that wolf, no wolves existed in Switzerland. The last wolves disappeared from Swiss soil around 1890. After that only a few sporadic appearances of lone wolves were reported, and all of these wolves were killed. As they were in other European countries, wolves in Switzerland were persecuted to extinction. The population of wolves in Western Europe was at an all-time low by the last quarter of the 20th century. Finally, after Italy put the wolves under strict protection in 1976, the population began to slowly recover, and wolves even started to recolonize lost territory. They finally reached the Alps, and since 1998 lone wolves have found their way across the border to

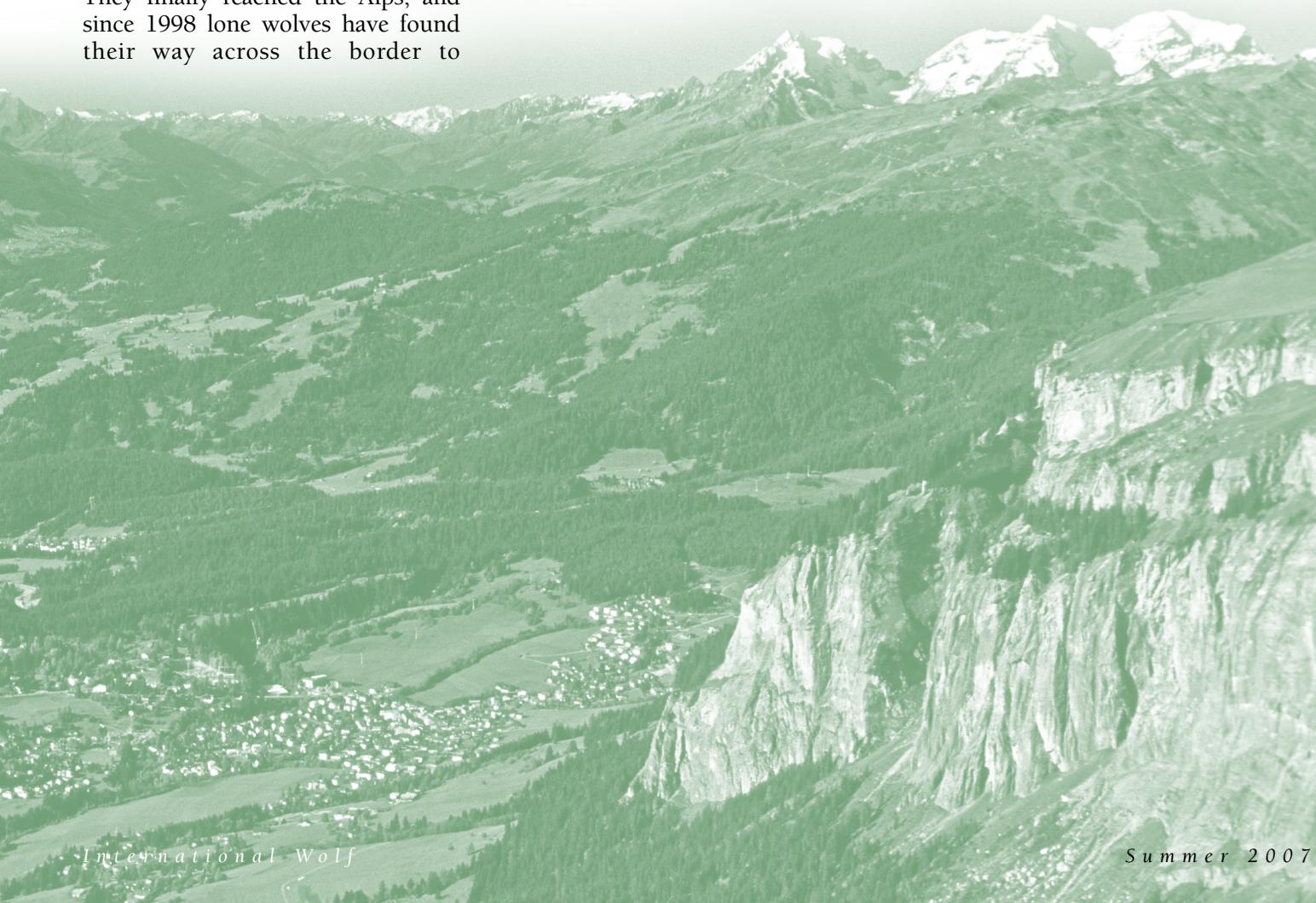
Switzerland. But their excursions ended in death, because they preyed on the free-running herds of sheep. The trend continued, however. In the region where I grew up, called Surselva, around the headwaters of the Rhine River, I heard rumors that one wolf had found its way there. In December 2002

DNA analyses of the wolf's scats showed that it was a wolf deriving from the Italian population.

Five years later I was living permanently in Canada, but I returned to my home country in the hope of getting a glimpse of the first wolf to live successfully in Switzerland. I joined a local game warden in his tracking of the lone wolf near the so-called first city of the Rhine, Ilanz.



Since the first signs of a wolf in the region the game warden had gathered data by collecting scats and looking for tracks and kills. From these data I saw how quickly the wolf got to know its new home and how it used its territory year by year in the same fashion. The wolf doesn't move around



much in the summer months, but with the arrival of fall it travels above the tree line and is more active. The wolf hunts everything from hares and marmots to chamois and even ibex. But its main prey is red deer (elk). That a single wolf can take down such big prey is remarkable.

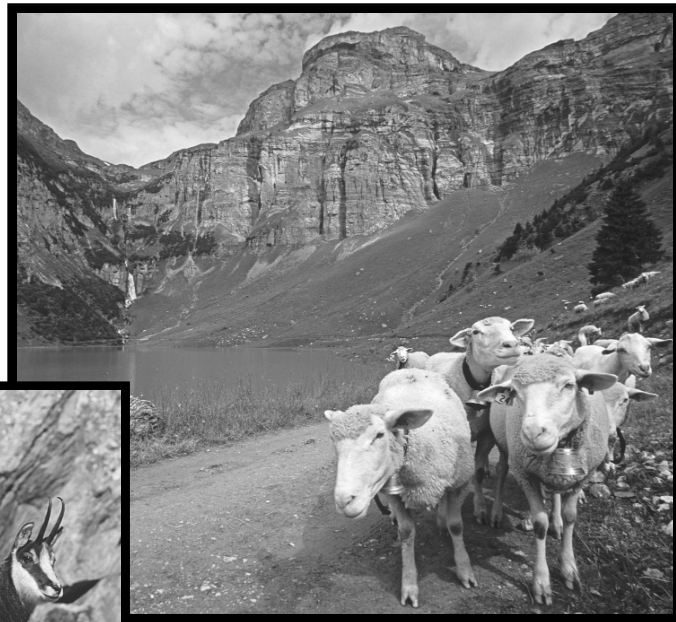
I walked with the game warden high above the tree line and finally reached a small hut, the home of the local shepherd. Sheep in the Alps used to run freely until wolves started to show up. The same was true in this region where we were now hiking. The game warden said that in the first year after the wolf's arrival, quite a few sheep were lost to this lone wolf. Soon the farmers decided to hire a shepherd, and they also acquired some guardian dogs. The losses to the wolf were reduced dramatically.

We soon found the shepherd. He told us that his dogs were behaving strangely, and he was certain that the

wolf was not far away. So we went on, and soon we were walking in knee-deep snow. Only a few days earlier, despite being August, snow had fallen below 1,800 meters (about 6,000 feet). We headed for a little Alpine hut. Unfortunately we found no sign whatsoever of the wolf. I decided to stay overnight at this hut. Heading home, the game warden assured me that he would call my cellular phone if he found any tracks on the way down. A few hours

passed, and I was just on my way to sneak up on three ibex when my cell phone rang. The game warden said, "Peter, you are in the wrong place! A hunter called me reporting a sighting of the wolf some distance away from where you are." It was about 4 p.m. I looked at the map and figured that I could get to where the wolf was last seen before dark. I didn't hesitate and ran back to the hut to pack.

Twenty-nine kilograms (about 60 pounds) heavier, I ran down the steep



Since 1998 lone wolves have found their way from Italy across the border to Switzerland. But their excursions ended in death, because they preyed on the free-running herds of sheep.



Wolves hunt everything from hares and marmots to chamois (far left) and even ibex (left).



trail through deep snow, thinking of nothing but the wolf. About an hour later, gasping for air, I found myself where the wolf was last seen. I walked up to a higher ridge, where I would have a better view of the U-shaped valley. Sweat ran down my face—I was at my limit. I unloaded my tripod and placed my camera with its huge 500mm lens on it. I was ready.

Unfortunately I didn't have much time left, as the sun had already disappeared behind the mountains. I scanned the slopes above me and saw a few chamois and a red deer with a calf. The last sun rays turned the clouds reddish—a magnificent sight. Having lost hope of seeing the wolf, I decided to mount a wide-angle lens on the camera. I took a few scenery shots and suddenly realized my foolish mistake. If luck was on my side and the wolf did show up, I wouldn't be able to get a shot. Quickly I changed lenses again, and not half a minute later I saw something out of the corner of my eye. I turned my head and saw a shape in some undergrowth. I looked through my binoculars, and my heart nearly stopped beating. The wolf was staring down at me without moving. Slowly I lowered the binoculars and bent my body behind the camera to take my first picture. It was now 8:05 p.m. The wolf hesitated. It obviously didn't know what to do. Its head was moving up and down. One step forward, one back. Finally it walked forward a bit, and I could see its whole body. It looked magnificent and

healthy. The wolf came a few meters in my direction and then ran up the slope. Before disappearing behind a little hill, it stopped once again to look back at me. It was now 8:06 p.m. Then it disappeared out of my sight. I scanned the whole area for another minute or two but didn't see it again.

Full of joy and excitement, I walked down toward the car I had left in the valley. It was soon so dark I couldn't see my hand in front of my face. Walking down the trail in the dark, I was worried not about the wolf nearby but about the dogs that guard the cows. Luckily they were all inside the huts with their masters, and only the cows witnessed the strange figure passing them in the dark with a dim light on his head.

It was, and still is, hard to believe the fortune I had that day. Years after painting a wishful scene of a returning wolf, I had come face-to-face with a real wolf in the Swiss Alps. Only a decade ago who would have thought that would happen? With the wolf's return, the Alps regain a little bit of the lost wilderness. Even though the wolves have a hard time staying alive in Switzerland, the single wolf in Surselva shows that people can change and live side by side with big predators. Important to this coex-

istence is that the farmers receive help to make changes that profit all parties in the end, including the sheep themselves. Also a sign of hope is the fact that most Swiss people want to see the return of big predators in their country, according to recent polls. If we succeed in living with big predators in highly populated Western Europe, than that is certainly a sign of hope for a better future for nature. Only time will show if we have learned something from the past. For me personally, the lone wolf is an inspiration and one significant reason more to return to my former home country in search of the wild. ■

Artist and photographer Peter Dettling grew up in Switzerland and has traveled all over the world photographing and painting wildlife and wild places. He has lived in Canada since 1996.



The wolf came a few meters in Dettling's direction and then ran up the slope.

Surselva, the region around the headwaters of the Rhine River, is where the wolf was seen and where Dettling grew up.





INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER

Notes From Home

Peter and the Wolf: The Wolf Seen Through Twin Lenses of Music and Reality

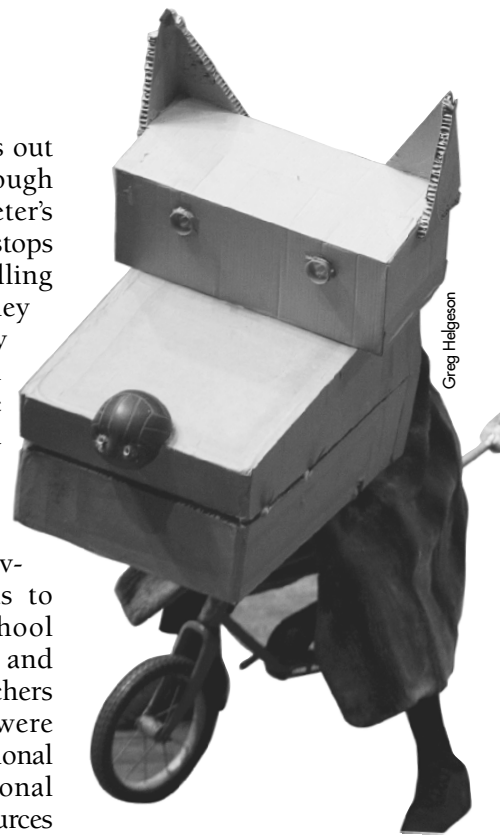
by Eileen Gonyeau

Generations of school children have learned the sounds of the instruments in the orchestra by listening to Sergey Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*. Now through a partnership between the Minnesota Orchestra and the International Wolf Center, children in the Twin Cities have had a chance to advance their musical knowledge and at the same time learn about real wolves in the wild. It's one of those experiences children seldom forget.

I remember sitting in my sixth-grade classroom in Ontario, California, as the weekly music appreciation program was piped through on the public address system and closing my eyes to visualize this children's story told through music. In this narrated composition, the Russian composer Prokofiev has a different instrument portray each character in the tale. The violin takes the role of Peter, while the horn plays the part of the wolf. The flute represents the bird; the oboe, the duck;

and the bassoon booms out the grandfather. Although the wolf swallows Peter's friend the duck, Peter stops the hunters from killing the wolf. Instead, they capture the wolf by the tail and take him to the zoo, where the duck can still be heard quacking in the wolf's stomach.

The Minnesota Orchestra presented several weekday concerts to over 12,000 local school children in February and March. About 220 teachers from these schools were presented with International Wolf Center educational materials including resources available, the true facts on wolves and a wolf book-mark for each student. Two



Greg Helgeson

free concerts sponsored by Target Inc. were given at Orchestra Hall for about 3,400 adults and children on March 11, 2007. Little Red Riding Hood (volunteer Sherrill Carlson) roamed the foyer distributing wolf book-marks and teaching the real facts about wolves. A large educational display and mounted wolf drew many people to the mezzanine, where trained educators answered questions.

This experience brought in new audiences for the Center and offered a unique and very successful blend of music and reality. Consider this kind of creative education in your area. The Center can support your efforts by offering teachers various aids to debunk myths and



Greg Helgeson

present a balanced view of wolves. Teachers can register for virtual field trips, which use interactive video conferencing to take students on a visit to the resident ambassador wolf pack in Ely, Minnesota.

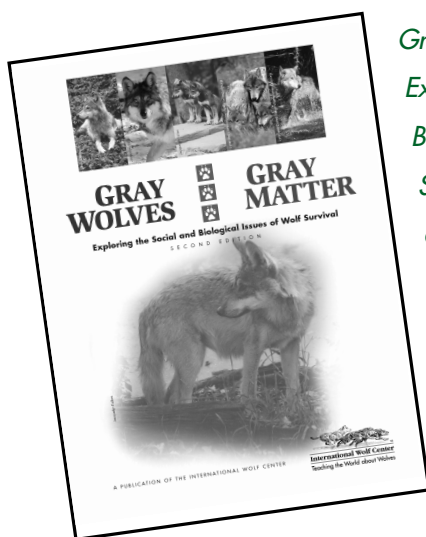
They can download a free curriculum of 27 interdisciplinary activities in *Gray Wolves, Gray Matter*. In addition, the Center offers many other educational

opportunities for teachers and all adults, including wolf adventures in Ely, Minnesota, Yellowstone National Park and the Canadian Northwest Territories. ■

Eileen Gonyeau lives in Eagan, Minnesota, and supports the International Wolf Center as a volunteer helping to educate the public about wolves at local events.



Download *Gray Wolves, Gray Matter* from www.wolf.org today!



Gray Wolves, Gray Matter: Exploring the Social and Biological Issues of Wolf Survival includes 27 fun and educational activities to help students untangle the complexities of the wolf-human relationship taking a science-based, unbiased approach. Each lesson plan is easy to use with

background information and reproducible pages.

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Tracking the Pack

Coming of Age

by Lori Schmidt, Wolf Curator,
International Wolf Center

Born in May 2004, International Wolf Center ambassador wolves Grizzer and Maya experienced the 2006–07 winter as their first as mature adults. Not surprisingly, the hormonal influence on the behavior of these young adults led to some testing of the arctic wolves, Shadow and Malik, which will be turning 7 years of age in May 2007. On October 19, 2006, the following was posted as one of the wolf logs at www.wolf.org:

Grizzer, who in past weeks, had been asserting status over Malik, had begun to test Shadow. He had a rather intense display of dominance that pinned Shadow to the ground, with Malik coming in to assist. Staff was in the enclosure at the time, and provided beaver tails as a distraction. Behaviors have calmed considerably since that first snowy day, but we know maturing wolves are going to test their older pack mates if they detect weakness.

This dominance display was the staff's first indication that Grizzer was coming of age and starting to move up in the male rank order. In our experience with captive wolves, the mainte-

nance of rank order is typically gender specific, with both males and females maintaining an order within their gender. Behavior associated with rank order in a captive pack of nonrelated wolves may be different from the behavior in a pack of wild wolves, which consists of breeding parents that maintain order because they are the parents. In the Exhibit Pack, dominance is all about postures, facial expressions, tail positions and vulnerability.

The influence of hormones on the pack is evident in the timing of the ritualized dominance displays. The breeding season for wild wolves can begin near the end of January and extend into March, depending on the wolves' physical condition and geographic location and climatic influences on the population. Even though the Center's Exhibit Pack is spayed and neutered to prevent breeding, their dominance behaviors tend to increase in these months. Although October, when the dominance display described above occurred, was a few months from the breeding season, this

behavior coincided with the first snowfall of the year, which possibly triggered a surge in hormones.

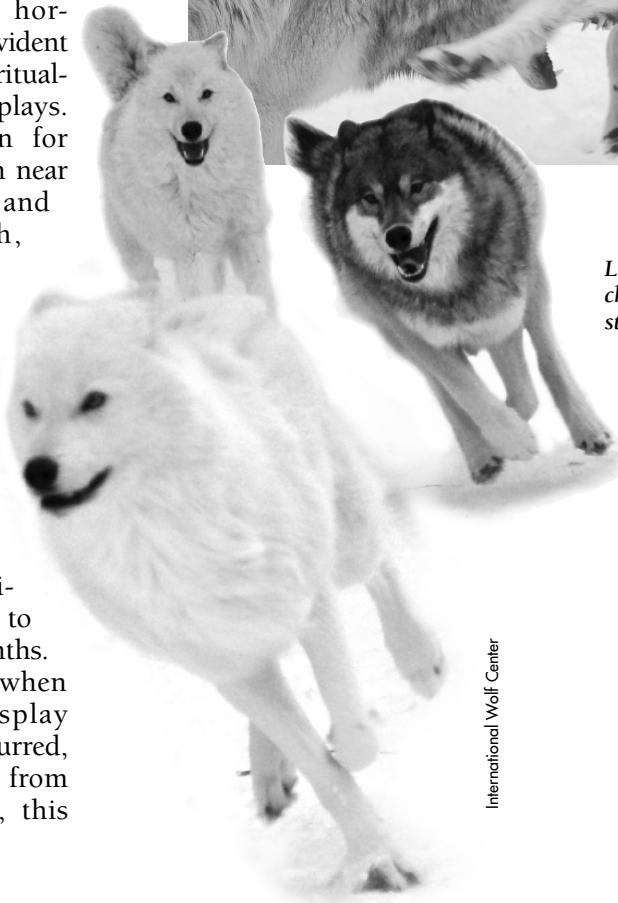
Maya, being the only female, focused her energy on her littermate, Grizzer. Thus, Maya often distracted Grizzer from chasing the arctic wolves, as it is hard to chase another wolf when you have your sister hanging

onto your hide. These behaviors resulted in a calmer Exhibit Pack than might have been expected. But as winter progressed, Grizzer continued to show dominance, primarily focusing on Malik.

To get a weekly report on the members of the Exhibit Pack, read the wolf logs at www.wolf.org. ■



Top: Grizzer and Maya wrestle.



Left: The male wolves chase in order of their status.

International Wolf Center

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WCI-08



Highlights from the International Wolf Center's New Exhibit: *Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century*

Editor's note: This is the third installment in a series that brings to our readers the ideas and images portrayed in the Center's new traveling exhibit. Each of the seven interpretive panels addresses a narrow slice of wolf issues in a particular region of North America. Excerpts from the panel about the southwestern United States are included in this issue. Visit www.wolf.org for more information about the exhibit.

WOLVES IN THE SOUTHWEST

Highlights from the exhibit panel

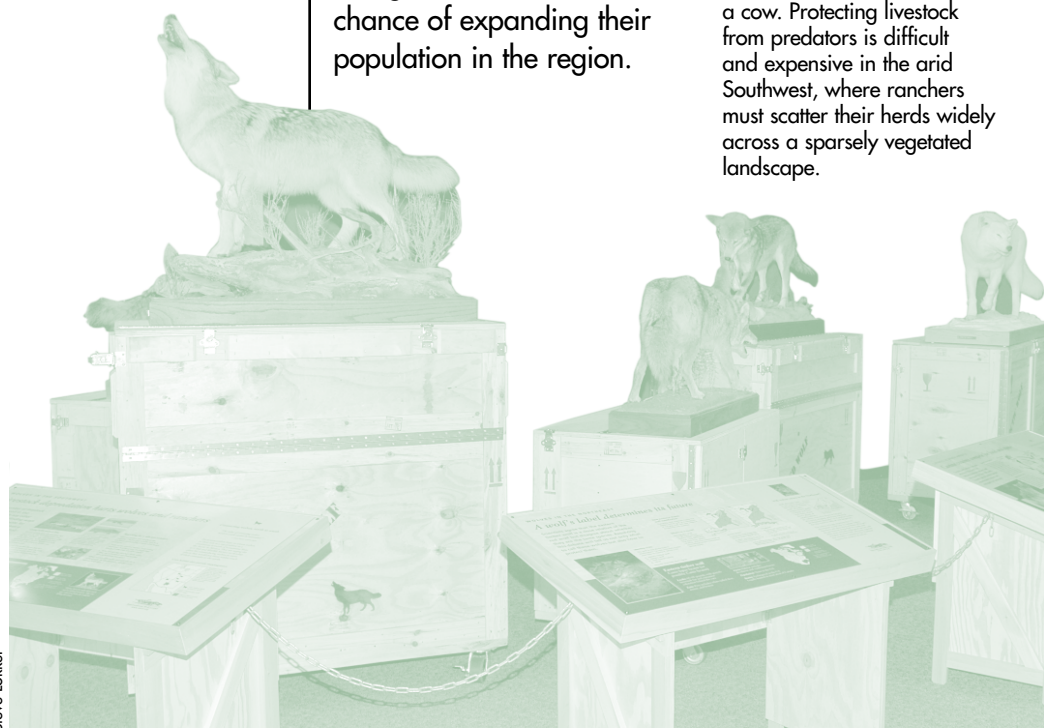
Livestock depredation hurts wolves and ranchers

A greater number of livestock are killed per wolf in the Southwest than in any other part of the country. Finding ways to prevent and compensate for this depredation gives wolves a better chance of expanding their population in the region.



J. Brad Miller, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

These photos show a wolf stalking and then attacking a cow. Protecting livestock from predators is difficult and expensive in the arid Southwest, where ranchers must scatter their herds widely across a sparsely vegetated landscape.



Steve Lokker



Living with mutual loss

Wolves usually hunt elk and deer, but occasionally they kill sheep and cows. The few ranchers who lose livestock suffer serious economic harm.

While ranchers receive payment for confirmed wolf kills, many of the kills go unconfirmed and uncompensated.

The wolves also suffer. Those that kill livestock must be removed from the wild or killed. Subtracting wolves from this already small population hinders their full recovery in the region.

Searching for a win-win solution

How can wolves and ranchers live together? Teams of scientists, ranchers, and environmentalists wrestle with tough problems:

- How do we prevent wolves from killing livestock? Are there any methods that are both effective and affordable?
- How can we pay ranchers fairly when they can't always prove that wolves have killed their livestock?

When we can affordably prevent and fairly compensate for depredation, ranchers and wolves both win.



WOLVES IN THE SOUTHWEST

Livestock depredation hurts wolves and ranchers

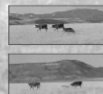
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Mexican wolf *Canis lupus baileyi*

Looks: 50–90 pounds, with a mix of buff, gray, rust, and black fur.

Eats: Prey includes elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, javelina (wild boar), and jackrabbit.



Lives: Habitat includes mountain forests, grasslands, and shrublands.

Population: 50 wolves

Status: Endangered



Note: The Mexican wolf is one type, or subspecies, of gray wolf.



Wolves hunt to fully their pack and to defend territory. This one was removed from the wild for killing livestock.

Connecting wolves, north to south

"The value of connecting wolves north to south cannot be overstated."

—Dave Mech, wolf biologist

Environmentalists hope to return wolves to their role as a top predator in a continuous network of ecosystems from the Arctic to Mexico. They are urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop plans for reintroducing wolves to more places that would put them within reach of their comrades to the north.

Core habitat sites provide steppingstones

Established wolf populations reach as far south as central Wyoming, leaving the Mexican wolf range isolated. Core habitat sites in Colorado, Utah, and Arizona could fill in the only remaining gaps in a continuous wild lands network.

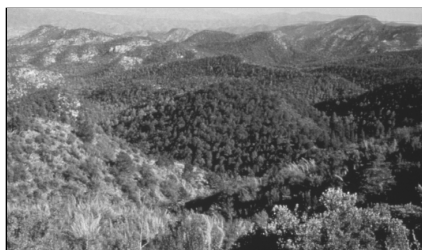


International Wolf Center
www.wolf.org

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Lives: Habitat includes mountain forests, grasslands, and shrublands.

Population: 59

Status: Endangered



Historic range of the gray wolf

Current range of the gray wolf

Area related to this panel's stories

Note: The Mexican wolf is one type, or subspecies, of gray wolf.

Connecting wolves, north to south

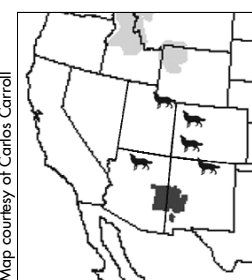
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Core habitat sites provide steppingstones

Established wolf populations reach as far



Map courtesy of Carlos Carral

south as central Wyoming, leaving the Mexican wolf range isolated. Core habitat sites in Colorado, Utah, and Arizona could fill in the only remaining gaps in a continuous wild lands network.



Core habitat likely to support wolves



Current gray wolf range



Current Mexican gray wolf recovery area

With great surprise I realized what I was looking at; my eyes were staring back at me, only 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 wolves

Personal Encounter

Nature's Lessons

by Joann Earle

It's Sunday morning in Taiga, and elsewhere in Minnesota people are gathering at their churches for Sunday services. I, for lack of a church structure, will praise god from a quiet, small stand of pine, aspen and brush on the shore of Stoney Lake in the Superior National Forest. It has been cold, 20 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit the past three days, and the lake is frozen, but the southeast wind is mild, so I dress appropriately and leave our modest

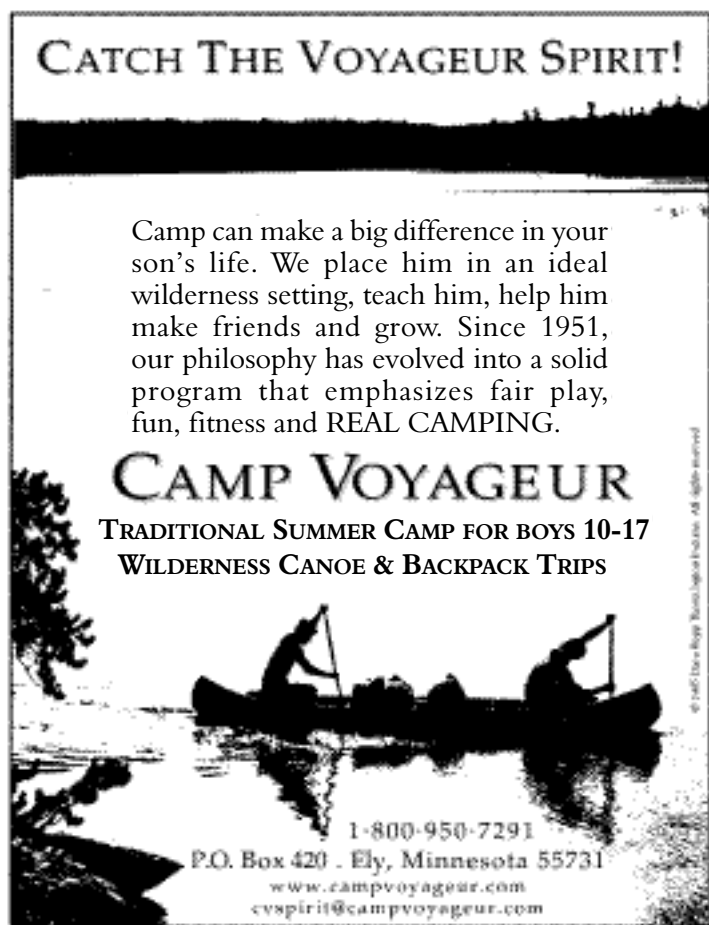
dwelling, a yurt, at 9:00 a.m. My husband has been hunting deer and is after the elusive "big buck" he saw days before, so he heads north-east from the yurt.

About 15 minutes after I have settled comfortably near the boughs of a small pine and a stand of aspen, I hear a crash from the direction of the lake. Looking up I see nothing. Then another crash, and I spot something in a hole in the ice about midway across the lake and about

70 yards from me. Through the binoculars, I see the head of a deer, a doe. She is swimming, struggling to break the ice in front of her as she heads toward the nearest point of land, "Smiley Rock," which sits as a sentinel on the water's edge. Obviously, the doe ventured onto the ice from the south side of the lake and broke through when she got to thinner ice near the center. I silently cheer her on as her forelegs and hooves flail at the ice and she rests between attempts to swim forward. After 30 minutes of struggling, the doe steps up onto the shore and is standing cautiously in front of Smiley Rock. What a big, beautiful doe! She walks up the slight knoll into the stand of trees, and I watch for her to reappear on the other side of the stand, but either I have missed her or she is resting.

Fast forward to early afternoon... and after telling my story to hubby over lunch, I am again sitting in my spot beneath the trees near the lake. I had such a thrill this morning seeing the doe; I wonder what else could happen.

After about 30 minutes, I see a deer run out of the woods near our yurt, cross a low grassy patch of land, head into the knoll of trees where the doe disappeared this morning, and splash into the water off Smiley Rock. It appears to be the same doe! She pants audibly as she swims out toward the spot where she fell in this morning. I glass the doe, then I get my camera out to document the event. No one will believe this! Picture taken, I'm back to watching through binoculars. The doe swims circles in open water where she went in this morning, then turns back toward land. But wait—she swims back to the frozen center of the lake again. I am amazed! What is wrong with her?



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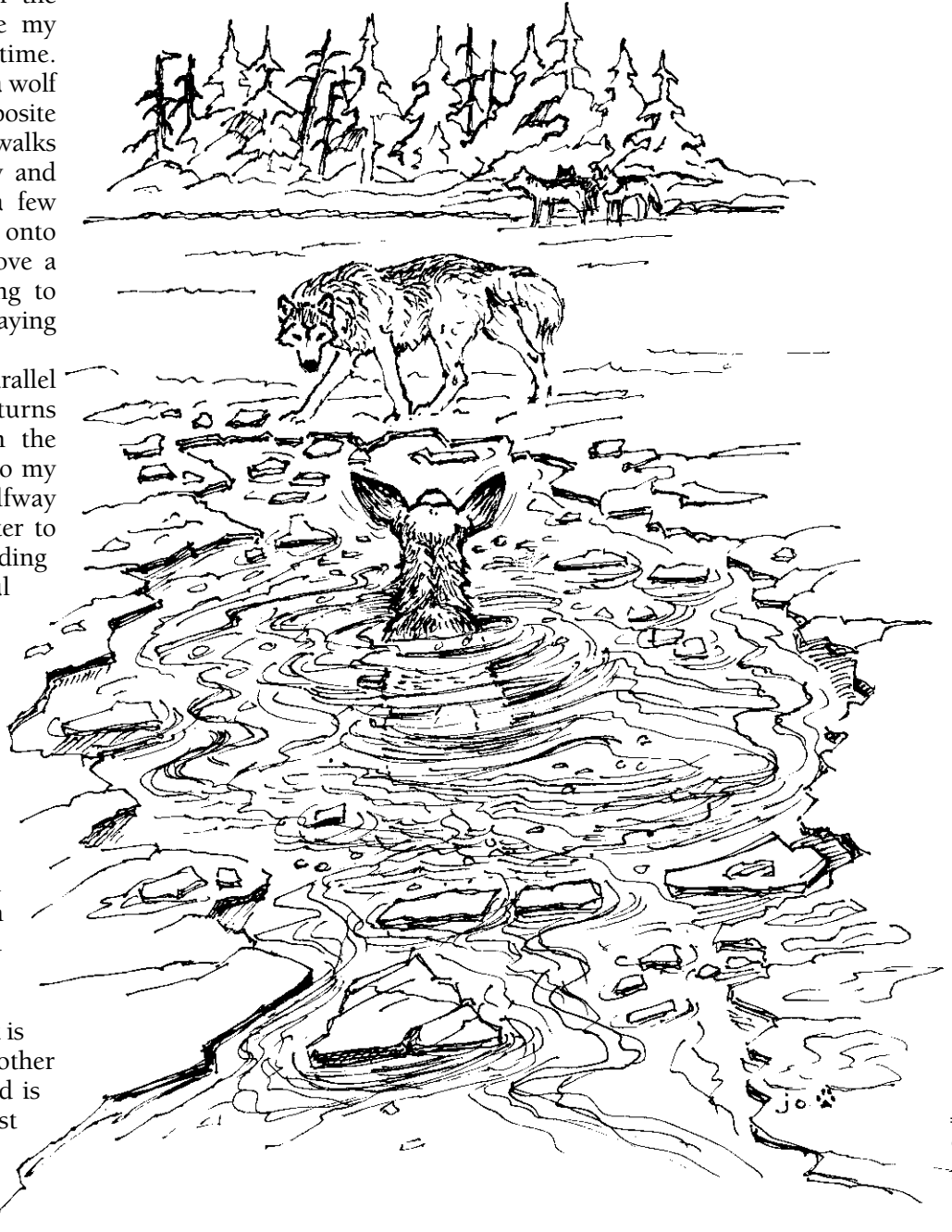
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*I think maybe my
imagination is working overtime.
Certainly there is something . . .
a wolf padding along the ice
on the opposite shore.*

Why doesn't she swim back to land and get out? She sits in the water, not moving, ears back and tight to her head. No movement at all. Wait, there is something moving on the opposite shore. I think maybe my imagination is working overtime. Certainly there is something . . . a wolf padding along the ice on the opposite shore. It eyes the deer, then walks a few steps forward. It is slow and cautious as it zigs and zags a few steps at a time, going farther out onto the ice. I am trying not to move a muscle as I watch, not wanting to disturb the drama of nature playing before my eyes.

As the wolf finally comes parallel to the deer, the doe suddenly turns and starts swimming again in the direction of the shoreline, but to my surprise she only swims halfway and stops and turns in the water to face the wolf. The wolf is padding its way around the ice, careful not to get too close to thin ice and water. The doe again is motionless. She has been in the water nearly an hour now. The wolf moves back from the open water and watches the doe, then lifts its head, nose to the sky, and begins to howl. After a short time, the wolf sits . . . no, actually lies on the ice, paws and forelegs out in front, as a house dog would relax and wait by its master's chair. Suddenly it jumps up and dashes along the icy shoreline. It is chasing something. I can see another wolf, which has approached and is now being chased away. The first wolf walks back to keep an eye on its dinner. As time goes by, I realize the sun has set, but I am riveted to this drama. Still there is no movement from the doe. I'm convinced she has



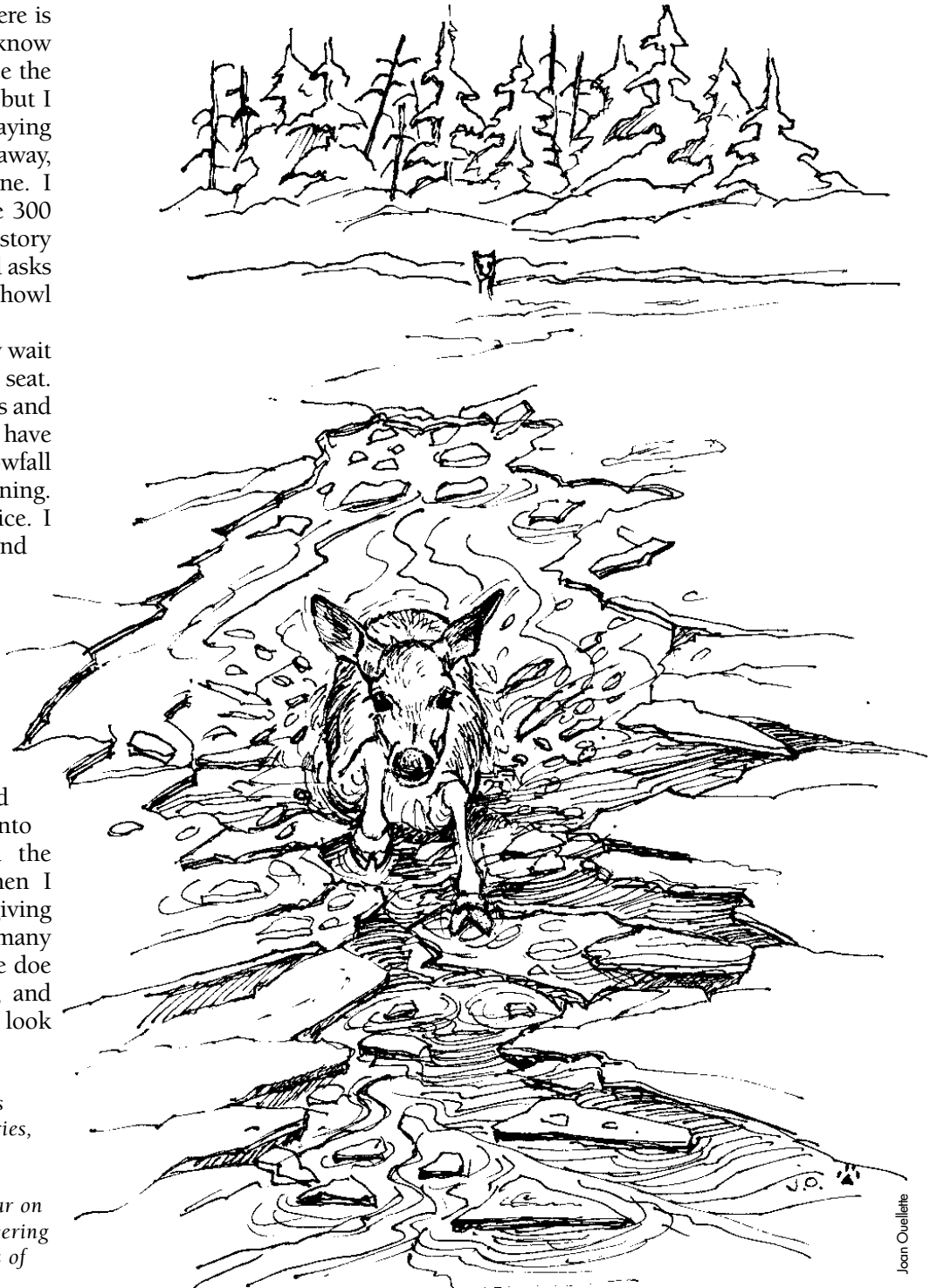
succumbed to the freezing water. I glass the opposite shoreline for anything, and there I see three wolves approaching. By their coats they appear to be in better shape than the lone wolf. Again the lone wolf chases the three wolves away.

As darkness of the evening begins to envelop the setting and me as well, I head back to the yurt while there is enough light to find the path. I know that soon I will not be able to see the cast of characters in my drama, but I do not want to disturb what is playing out. By getting up and walking away, I will reveal myself in the scene. I reluctantly but quickly walk the 300 yards to the yurt to spill my story to my husband. As he listens and asks questions, the wolves begin to howl for the last time that night.

Monday morning I can hardly wait to get back to my front-row seat. What has happened to the wolves and the doe? In the meantime, we have had a beautiful two-inch snowfall during the night and early morning. Nothing appears to be on the ice. I walk over to the wooded knoll and Smiley Rock. There is a thin ribbon of water in the ice running from where the doe was in the water right to Smiley Rock, and in the snow round the rock are many deer prints but not one wolf track. Had the doe sensed me and not come out of the water until I had gone? What frightened her into the water? The wolves? Had the wolves been frightened off when I walked back to the yurt, thus giving her a chance to escape? I have many questions, but it appears that the doe was lucky enough to get away, and the unfortunate wolves had to look elsewhere for dinner. ■

Joann Earle, a registered nurse, does volunteer work in developing countries, assisting in health care and raising money for orphanages. She and her husband spend six months of the year on their sailboat, and when not volunteering or sailing, they enjoy the wilderness of northern Minnesota.

*There is a thin ribbon of water
in the ice running from where
the doe was in the water right to
Smiley Rock, and in the snow around
the rock, many deer prints
but not one wolf track.*



Joan Ouellette




Wild Kids



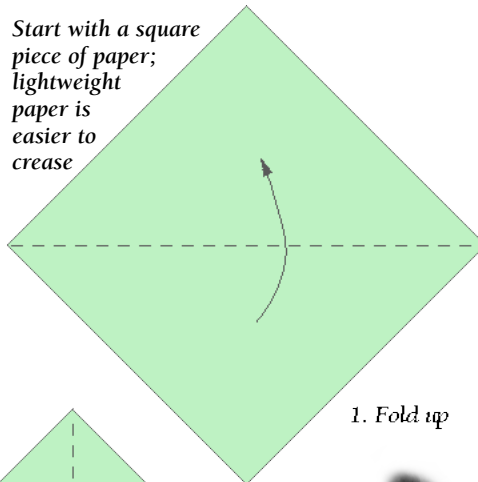
Fold a Wolf Pack

Wolves may be rare or common where you live, but through origami you can create your own wolf pack. Read about the social behavior of wolves in the wild, or even about the International Wolf Center's ambassador wolves, and play act their interactions with your folded animals.

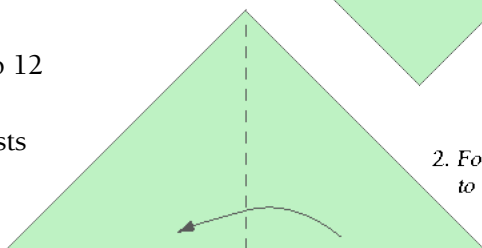
Remember:

-  Packs usually have 5 to 12 members.
-  A pack generally consists of 2 parent wolves, up to 6 of their pups and a few yearlings.
-  A wolf's fur may be gray, black, white, brown or any combination of these.

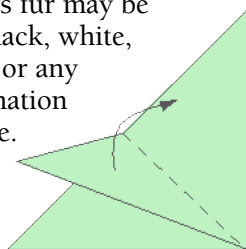
Start with a square piece of paper; lightweight paper is easier to crease



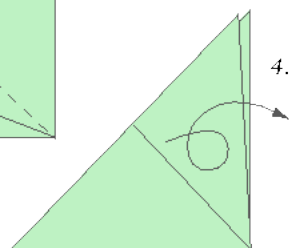
1. Fold up



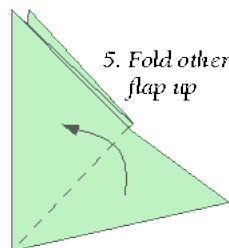
2. Fold to left



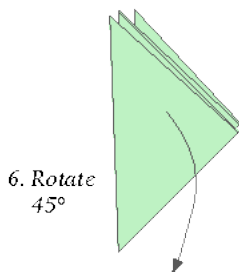
3. Fold one flap up



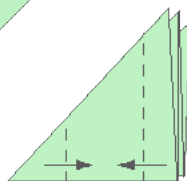
4. Turn over



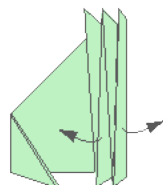
5. Fold other flap up



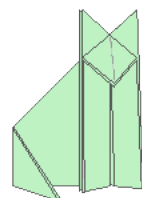
6. Rotate 45°



7. Fold both ends to center



8. Separate flaps

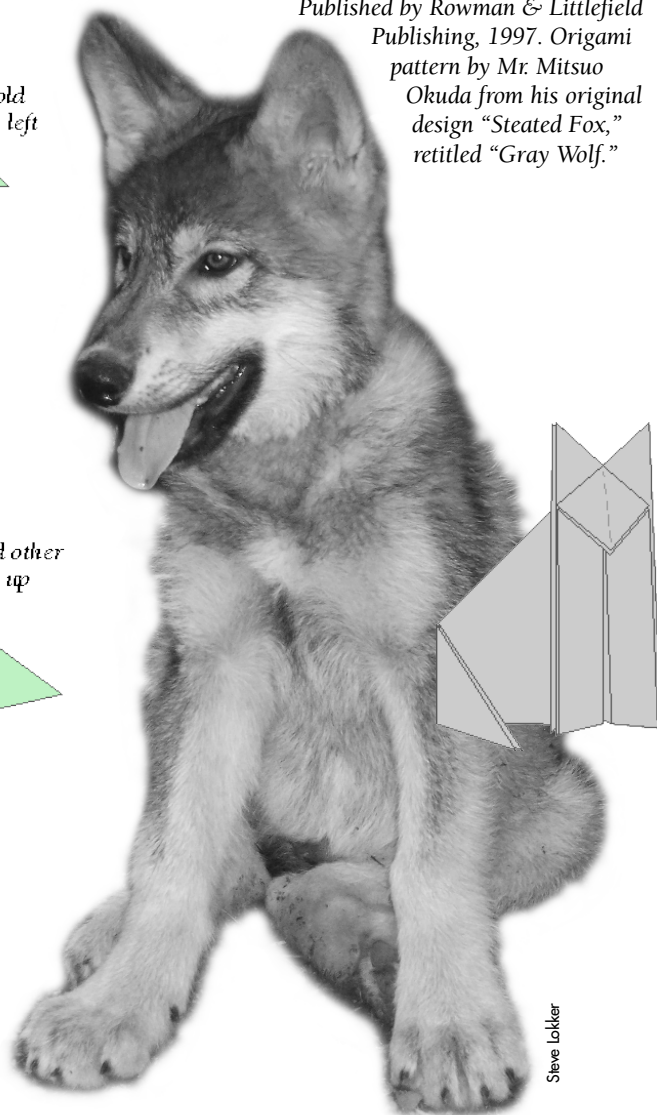


9. Fold center point down

After you have finished folding your wolf pack, use a large sheet of paper to draw suitable habitat. You'll need food, water and shelter for your pack. Will you create a prairie? Pine forest? Alpine meadow? Around the world, wolves live in many kinds of habitats, so make sure the color of your wolves blends in with the habitat you create for them. ■

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The Wonder of Wolves: A Story and
Activities, by Sandra Chisholm Robinson.

Published by Rowman & Littlefield
Publishing, 1997. Origami
pattern by Mr. Mitsuo
Okuda from his original
design "Steated Fox,"
retitled "Gray Wolf."



Steve Lokter

A Look Beyond

Recovery of the Mexican Gray Wolf Requires a New Plan

by Michael J. Robinson

The sole wild Mexican gray wolf population in the world is operated like a put-and-take fishery: Many wolves are released from captivity, then removed, and more wolves are put in. But even new releases are not sufficient to stave off inbreeding depression, as low reproductive rates may indicate. To create a viable wild population before the captive population also begins to lose its genetic diversity, more wolves will have to be allowed to live and reproduce. And that means predator control will have to be greatly reduced.

Predator control against Mexican wolves is premised on keeping them confined within an arbitrary political boundary and on responding to livestock depredations. In both cases, the rules for Mexican wolves are different from those in the northern Rocky Mountains. Unlike its rules for any other endangered species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has bound itself to remove any Mexican wolf living outside the official recovery area and the adjoining Fort Apache Indian Reservation (where they have been welcomed), even if it is on public lands. And unlike the rule for the reintroduction to Yellowstone and central Idaho, the southwestern reintroduction rule does not protect wolves from scavenging on cattle and horse carcasses, homing in on livestock, and then being subject to predator control.

A panel of independent scientists convened by the Service to conduct the official Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Three-Year Review (2001) had urged that wolves be allowed to

roam freely, and that ranchers using public lands be required to remove or render inedible (as by lime) the carcasses of cattle and horses that die of non-wolf causes. Those changes are still urgently needed today to ensure more wolves are allowed to live in the wild.

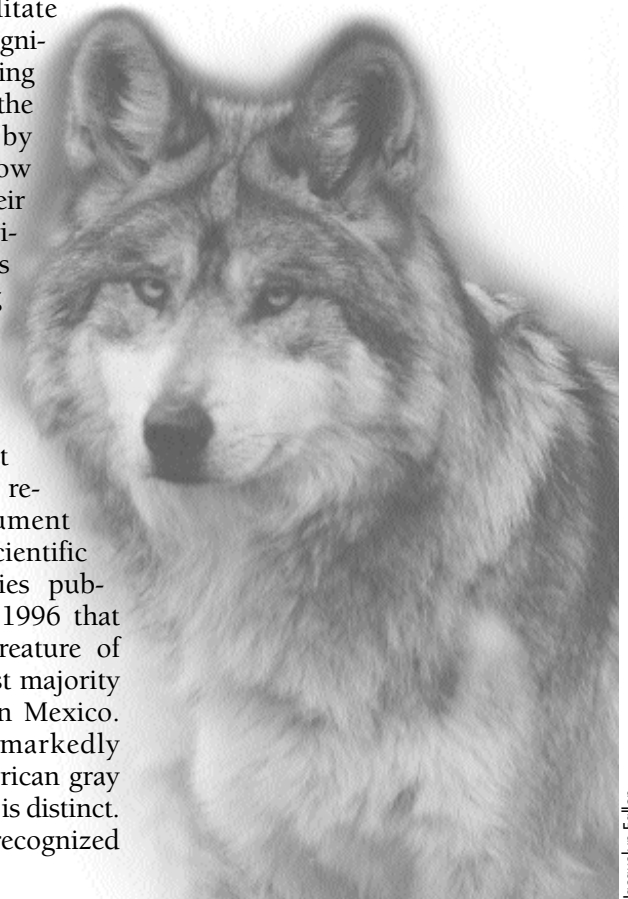
The livestock industry's resistance to removing dead stock on the public lands raises the question of whether Mexican wolves and livestock are compatible. Ranchers insist they are not. If they are correct, then the Endangered Species Act will require that public lands be managed to facilitate recovery. That may entail significant reductions in stocking rates. Congress could ease the transition for ranchers by passing legislation to allow them to voluntarily cede their public lands grazing privileges in return for a generous pay-off; the former grazing allotments would be placed permanently off-limits for livestock.

Recovery criteria for the Mexican gray wolf must be spelled out in a new recovery plan. That document should be guided by the scientific consensus in seven studies published between 1929 and 1996 that the lobo is primarily a creature of the desert, and that the vast majority of its original range was in Mexico. *Canis lupus baileyi* is markedly smaller than other American gray wolves, and its morphology is distinct. The lobo's northernmost recognized

range was south of the Mogollon highlands where it now roams. In an elk-less landscape, preying on diminutive Coues whitetail deer and pig-like javelinas and navigating prickly deserts, small size helped survival.

Recovery areas must include the Sky Island Mountains of southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico to link wolves in the Mogollon highlands of Arizona and New Mexico with those that will one day also roam the Sierra Madres in Mexico. ■

*Michael J. Robinson is on the staff of the Center for Biological Diversity, www.biologicaldiversity.org. He is the author of *Predatory Bureaucracy: The Extermination of Wolves and the Transformation of the West* (University Press of Colorado, 2005).*



Jacquelyn Fallon