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Departments

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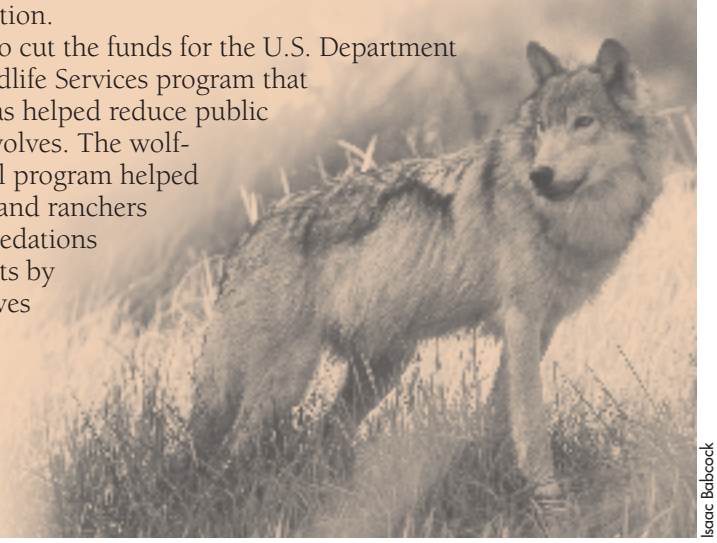
Congress Delists Wolves in Montana and Idaho and Cuts Depredation-Control Funding

Several years after Northern Rocky Mountain (NRM) wolf populations had reached full biological recovery (300), Congress is removing those in Idaho and Montana from the federal Endangered Species List. Several legal technicalities had kept NRM wolves, whose populations had reached at least 1,700, on the list. This fact caused a major public backlash that resulted in Congressional action.

Congress has also cut the funds for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services program that for over 30 years has helped reduce public animosity toward wolves. The wolf-depredation-control program helped Minnesota farmers and ranchers deal with wolf depredations on livestock and pets by controlling the wolves involved. ■



Isaac Babcock

From the Executive Director

Mary Ortiz

As many of you know, the International Wolf Center celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2010. Guided by the founding vision of renowned wolf expert Dr. L. David Mech and many dedicated staff, board and volunteers, the Center has grown to become a leading advocate for teaching the world about wolves. Today the International Wolf Center serves thousands of visitors through its ambassador wolves, exhibits, distance learning and other education and outreach programs.

Quality programming such as this is possible thanks to the generosity of our members. In honor of those who have supported the Center from the start through their financial contributions and commitment to the Center's mission, we are proud to recognize the following individuals for their membership support of the International Wolf Center for 20 or more years:

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STATE MANAGEMENT PLANS
A PRIMER

UNDERSTANDING MANAGEMENT TERMS MAKES EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION POSSIBLE

by JESS EDBERG

information services director, International Wolf Center

Awen ÿBriem

Human societies make rules that maintain structure and order, similar to wolves living in a pack. However, the resources wolves need for survival are very simple: tolerance from humans and food. Human needs and wants are much more complicated and require more structure. Understanding wolf management is an important step in being an active participant in the wolf management dialogue. Certainly, not all humans will see eye to eye when it comes to wolf management. Developing a solid understanding of management terminology and the current status of the numerous wolf populations in the contiguous United States, however, will help increase the effectiveness of what are sometimes contentious conversations. Productive communication takes great effort, but it is possible. Below is some information to help you become a better-informed participant in wolf management discussions.

THE CHART BELOW IS A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF SPECIFIC WOLF STATE MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR WHEN WOLVES ARE DELISTED.

For further details or clarifications, please review an individual state's full plan.

DPS	Western Great Lakes		
State	MN	WI	MI
Monitoring agency	Department of Natural Resources	Department of Natural Resources	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
State classification	Species of special concern	Varies depending on wolf numbers: endangered, threatened, non-game protected, non-game or furbearer	Protected
Minimum number of wolves/packs	1,600 wolves	350 wolves (outside reservations)	200 wolves
Livestock loss compensation program	Yes	Yes	Yes
Public harvest	No	No	No
Will a regulated public harvest be an option?	Possibly, five years after delisting with public input	Possibly, through a public process	Possibly, through a public process

COMMONLY USED TERMS:

Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973: The ESA protects animal and plant species from extinction by preserving the ecosystems in which they survive and by providing programs for their conservation. It is administered by two agencies: the National Marine Fisheries Service, which designates marine fish and certain marine mammals, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has jurisdiction over all other endangered wildlife. The goal of the ESA is the recovery of listed species to levels where protection under the Act is no longer necessary.

Endangered species list (ESL): The federal list of threatened and endangered wildlife and plants.

Species: Any group of animals or plants classified as a species or subspecies as commonly accepted by the scientific community.

List: To add a species to the federal endangered species list.

Reclassify: To alter the status of a species listed on the endangered species list from threatened to endangered or vice versa.

Delist: To take a species off the endangered species list and transfer management to a state or tribal agency.

Relist: To add a species back onto the federal endangered species list after it has been taken off or delisted.

Endangered: The status of a species on the endangered species list that is considered seriously threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the United States.

Threatened: The status of a species on the endangered species list that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout a significant portion of its range within the United States without federal management or removal of threats.

Recovered species: A species that no longer requires protection under the ESA.

Distinct population segment (DPS): A vertebrate population or group of populations that is discrete from other populations of the species and significant in relation to the entire species. The ESA provides for listing species, subspecies or distinct population segments of vertebrate species. For wolves, the Western Great Lakes and the Northern Rockies are established as distinct population segments.

Pack: Two or more wolves traveling together.

Take: An act that kills or injures a species.

Public Harvest: A regulated season where people may purchase a license or permit to kill a wolf through hunting or trapping. ■

Northern Rocky Mountains

MT	ID	WY	Eastern OR	WA*
Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department	Fish and Game Department	Game and Fish Department	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Species in need of management	Varies depending on region: big game, furbearer and/or predator	Varies depending on region: trophy game animal or predator	Protected	Protected
15 packs	15 packs	15 packs	7 packs for 3 consecutive years	N/A
In development	Yes	Yes with geographic restrictions	In development	Yes
Limited harvest season	Limited harvest season	Limited harvest season in some areas, year-round harvest elsewhere	No	No
			Possibly, through a public process	Possibly, through a public process

**Washington is currently in the draft process with a final plan available in December 2011.*

WEB LINKS TO ACCESS STATE MANAGEMENT PLANS

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

Wisconsin: http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/publications/wolfplan/toc.htm

Michigan: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12145_12205-32569-,00.html

Montana: http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/management/wolf/management.html

Idaho: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/manage/

Wyoming: http://gf.state.wy.us/services/education/wolves/index.asp

Oregon: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/management_plan.asp

Washington: http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Delisting

Wendy Salisbury

One thing is clear, the controversy to "delist" is not merely a scientific question, but a social one as well.

Removing wolves from the federal Endangered Species List ("delisting") remains controversial, so *International Wolf* presents articles exploring both the pro and con sides of the controversy. Collette Adkins Giese's article against delisting deals primarily with Upper Midwest wolves, and Carter Niemeyer's article for delisting covers primarily Northern Rocky Mountain wolves. However, the issues included with both populations are basically the same.

The Argument Against Delisting Wolves

It's Too Early to Abandon Wolf Recovery

by COLLETTE ADKINS GIESE

Editor's note: Regarding the $150 per wolf payment, this is not a bounty in the usual objectionable sense. The objectionable aspect of a bounty system is that payments are made for any wolf taken by anyone over a large area, i.e. several counties or a state. In the Minnesota plan, the $150 would only be paid to a specific certified controller who took a wolf within one mile of a depredation.

I feel fortunate to live in Minnesota where we've always had wolves in our woods. Minnesota wolves survived the bounties and federal extermination program that wiped out wolves across the rest of the country by the 1960s. So in Minnesota these top predators have been allowed to play their vital, time-tested role in regulating prey species like deer, providing food for other wildlife and driving essential evolutionary processes.

With protection under the Endangered Species Act, wolves have grown in numbers and dispersed from Minnesota into northern Wisconsin and from there into the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. And last spring for the first time in decades, wolves raised pups in the northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Such progress shows that the Endangered Species Act works, but its important protections should not be lifted before full recovery of the wolf is achieved.

The latest science on wolves of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan shows that significant threats remain. To begin, scientists have found that gray wolves are suffering from widespread hybridization. Some thought that wolves mixed with coyotes, which invaded the area after

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The Argument for Delisting

The Dilemma of Delisting

by CARTER NIEMEYER

Take a look at any wolf blog these days, and you will quickly discover that the concept of removing wolves from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)—delisting—based solely on the merits of science, long ago snapped its tether and drifted far into uncharted space.

One could argue that Northern Rockies wolf recovery, for all the countless scientific documents produced, analysis of data and thousands of hours of meetings, was never really about hard science. At heart it's been a social issue. It was about what Americans wanted, and the majority of them said they wanted the wolf returned to a sliver of its historical home in the West. So that's what happened. Now it is time to pack it up and delist, right?

Yet every year since 2002 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) first declared the Northern Rockies' distinct population segment of wolves recovered and ready for delisting, there's been a hang up. First, and possibly most significantly, Wyoming refused to do what the feds required by flatly refusing to draw up a reasonable state management plan. It was the first in a series of "up yours" messages directed at the feds, the frequency of which has skyrocketed over the years until being anti-fed is almost as popular as the hula hoop once was. It took a couple of years, but the states of Montana and Idaho followed suit in their own ways. Even the USFWS made a few major procedural mistakes trying to get wolves off the list as quickly as it could. Now instead of following procedures that were carefully crafted under the landmark ESA, Congress has made one attempt after another to delist wolves legislatively. Certain members of Congress have gobbled up the hype that the hostile, anti-wolf bunch doles out, and to quiet the unruly

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Facts at a Glance

Endangered Species Act (1973): Federal law designed to prevent extinction of imperiled plants and animals and to recover and maintain those species by eliminating or lessening survival threats including habitat loss.

Recovery Plan: Outlines goals (numerical and distributional criteria), tasks, costs and estimated timeline to increase the numbers and improve the management of an endangered species to the point where it can be removed from the endangered species list. Recovery plans are subjected to public comment before approval by the federal government.

Delisting: A formal rulemaking process requiring a delisting proposal published in the *Federal Register* followed by a public comment period. In determining whether to make a change in a species' recovery status, a review is conducted of the public information received, the criteria in the recovery plan and the five listing factors identified in the Endangered Species Act. Factors considered before removing a species from the endangered species list include: 1) control or elimination of survival threats, 2) population size and growth and 3) stability of habitat quality and quantity.

Awen Briem

Canine parvovirus previously killed between 40 percent and 60 percent of wolf pups in Minnesota and may have restricted recolonization of unoccupied habitats.

The Argument Against Delisting Wolves

the wolf population was decimated. But now scientists believe that most observed hybridization is between two different wolf species: gray wolf and eastern wolf. Scientists have suggested that human activities—land clearing and predator control programs —may have facilitated this hybridization. Presence of hybrids could mean that population numbers of actual gray wolves have not met recovery goals. Delisting is premature until scientists resolve these critical issues.

Disease also threatens the wolf population. Scientists have documented the harmful impacts of disease on wolves in the Great Lakes region. For example, Dr. L. David Mech, a renowned wolf biologist affiliated with the International Wolf Center, found that canine parvovirus previously killed between 40 percent and 60 percent of wolf pups in Minnesota and may have restricted recolonization of unoccupied habitats. And sarcoptic mange is slowing recovery in Michigan and Wisconsin, although both populations still manage to increase annually. Scientists warn that climate change could increase the threat of wildlife diseases by altering seasonal weather patterns.

The risks from disease and other threats would be made worse by state wildlife agencies that have made it clear that should federal protection for wolves be eliminated, they would drastically reduce wolf populations. For example, Minnesota's plan resurrects a version of the old bounty system by paying state-certified predator controllers $150 for each wolf killed. And the Wisconsin plan seeks to reduce the state population by half to reach a target goal of 350 wolves.

The recovery of the gray wolf on a larger scale is also far from complete. Wolves occupy a paltry 5 percent of their historical range in the lower 48 states. There are still vast swaths of viable but unoccupied wolf habitat across the country, including within the Pacific Northwest and California, the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau, the southern Rocky Mountains, the Southwest and the forests of New England and upstate New York.

Despite limited success, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has tried three times to reduce or remove Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in the Great Lakes region. Each attempt was rightly rebuffed by the courts. But now, in response to petitions from Minnesota and Wisconsin wildlife managers, the agency is again considering taking Great Lakes

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Galen Sjostrom

The Argument for Delisting

crowd, legislators want to hang the wolf. Science, reason and moderation are nowhere to be found.

It is likely that delayed delisting is the main reason behind much of the hostility. I am not alone in thinking that wolves no longer need federal protection. They are prolific and resilient, and nothing short of a catastrophe could harm them. But is letting politicians get their hands on such issues the way we're going to do things now? If that's the case, why did we go to all the trouble to do what we did? What happened to touting wolf recovery as the greatest accomplishment ever under the greatest environmental law on Earth? As a member of the reintroduction team, I am tired just thinking that all of it might have been for nothing. And while we are at it, why not just do away with the ESA altogether? Self-appointed experts have called for this for some time. If the public allows legislative delisting of wolves to occur because of bullying by wild-eyed doomsayers, then I suppose America has spoken. But the ESA is a thoughtful and complex law created to avoid the very thing that Congress is attempting to do: make an end run around those species that cause the most grief, and in the process defang a powerful—sometimes unpopular—law that protects what many would just as soon destroy. And if history has taught us anything, it is that it has always been much easier to destroy than conserve. Still it's time to move on. As a society we need to get over it. Wolves are here to stay.

Without compromise there is no solution to any problem, least of all the wolf issue. I have enough experience with wolves and people to know two things for sure: wolves are not going to kill everything in sight and run everyone out of business, and wolves will always die at the hands of humans. I am not so sure, however, that state agencies will objectively manage wolves once they are delisted. Certainly, if politicians get in the middle of this process, they set the stage for further manipulation by fish and game commissions, which will likely set management objectives so low that it could be considered reckless.

Once wolves are delisted—however it happens—they will be legally hunted. This, of course, will make them wise up, good news to pro-wolf and anti-wolf factions. A hunt also will do double duty as a way to help fish and game agencies establish a bit of public trust that has, so far, been lacking. A reasonable, fair

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Gray Wolf Recovery in the Contiguous 48 States

- U.S. Constitution mandates that resident wildlife be managed by each state.
- Exceptions are wildlife covered by federal legislation such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Wolves listed as endangered in 1967 and protected in 1974 under the ESA of 1973.
- Wolf recovery teams comprised of wolf experts and wolf habitat agency representatives developed recovery plans for Northern Rocky Mountains (NRM), Great Lakes Area (GLA) and Southwest (Mexican gray wolf).
- Wolves reached recovery criteria in GLA in 1995 and in NRM in 2003.
- Federal government removed wolves from endangered species list, but due to legal technicalities courts placed wolves back under federal protection. For example, the GLA wolves were relisted because during the last delisting exercise, the government did not hold public hearings.
- When delisted, wolves will be managed by the states with a five-year monitoring by the federal government to ensure continued population viability of the species.

The Argument Against Delisting Wolves

wolves off the list of protected species. And bills have also been introduced in Congress that would outlaw any Endangered Species Act protection for gray wolves, including those in the Great Lakes region.

The loudest call to remove protections from Great Lakes wolves seems to come from livestock producers who view wolves as a threat and who will undoubtedly kill more wolves if those protections are taken away. But there are better solutions than simply trapping and shooting wolves. There are plenty of tested, nonlethal options to safeguard livestock from wolves, including the use of guard dogs, flagging and predator-proof fencing. And when depredations do happen, livestock owners in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan are compensated for their losses. That is not the case for livestock lost to coyotes and other predators, disease or bad weather, which collectively kill far more livestock than wolves take.

None of this is to say having wolves in our midst is always easy. They're complicated, mobile and intelligent predators that require land, a prey base and careful management from state and federal agencies. Yet over the decades most of us have learned to live with wolves and appreciate the natural role they play.

This regional and national journey to return wolves—to the extent possible—to their former range is far from over. Pulling the plug now will not only shortchange the commitment we made to restore this majestic animal but also the collective commitment this nation made to itself to protect and enhance the wild places that, in turn, help restore us all. ■

Collette Adkins Giese, Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a staff attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity, a national conservation group that advocates for endangered species and wild places.

"Wolves occupy a paltry 5 percent of their historical range in the lower 48 states."

The Argument for Delisting

chase hunt will never do harm to wolf populations. It may even make folks settle down a little, especially those who have a legitimate gripe because they have lost livestock to wolves.

I would like to think we didn't go to the pain and agony of creating the ESA only to throw it out when things get sticky. I'd also like to think that people still have it in them to sit down and work out their differences. I don't think science is in danger of being cast aside, no matter how bad things get. The feds' misstep wasn't having too few scientific minds involved in wolf recovery but in forgetting to draw up an exit strategy for the kind of battle they now fight. ■

Carter Niemeyer is the retired USFWS wolf recovery coordinator for Idaho, and author of Wolfer, *a memoir.*

"I have enough experience with wolves and people to know two things for sure: wolves are not going to kill everything in sight and run everyone out of business, and wolves will always die at the hands of humans."

Lynn Rogers

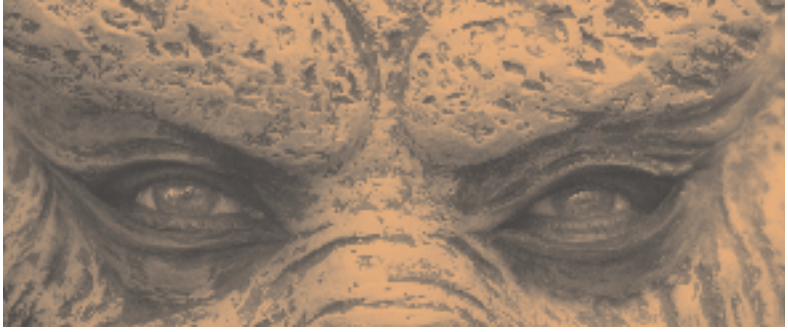
Looming Large in History and Fiction

Werewolves stir a fascination that transcends time

by TRACY O'CONNELL

Wolves have roamed across the lives and imaginations of humans on three continents for millennia, inspiring fear and awe, myth and legend and admiration and revilement. Their impact on humans has given rise to art, music and literature. From their presence has emerged a shadow being, which has, in turn, garnered much of the same attention for many of the same reasons—the werewolf.

Werewolves figure prominently in human culture over eons and across the world. From earliest times to the most recent, they have stirred a fascination that transcends time—yet varies like peoples' views of wolves in their myriad presentations, which occur today in pop culture genres such as horror, science fiction, paranormal and even romance. Typically seen as a human with the power to turn into a wolf-like being, werewolves share a mythic niche with other shape-shifting beings such as vampires with whom they are often linked or seen as adversaries. Metamorphosis, or shape-shifting, whether a special power or a curse, is a common thread in stories from ancient times to the present day.



Werewolves of old

The term "werewolf" is said to come from Old English, Norse or Germanic languages, where *wer* means man as in male humans. *Lycanthropy* from the ancient Greek (*lykoi*, or 'wolf,' and *anthropos*, or 'man') is a term used fondly on numerous Web sites and message boards among people who see themselves as werewolves. They write of trying to tame the inner beast and clearly associate with actual wolves in spirit, expressing difficulty living in society and hiding who they truly are. Some sites have rituals to "become" a werewolf (involving candles and incantations), post original poetry and art of werewolves (and in some cases wolves) and list best and worst werewolf movies, TV shows and stories.

To what do we owe these many manifestations and continued popularity? Many cite the majesty of wolves in people's minds, their family structure and pair bonding and their effective hunting style as attractors, yet at the same time their fierceness induces fear. Others see a universal representation of the beast within playing out a duality of good and evil, spirituality and science and licentiousness and repression.

Cerridwen Fallingstar, teacher and author, received a master's degree in English after discovering women in her college years weren't allowed on archeological digs, where she wanted to be. A shaman, she traces early wolf-man stories to primitive peoples who honored the totem of their tribe or clan by donning skins of that animal and taking on its personality.

Ali López Sarmiento

Says Fallingstar, "Today, we'd say someone is pretending to be a wolf, but they'd say they were *becoming* wolves." In wolf skins, people were incredibly brave. The phrase "berserk" comes from the Norse "*Bezerker,*" for people so clad who fought without armor "like mad dogs and wolves" in battle.

Hysteria about werewolves in Medieval times has been attributed to hallucinations caused by seizures, moldy food eaten by peasants, or the use of a "magic salve" people thought would help them shift into wolves. This salve, which was absorbed through the skin, had properties similar to LSD. Fallingstar notes shape-shifters were first discredited in 1000 C.E. when "werewolf" came to mean "out-law," as peasants dressed as wolves poached livestock. They were later persecuted and killed, much as witches were. In one 100-year period spanning the mid-1500s to mid-1600s, it is said there were 30,000 werewolf trials in France alone.

Little Red Riding Hood, traced to European stories of the 16th century, is considered by some a werewolf story since a wolf can't dress as a grandmother and speak.

Werewolves on the loose today

Award-winning horror author Del Howison recently penned *When Werewolves Attack,* which gives advice on identifying, fighting off or capturing the beasts and fuels the traditional horror genre for which he not only writes but also sells books in Dark Delicacies, claimed to be the nation's only all-horror bookstore.

How frequent are werewolf sightings? There have been several covered by the field of cryptozoology, the search for creatures unsubstantiated by biology like the Yeti and Loch Ness monster. One werewolf, around Bray Road near Elkhorn, Wisconsin, has been reported intermittently since the 1930s; the beast runs on two or four legs, is about six feet tall standing up, hairy and man-like with a wolf-like face.

Werewolves in medicine

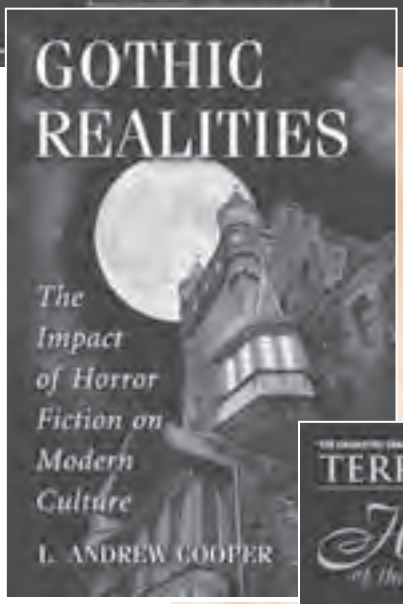
Throughout the world there have been people who are born with or acquire a condition called hypertrichosis, the growth of excessive hair. These people were frequently attractions in circuses, earning names like "the bearded lady." While not sufficiently common to have been a major factor behind the Medieval werewolf hysteria, cases have been documented as early as the 1500s and are most often hereditary, considered by some to be linked to an endocrine dysfunction, while others believe a gene that had been switched off in evolution becomes in these cases switched back on. A 2007 feature on ABC News (see sidebar "Where to Look") interviews Mexico's circus-performing Gomez family, which for five generations has carried this condition.

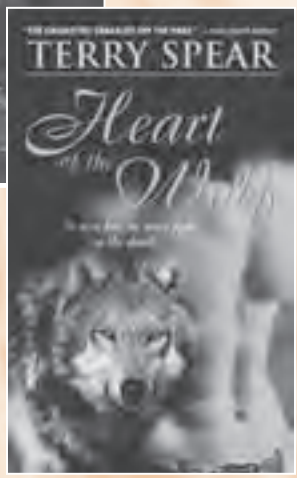
A similarly rare psychiatric condition, clinical lycanthropy, involves a strong delusional belief in the afflicted person that he or she has transformed into an animal, often a wolf, and is caused by a form of psychosis or dementia. There are fewer than 40 recorded cases.

Werewolves in modern film and literature

Within literature, werewolves take many variations: humans not aware of their werewolf phase, those aware who can't control it and those who embrace it. Some completely become wolves. Others become hairy, wolf-like humans. *An American Werewolf in London,* a 1981 film, is said to be the first to show a four-footed werewolf. Other variations include the Jekyll and Hyde story, which contains metamorphosis of good to evil but no actual wolf-man.

Rob Weiner, associate librarian at Texas Tech University, is called the "pop culture guru" by the media because his research interests span topics involving horror and superhero characterizations in film and literature. Werewolves are usually good people who become victims, Weiner notes, changing the unbidden into killers through no fault of their own. People relate to that helplessness due to the lack of control in their own lives.





Dr. L. Andrew Cooper teaches at the Georgia Institute of Technology and studies the horror genre. He recently wrote *Gothic Realities — The Impact of Horror Fiction on Modern Culture* in which he notes the religion vs. science themes: transformation is caused at times by a gypsy voodoo curse, for instance, while science can induce (as with Jekyll and Hyde) or seek to control the transformation.

Cooper also cites instances where people benefit from their wolf phase. *Teen Wolf* (1985) starring Michael J. Fox shows an awkward youth coming into his own. Jack Nicholson in *Wolf* (1994) becomes more effective in his competitive business field. *Ginger Snaps* (2000), meanwhile, pairs the werewolf's "time of the month" with a woman's menstrual cycle.

Cooper, among others, associates with Sigmund Freud's take on horror fiction, saying science and reason are the repressing superego to the bestial id. Followers of Carl Jung argue that horror touches on important archetypes, or primordial images, that reside in the collective unconscious. Jungians

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Some see the werewolf fantasy as a yearning for something more in lives increasingly mundane.

meanwhile contend concepts like the shadow, mother and anima and animus archetypes can be found in many works of horror fiction. Anthropologist Joseph Campbell remarked the monster in fiction could be traced to a "feared adventure of the discovery of the self."

Werewolf love

A newer body of werewolf literature, Weiner notes, isn't horror at all but rather love stories. Primary in popularity is Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series, which sold more than 100 million books, garnered fans around the world and launched three movies, with two in development, in less than a decade. Peopled by sexy werewolves and less-seen female werewolves, the series blends story lines from classic literature with the traditional vampire-werewolf struggle and attracts women readers and viewers, young and old.

Terry Spear has written a 10-volume *Heart of the Wolf* series featuring werewolves, which she, like others, notes are attractive to readers because of the support and loyalty found in the pack structure. She studies wolf behavior to get her characters right, she says, and reads news about wolf impacts on nature to use in stories. In *Seduced by the Wolf* she has Cassie, a wolf biologist, recommend the International Wolf Center as a place to learn howling. Her werewolves face human issues with a broader set of skills but also have to cope with the need to hide their canid identities. Each book cover features a handsome wolf face paired with a rippling male torso.

What does it mean?

What of the people who write online of their inner beast or play *Immortal Night*, a game that offers "A world shrouded in darkness, where the supernatural reigns…a life transformed by blood and venom…where demons thrive…"?

Some see the werewolf fantasy as a yearning for something more in lives increasingly mundane, Weiner says, or as Fallingstar sees it, in lives removed from nature. It is a fairly universal phenomenon that encodes our taboo desires in the figure of the beast, as Cooper says. Or as author Katherine Dunn in an online interview puts it: "We hope we're good guys, but we know we're monsters." ■

Tracy O'Connell, associate professor of marketing communications at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, serves on the International Wolf Center's magazine and communications committees.

Where to Look

Check out the following Web sites for myths, legends, lists of movies and literature, music and other information about werewolves:

http://www.mythicalrealm.com/legends/werewolf.html

http://www.werewolfpage.com/myths.html

Blitzen Trapper performing Furr: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqtlcHiSHTE&feature=related

http://www.cerridwenfallingstar.com

http://www.werewolves.com/

http://www.beastofbrayroad.com

http://abcnews.go.com/Primetime/story?id=2258069&page=1

http://www.calstatela.edu/faculty/sfischo/horrormoviesRev2.htm

Rank Order as a Captive Management Dilemma

by Lori Schmidt, wolf curator, International Wolf Center

As summer approaches, it is time to reflect on the pack dynamics displayed during the winter of 2010-11. Winter is generally filled with more intensity, dominance and rank-order disputes than any other time of year. While a wild pack of wolves may consist of parents and previous offspring, the Center's captive management of non-related pack members means dominance rank-order disputes are more likely to occur.

To comprehend the rank-order issues experienced last winter, it is important to recap the summer of 2010 and Shadow's retirement. While previous "Tracking the Pack" features have addressed the rationale behind Shadow's retirement, this article addresses the aftermath of that decision.

Shadow showed a significant amount of leadership and dominance since he deposed his pack leaders, Lucas and MacKenzie, in the fall of 2002 at 2.5 years of age. He never lost his status to the pack, and other than a brief test by Grizzer in 2006, there was no question regarding his leadership. When Shadow was retired due to concerns about his health, Grizzer was thrust into the role of a dominant pack member with no behavioral displays to reinforce this status. In Shadow's absence, Denali began testing Grizzer in early November 2010 and was later joined by Aidan.

By February 2011 it was clear that a rank-order change could occur. The tragic loss of Maya to a significant leg injury in March 2011 sealed the fate for Grizzer's presence in the Exhibit Pack. Without Maya to assert status over Denali and Aidan, Grizzer was fearful, showing a tucked-tail response, which ultimately made him vulnerable. The wolf care team determined that it was too risky to return Grizzer to the pack with Aidan and Denali — the testing had been too intense for too long. Grizzer was moved to a separate holding area until more permanent accommodations could be completed.

The factors affecting rank order vary. Individual personalities, social alliances, weather and external stimuli can all influence the day-to-day actions of a pack. A captive manager must have a comprehensive understanding of behavior and body language to interpret the social and agonistic responses of individuals. This is no easy task, and there are no easy answers, but the dilemma of rank order will always be a factor. Rank order isn't something that starts when a wolf reaches the age of 2. In every litter raised for the Center's educational efforts, we have seen 12- to 14-day-old pups with high-tail postures, pinning, scruff biting and head shaking, practicing postures that someday will serve them well when it really counts.

To learn more about the status of individual wolves and the development of pup behavior with our 2012 plan for pup introduction, follow the wolf logs at www.wolf.org. ■

Ambassador Wolves Shadow (left) and Maya (right).

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Wolves of the World

Agree to Defer? Wolves in Bulgaria

Text and photos by Chris Senior

The faces around the table are tense, and body language reveals the participants' discomfort. Discussion is heated, but just when agreement seems close, compromise slips away and argument resumes. And what is the subject of all the wrangling? The future of the wolf. No surprises there!

This is democracy in action or at least that is the aim. Diverse stakeholders have come together to craft a national wolf management process for Bulgaria, a plan required by the European Union (EU), which Bulgaria joined in 2007. Both the EU and the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE), a working group within the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), are supporters of this workshop. Despite my direct involvement with wolf conservation in Bulgaria since 2006, I'm attending strictly as an observer, which is tough because I'm anything but neutral!

Professor Alistair Bath of Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada, joins the participants. He has worked on similar plans for top-level species both here and in other countries, acting as facilitator in the process. But "Professor Alistair" is not having an easy time of it today.

International Wolf readers know well that wolves stir strong emotions. This is true the world over even where wolves have avoided eradication by humans as is the case with Bulgaria. Although views are polarized here, wolves and humans have coexisted for centuries. Even early in the 20th century wolves were abundant with plentiful prey to support high numbers of individuals and packs. Livestock protected by Karakachan guarding dogs grazed within wolf territories.

Then under the Socialist regime, wildlife species were arbitrarily divided into "good" and "bad." Those classified as "bad" were marked for extermination. Add to this a 1950s rabies control program with widespread use of poison and the situation quickly worsened. By the 1970s Bulgarian wolf numbers had plummeted to an estimated 150 individuals, and wolves were officially declared endangered by 1975.

Previous workshops have produced some positive results. Over the next two days, discussion centers on varied topics for the proposed management plan: prevention of damage to livestock, wolf diet, a "no hunting" period during the year, compensation payments for damages, problem wolves and effective monitoring. The phrase "problem wolf" immediately sparks debate with one participant adamant that *all* wolves are problematic. This will not be easy at all.

Professor Alistair Bath of Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada.

Wolf numbers in Bulgaria have increased since the 1970s, but wolf conservationists think that because of the census methods used, the official tally of around 2,000 individuals is a massive overestimation. Coupled with this, less wild prey has resulted in more livestock depredation, creating the perception that wolves are increasing more rapidly than may be the case. Government policy, frequently negative toward wolves, has caused setbacks for this keystone species. Additionally, hunting is a common pastime, and shooting a wolf is said to be the greatest challenge, though with no guarantee of success. Even Bulgaria's president, Georgi Parvanov, likes to hunt, and his

Background image: Denise Taylor

Web site shows an image of him beside a freshly killed wolf.

However, with the diverse parties represented here, including government agency officials, scientific researchers, animal experts, hunting associations, foresters and private nonprofits, there is a chance to show a high level of scientific wolf knowledge and maybe lay a few myths to rest. Dedicated conservation organizations such as the Balkani Wildlife Society (balkani.org) have conducted intensive research, and we are given a presentation with precise diet data. Comprehensive scat analysis in two study areas shows livestock can form a significant part of wolves' diet. Whether the wolves have done the killing is, of course, harder to determine. However, much has been learned, and there is always more to know concerning this amazingly adaptive predator—and much to debate.

Professor Alistair tries to keep the process moving, acknowledging the value of all viewpoints when personalities try to dominate and helping people reach some agreement on various topics under discussion. This process is not about manipulating or bullying people toward the elusive goal: a completed management plan. Rather, it is about creating an atmosphere in which all views can be heard and consensus reached. At one tense moment, Alistair stops a heated debate to remind everyone of the need for "principles not positions." Those who have come only to argue their own position will gain nothing; adhering to one's basic principles while seeking compromise is paramount.

For much of the time this works. Topics with agreed-upon points are posted on large sheets of paper in clear view. The smaller pieces of paper are glued firmly down with an outline drawn around them—not quite set in stone but perhaps the modern equivalent, and I have images in my mind of people trying to sneak back into the room at night to make subtle changes for their own gain, perhaps meeting other groups intent upon the same deed!

The subject of wolf monitoring proves especially contentious. Until May 2010 a bounty was payable in Bulgaria for wolves killed. One positive aspect of this (depending on one's viewpoint of course) was the data provided concerning the wolf's location and the possibility of a DNA sample. Lively discussion arises over effective methods to monitor the population. As protracted debate ensues someone suggests that "compensation" might be paid for submitting a wolf carcass. Someone else interjects a comment about detecting wolf populations hybridizing with dogs. Many dogs run loose in the countryside, and the question is posed: If a male wolf is killed when the breeding female is in season, will she then breed with a dog instead?

Each discussion point seems to have almost as many sides as there are

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people in the room, and it is frustrating to watch some people clearly not listening to the viewpoints of others. Proof that frustration is high comes when the subject of livestock guarding dogs is discussed, and someone asks why the group is even considering this issue when the object of the debate is to determine "whether there are sufficient wolves to allow hunting."

One statistic commanding attention is the report that hunters killed 1,000 wolves between 2006 and 2009. Since poaching is a problem, the true mortality figure is probably higher. Can a viable population be sustained at this rate? Who can say for sure? An accurate estimate of the likely population through-out Bulgaria is as elusive as the wolf itself. Balkani reports an estimated 600-700 wolves in Bulgaria, not the 2,000 officially cited by the government. But research is ongoing regarding this crucial number, so any concept of a "sustainable harvest" is largely meaningless. Harvest. It sounds like a field of wheat rather then a keystone species. I comment on this to others and find I am not the only one sadly amused by the term.

The debate shifts focus to the issue of a "protection period" when wolves will not be hunted. Two key issues are presented. First, should such a period

Comprehensive scat analysis in two study areas shows livestock can form a significant part of wolves' diet.

apply to the entire country, or should the state-run "hunting areas" covering some 14 percent of the country be excluded? Second, how long should such a period be? Those responsible for the hunting areas are not in favor of any protection at all within these areas because figures demonstrate only a few wolves are shot there during the proposed spring protection period. Hence, they insist a protection period would not make much practical difference. The opposing view is that since the number of wolves killed is small, this is not a big compromise to ask for, and there is no reason not to have wolves protected throughout the entire country in spring. Deadlock.

Debate goes on for two hours. Professor Alistair points out that the rest of the EU nations have a country-wide "no exceptions" protection period. However, this fails to end the arguing. Finally, a subgroup is appointed to wrestle with this matter at a future date.

From this point, the frustration all around is evident. I sense that people are perturbed not only with the others present but also with themselves, especially since Professor Alistair had hoped to make this workshop the last where he would be needed as facilitator. By now group members are not even sure whether they can ask him to return. The need for his skill is evident, but when he asks directly whether they want him to come back, guilt at the lack of progress causes people to hesitate. Or maybe, I think, they are just too tired now to make any decisions at all.

So the workshop is over. There has been progress, let us not forget this even with the faltering ending. But democracy is a slow process, and people often have the mistaken view that it means all participants get what they want. But if they succeed even half the time, they are doing well! That is the nature of it. And compromise over the wolf is not an easy thing, whichever side you are on. That much is clear.

I do not even think that anyone in the room actually outright hates the wolf. People just perceive wolves differently: a trophy to be hunted; a creature to be researched and protected along with its habitat; a nuisance to be controlled; an essential ecological umbrella species; a resource to be "harvested" and a symbol of wildness. The lines between these views may have been blurred a little over the last two days, but there is still so far to go. That much I think we could agree upon. ■

Chris Senior lives in the north of England and works as an environmental GIS specialist, photographer and Web site developer. He also loves travel, particularly wolf-related trips, and apart from frequent trips to the Bulgarian project, he has visited the Canadian tundra to see wild arctic wolves and spent five weeks helping look after captive wolves in Poland. He has many photos, which can be seen at www.pbase.com/pawsforthought and a few tales to tell also!

One statistic commanding attention is the report that hunters killed 1,000 wolves between 2006 and 2009.

Author's note: Thanks must go to my friends, Elena and Sider Sedefcheva, for looking after me in Bulgaria. Between them they keep rare-breed Karakachan goats, sheep and horses; have brought the Karakachan livestock guarding dog back from the brink of extinction; built the massive Large Carnivore Education Centre (LCEC) and host school groups there; work on wolf and other large carnivore conservation and research; campaign on green issues and still find time to look after two amazing kids. Their dedication amazes me constantly.

If you would like to know more, head for www.visitcarnivorebg.org where you can see the new Web site progressing. There are photos and information about the project and the opportunity to make donations as well. It always surprises me how much is accomplished with relatively little money, and every euro or dollar can truly benefit the tremendous conservation efforts of the team there.

A special thank you also to Vencislav Gradinarov, whose tireless interpreting skills made it possible for me to make sense of the proceedings.

Book Review

Dogs and Wolves Star in These Two Children's Books

by Nancy jo Tubbs

Wolves live out a year in the pack in the lovely counting book, *One Wolf Howls,* by author Scotti Cohn and illustrator Susan Detwiler. Adults won't tire of the lush artwork while reading to a toddler who is just learning one, two, three and perhaps taking in the message that wolves aren't usually to be feared. In fact, in this book, wolves prefer to avoid humans as illustrated in one snowy scene:

"Three wolves bark on a brisk
March morning—
danger, danger humans in sight..."

The rhymed story takes a wolf family through 12 months so that kids learn the seasons and are introduced to the calendar. The lone wolf howls in January moonlight. The pups are born in sunny May. Then the child can count 9 wolves hidden in a golden fall forest and follow the pack of 10 on a moose hunt.

With adult help, slightly older kids can solve the puzzles at the end of the book, including one in which they match wolf postures to messages of submission, anger and the invitation to play. The author asks, "Have you ever seen a dog use any of these communication methods?" and introduces in "Wolf Fun Facts" the story of wolf-dog evolution. More games and resources are offered online at sylvandellpublishing.com.

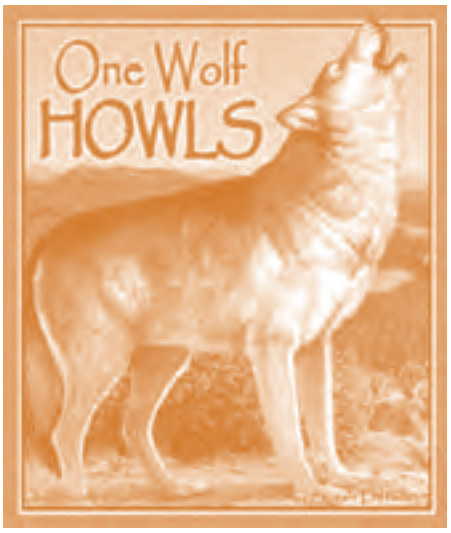
Is My Dog a Wolf? How Your Pet Compares to Its Wild Cousin takes on the dog-wolf comparison with a cheerful wag of the tail, spunky graphics and charming photos of the canine cousins. One hint that the book is for older children is author Jenni Bidner's revelation that the puppy licking your face is (A) acting like a wild wolf and (B) hoping you'll throw up your lunch so it can have a meal. Kids will love the yuck factor and learn other ways the family dog acts out its ancient wolf heritage.

In 64 pages, the young reader gets a graphic look at the reality of wolves—how a hand-raised wolf pup can turn into a snarling adult, unsafe for human companionship—while its dog cousins are bred to bond with their human families for life. Those dogs, from wrinkly shar-peis to yodeling beagles, help answer questions: Why does your dog bark, chew your stuff, love its squeaky toy or tuck its tail?

Both books were vetted by respected organizations. *Is My Dog a Wolf?* takes its pedigree from the Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, Minnesota, and earned the ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award. The staffs of Wolf Park and Defenders of Wildlife vetted the information in *One Wolf Howls.*

Both books are available from the Wolf Den store at the International Wolf Center at www.wolf.org. ■

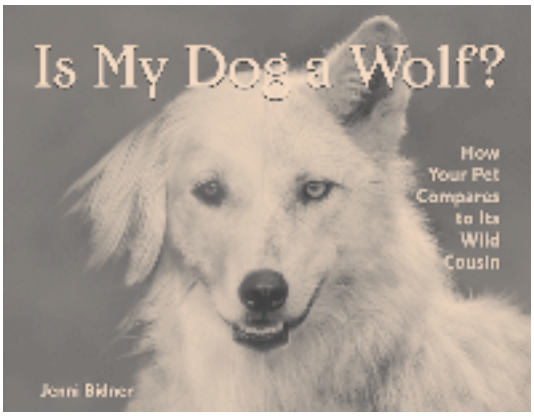
Nancy jo Tubbs, an Ely, Minnesota, resort owner and writer, is chair of the International Wolf Center's board of directors. She has served on the board since 1992 and also chairs the communications and strategic planning committees.



One Wolf Howls.

2009. Sylvan Dell Publishing.

Written by Scotti Cohn and illustrated by Susan Detwiler. 32 pages.



Is My Dog a Wolf? How Your Pet Compares to Its Wild Cousin.

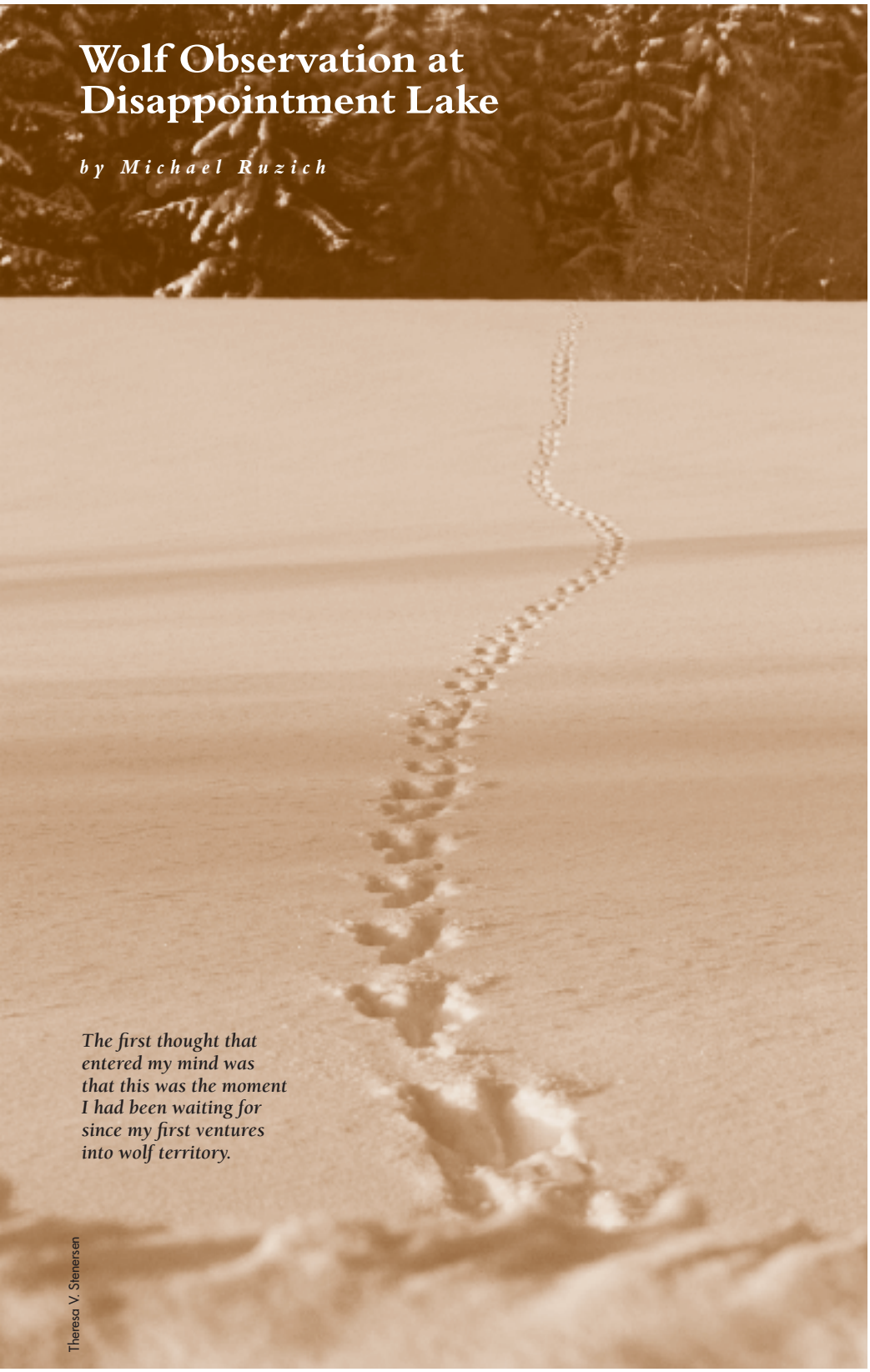
2006. Sterling.

Written by Jenni Bidner. 64 pages.

Personal Encounter

Wolf Observation at Disappointment Lake

by Michael Ruzich



The first thought that entered my mind was that this was the moment I had been waiting for since my first ventures into wolf territory.

Theresa V. Stenersen

On the morning of December 27, 1999, my dog Heiko, a lean, 100-pound (45.5 kg) German shepherd, and I left the public landing on Snowbank Lake, each pulling about 50 pounds (22.7 kg) on sleds. With temperatures just above zero under near cloudless skies, Heiko and I were mid-channel on Disappointment Lake. We were at the halfway point on the lake when from around a peninsula about 200 meters (218.7 yards) away approaching from the southeast came a pack of eight wolves. They ranged in color from light silver-gray to black and were playfully cavorting with each other on the ice.

The first thought that entered my mind was that this was the moment I had been waiting for since my first ventures into wolf territory. We could not get off the ice without attracting attention, so I quietly told Heiko to stay as the wolves approached. All that I had read about wolves (a small library) or heard about wolves was that they would not harm you. Wolves were supposed to be timid when around people, and that is what I had experienced with all the lone wolves I had already observed. However, this was a pack of eight wolves coming straight toward me.

Needless to say I was excited and felt no fear, yet in the deep recesses of my mind I figured I would soon find out for myself about encounters between wolves, people and dogs. When approximately 100 meters (109.4 yards) away the wolves abruptly halted. One could see them looking at each other almost quizzically as if to say, "What do we do now?" Within 10 seconds the wolves slowly turned and retraced their steps behind the peninsula from where they had originally appeared.

I set up camp as the sun sank in the southwestern sky across from where I had encountered the wolf pack. As

Recorded howling pales in comparison to actually hearing wolves howl in the wild.

The carcass, a moose calf, was all but stripped of meat and still fully articulated except for one of its front legs.

Photos: Michael Ruzich

darkness replaced daylight, there was no sign of wildlife on the lake, which was blanketed with a pristine cover of snow. As I sat down to enjoy dinner by the campfire, from the south at about 7 p.m. a symphony of howling penetrated the quiet, chilled evening air. The wolves continued to howl through the early evening hours. Twice I howled to the wolves and received immediate response. Recorded howling pales in comparison to actually hearing wolves howl in the wild. Once as a gentle snow began to fall a number of wolves struck the same chord and the air seemed to tremble.

Upon rising the following morning, I could see a flurry of activity about 300 meters (328 yards) away near the shoreline to the south. Ravens were on and around something, and I could see wolves moving back and forth, causing the ravens to yield ground. This activity went on for about three hours. About 10 a.m. the eight wolves dispersed to the northeast moving in single file. I sat on a point as the wolves passed within 50 meters (54 yards). Periodically a wolf would stop to defecate, and within seconds ravens would pounce on the fecal matter. Food is a scarce commodity during winter.

An hour later there was no activity across the ice. I decided to wait a bit longer before visiting the kill site. The carcass, a moose calf, was all but stripped of meat and still fully articulated except for one of its front legs. The hide had been completely stripped from the carcass and lay in a pile perhaps 30 meters (32 yards) to the west. Another 20 meters (21 yards) farther to the west was an area where it appeared as though the wolves had plucked the moose of its fur. In this mass of fur lay the moose calf's stomach contents, a frozen block of forage matter.

A set of moose tracks continued across the thin layer of snow to the northwest from the kill site. From a spot just west of the carcass, it was obvious the chase had begun on land. I followed the trail south. Clumps of moose fur littered the trail on the way to the lake. About 50 meters (54 yards) from the shore was a small "yard" of trampled snow and vegetation littered with moose pellets.

What appeared to have happened was a cow and her calf were approached by the pack, and the moose ran from the yard area with the wolves in pursuit. With only two to three inches (5.1 to 7.6 centimeters) of snow on the ice there was no traction. The wolves easily took down the calf, and the mother continued across the ice.

During the following two days I observed two wolves at the kill site. During those two days the skeleton was widely scattered and the bones were picked clean. Faint howling to the north could be heard during my last night on Disappointment Lake. On the morning of my departure snow all but covered the remains of the moose calf as Heiko and I, with loaded sleds, trekked back to Snowbank Lake. ■

Michael Ruzich has taught biology/general science for 20 years. He has always had a keen interest in the outdoors in general and the North in particular. He plans to retire next year on his property near Ely, Minnesota, where he will have plenty of time to pursue his lifelong interest in wolves and contribute to wolf education in Minnesota and throughout the country.

A Look Beyond

Conservation Easements Offer Attractive Alternative to Land Purchases

by Nancy Gibson

The wolf crossed a major highway near Duluth, Minnesota, and lingered just beyond the road all too comfortable skirting the edge of civilization. I had heart pangs wondering if and when the wolf would get hit or shot or starve to death. This wolf demonstrates that growing populations of wolves are squeezing into tighter territories, risking encounters with humans.

I have two Labrador retrievers, so admittedly my love of canines starts at home, and seeing their wild ancestor is always a thrill. It is easy to relate the familiar qualities of dogs to their wild relatives and thus feel some anxiety seeing this wolf in potential jeopardy. My mind knows better. I know that seeing and feeling emotions toward a wolf is easy, but the long-term survival of this wolf and others requires wildlands. If wildlands exist, wolves will survive.

One common theme drilled into me when I first became interested in wolves was that by giving wolves a little protection and enough habitat to support sufficient numbers of prey the wolf will succeed. The Upper Great Lakes region and the Northern Rockies, where wolf populations are growing at a steady rate, are a testament to this theory.

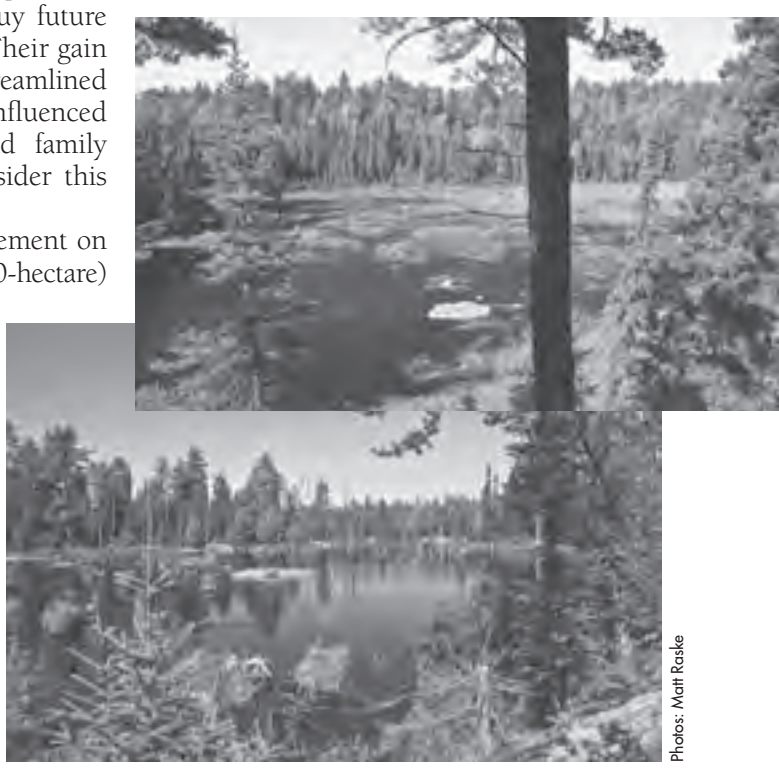
Here lies my frustration. Wolf protectionists, wolf lovers and the like spend an inordinate amount of time and money promoting the doom and gloom of the wolf but rarely mention healthy habitat. While the controversy rages on about whether to delist the wolf from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act, whether to allow hunting or not and whether to accept the challenges of state management, a better discussion—and one that could lead to a sustainable solution—would involve where wolf populations are going to live beyond our lifetimes.

Purchasing wolf habitat is the most effective means of ensuring wolf survival, but land acquisition is costly. Another emerging tool is the conservation easement. It requires the cooperation of landowners who are willing to protect their property. Easements can require lengthy legal contracts designed to meet the interests of the landowner and ensure the preservation and protection of land in its natural, scenic or other open-space condition. Basically easements buy future development rights. Their gain in popularity has streamlined the legal effort and influenced nearby neighbors and family members to also consider this long-term option.

A conservation easement on a 190,000-acre (76,890-hectare) tract of forest-industry land was recently finalized in northern Minnesota. The land will still be logged but only with sustainable harvests, none of which will be near water. This tract of land will also be open to the public and provide critical habitat for some 30 wolves, many bears, aquatic communities and a host of other plants and animals, all in perpetuity. Easements of this type can be donated or require significant funds depending on their location, but the cost is still far less than land acquisition, and all ecological benefits are ensured. All of Minnesota's easements enforce restoration and maintenance in the contract.

With 17 million acres (6,879,656 hectares) of private and public forestland in Minnesota, it is in the wolf's best interest to preserve these vast tracts of wildland for reproduction, transfer of genes and protection and thus ensure a good future for the wolf. Can't we all agree on that? ■

Nancy Gibson, author and naturalist, has served on the International Wolf Center's board of directors since 1987. She was instrumental in raising the necessary funds to build the Center, was one of the Center's first board chairs and has served on most of its committees. She also conducts educational programs for the Center.



Photos: Matt Raske