

Living with Wolves



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS



## DEAR FRIENDS,

Living with Wolves envisions a world where wolves are valued and respected for their intelligence, their commitment to family, and for the vital role they play in making our ecosystems healthy and complete.

Our aim at Living with Wolves is to transform the way humans view, treat and manage wolves. Yet, making the world a safer place for them and

helping people understand why wolves matter is a large and complex task.

As you know, many obstacles stand in the way. Wolf habitat is becoming increasingly fragmented due to human impact. Continued fear, myth and misunderstanding of wolves perpetuate their mistreatment and persecution.

But we face these challenges with an unwavering optimism that defines who we are as an organization and what we believe as individuals. Everything we do at Living with Wolves, from our multi-media presentations, to our educational outreach, to our collaborative research, works to change human attitudes about wolves. With your support we see progress everyday. Your voices are louder, more informed, more multi-generational and more unified than ever before.

Protecting wolves is protecting biodiversity and the wild places critical to our health, our planet's health and the future of our children. Together, with your continued support, wolves will make a home on lands they once roamed.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for bringing it to life everyday.

Jim and Jamie Dutcher  
Founders, Living with Wolves



## EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

Through presentations, classroom discussions, books and educational materials, we are committed to giving young people the tools they need to be a voice for wolves.



# 2016 WOLF NEWS – A YEAR IN REVIEW



**Gray wolves, like all large carnivores, play an essential role, bringing health and vitality to ecosystems. They are a keystone species and an indicator species. They are apex predators and top-level carnivores. Nature is poorer and natural systems are weaker without them. But living with wolves in a shared ecosystem, where human interests overlap with wildlife, comes riddled with manmade controversy. The result is a complicated mess where we fight our own rules. Laws protecting animals and habitat are under siege from the livestock**

**industry and hunting interests, and from legislators representing those interests. And our public lands are endangered from politicians that seek to turn them over to the states to appease more private interests. Meanwhile, the wolves themselves are unaware of the legislation and lawsuits. So long as they can, and wherever still possible, they carry on being wolves, hunting together, living together, and being families together.**

## **Protected status**

Due to a pair of federal court rulings in 2014, most of the population of about 5,000 gray wolves in the lower-48 states is currently protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The exception is in part of the northern Rockies. In Idaho and Montana, wolves are recreationally hunted and trapped for 6-12 months of the year. Idaho and Montana's wolves were carved out of the rest of the population because of a rider that was tagged onto a federal budget bill in 2011, removing federal protections.

## **The Great Lakes States and Wyoming**

Where federal ESA protections for wolves are still in place, they are under fire. In September, the Great Lakes Wolf Summit was held in northern Wisconsin, sponsored by two state legislators, urging

Congress to once again intervene and remove gray wolves from the endangered species list so they can be hunted for sport. Normally species are delisted when recovery criteria are met as per ESA protocol, not by congressional intervention. In Wyoming, the state is trying to override the 2014 ruling, which is under appeal, and a decision is expected in the next two to five months.

## **Oregon**

Protections for wolves are also under attack at the state level. Last year, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) removed wolves from the state's list of endangered species. Only 110 wolves live in Oregon. Conservation groups, finding the state violated its own ESA, filed a lawsuit. Since delisting, ODFW has been reviewing and preparing revisions to the state's wolf management plan, while

under pressure from the livestock industry to loosen the rules for killing wolves. But Oregonians are not supportive of loosening the rules for killing Oregon's 110 wolves in favor of the state's 190,000 domestic sheep and 1,320,000 cattle. 72% of Oregonians said non-lethal conflict prevention measures must be attempted before officials are allowed to kill wolves and 72% oppose changing Oregon law to allow trophy hunting of wolves.

## **Montana**

Three Montana Hunting Districts border Yellowstone National Park (YNP). The northern elk herd of YNP migrates outside the park into areas hunted for trophy elk. Sometimes resident park wolves will follow the elk (their prey) out of the park, exposing them to recreational hunters. On September 23, the famous Junction Butte Pack left the protection of YNP. Within 24 hours of

leaving the park, three members of the Junction Butte Pack were shot by hunters, including a small, five month-old pup. What will happen the next time the Junction Butte Pack wanders outside the invisible park borders? What is it like for wolf families that don't live in the protection of a national park and are exposed to hunting most days of the year?

## **Washington**

In a national forest in northeast Washington, along the Canadian border, in rugged, wild, densely wooded and very steep terrain, live wolves...and cows. Not everywhere is suitable for livestock production. But wolves and other native wildlife can thrive here. In this region, in 2012, the Wedge pack was exterminated by order of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The wolves were blamed for killing or injuring 16 calves

owned by one ranching operation. The rancher claimed the wolves had killed 40-50 of his animals. The state spent \$76,500 to kill the seven members of this pack. Necropsies of the seven dead wolves showed stomach contents containing the remains of elk or deer, and twigs and pine needles, but no cow remains were found.

In 2016, in very similar terrain used by the same ranching operation, the Profanity Peak pack is meeting a nearly identical fate. In summer, trail cameras used for research showed livestock congregating around the pack's den. The pack had likely moved a few miles away, to a rendezvous site, by the time the livestock were at the den. But, if livestock are left unattended so close to an area used by wolves, the possibility of predation increases. From August through October, WDFW was trying to shoot this pack from a helicopter while setting traps on the ground. In October, WDFW reported that the wolves had killed about 15 cows or calves. Six adult wolves and one pup have been killed. WDFW has suspended their pursuit, however they will renew their efforts to kill the wolves if the pack resumes preying on livestock in 2016.

Once the wolves are all gone, it will only be a few years before other wolves show up. Will the cycle simply continue? In wild, rugged and difficult to access terrain such as

this, it is extremely challenging to keep livestock and wolves separated. In less formidable terrain, perhaps better suited for livestock production, ranchers can successfully employ non-lethal techniques to keep wolves and livestock separated and safe. In Washington, 1,150,000 cattle are given priority over the statewide population of 90 wolves. Conflicts are occurring in areas far better suited for wolves than cows. The public pays an expensive bill for actions they do not want (on public land) and nothing seems to change to prevent the problem from occurring again.

### **Norway**

Challenges facing wolves are not restricted to North America. And conflict between carnivores and domestic livestock is not restricted to just wolves. Globally, carnivores of all sorts are heavily persecuted wherever they share the land with domestic livestock. This September, the Norwegian parliament approved a hunt to cull two-thirds of its critically endangered population of wolves. Norway's entire wolf population is between 65-68 wolves. Every summer, over 2,000,000 sheep are released into the Norwegian countryside where they roam unattended, without herders or any form of protection. Each year, 120,000 die and, unofficially, 20,000 of those deaths are blamed on predators including bears, lynx, wolverines, golden eagles, and wolves. The hunt will kill 47 wolves, leaving 20 in the entire country.



### **California**

In the U.S., after historical persecution rendered them nearly extinct in the lower-48, wolves are coming back to places where they once thrived. In 2015, the Shasta pack became the first family of wolves known to be living in California in 90 years. Other individual wolves have been reported roaming northern California since. A small coalition of conservation groups (including Living with Wolves) is working with ranchers in the area. Workshops and landscape analyses are being offered to provide local ranchers with information and tools that can help them better coexist with wolves. Reports indicate that this important spadework is going very well and that the ranchers in the area have been pleased to receive the information and tools.

### **Colorado**

With nearly twice as many elk as any other state and a very large population of mule deer, Colorado has an abundance of prey for carnivores. In the absence of wolves,

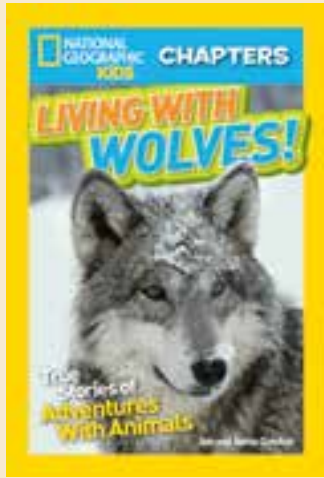
diseases such as chronic wasting disease are more prevalent among Colorado's deer and elk than in places with healthy wolf populations. While there have been reports of individual wolves in the state, the official population is zero.

The ecosystem of Colorado is primed for wolves and polling shows that Coloradans are enthusiastic for their return. History teaches us that the absence of knowledge and information results in myth, misinformation and fear about wolves. The Rocky Mountain Wolf Project is a coalition of conservation groups (including Living with Wolves), biologists, landowners, and others working together to reach out and offer information and education to the public, to provide a better understanding of wolves before they return.

### **Alaska**

In August, in response to public outcry, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a landmark decision, adopting new regulations for all 73 million acres of Alaska's National Wildlife Refuges. Now, much stricter rules regulate state predator control and a ban has been placed on previously allowed activities including the aerial hunting of wolves and bears, killing bears over bear bait, killing sow bears with their cubs (and the cubs themselves) and killing wolves and wolf pups in their dens.

# MAXIMIZING OUR IMPACT



## Living with Wolves! True Stories of Adventures with Animals:

Our new young readers book, published in November by National Geographic, is being distributed to worldwide markets and to libraries around the nation so more children can learn the truth about wolves.

**Presentations:** Through our National Geographic *Live!* presentations we continue to communicate the importance of wolves to large audiences across the U.S. working to change hearts and minds. This year over 2,500 people attended our multimedia programs in Idaho, Montana, California and Scotland.

**Yellowstone, Denali and Grand Teton National Parks Research:** We continue to support ongoing field research projects that we believe can help wolves living in several

national parks. Examples of the important research recently produced include (Smith et al 2016) Managing Wolves in the Yellowstone Area: Balancing Goals Across Jurisdictional Boundaries, and (Borg et al 2016) Implications of Harvest on the Boundaries of Protected



Areas for Large Carnivore Viewing Opportunities. Supporting this groundbreaking research will further our understanding of wolves everywhere.

**Our Wolf Exhibit at the Detroit Zoo:** In its second year, our exhibit captivated over 1.3 million visitors in 2016. Educating the public, particularly in Michigan, where wolves live and need protection helps to change hearts and minds in a state with many misperceptions about wolves. It has been so well received, the Zoo has extended its stay through 2017.

**National Geographic Grant:** We were pleased to secure a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from The National Geographic Society to help us continue our collaboration with researchers in Yellowstone, Denali and Grand Teton National Parks to support critical ongoing research.

**Educational Materials:** Disseminating factual information about wolves through compelling materials is part of our mission at Living with Wolves. We created a new brochure, infographic and message card in 2016 distributing them to thousands of people across the West and beyond, sharing the truth about wolves.

**Critical Meetings:** Our Research and Program Director, Garrick Dutcher, met with officials at the USDA and the US Fish & Wildlife Services in Washington, D.C. to express our positions on what the five-year post-delisting oversight period looks like in Idaho and its



many policy shortcomings...In addition, through oral and written testimony we presented our position regarding the status of wolf recovery and management policy at an Idaho Fish & Game Commission Meeting.

**Social Media Outreach:** Social media continued to play a significant role 2016. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram was used daily to inform the public about wolf issues, news and policy decisions, raising public awareness and encouraging supporters to take action for wolves. Our Facebook content reaches over one million people every month.



“Your materials help us teach kids not only about the importance of wolf communities, but also what wolves can teach humans about the value of community.” ~ Kris, CA

# STEPPING UP TO PROTECT WOLVES: RECOGNIZING OUR HEROES



Waldo Montgomery

## **Waldo Montgomery: Wolf Advocate**

Locally known in his town as “The Wolf Man,” Waldo Montgomery is a writer, a 24-year U.S. Army veteran, an avid wolf advocate and supporter of Living with Wolves. Together with his wife Bunnie, they drive their custom designed “Wolf Mobile” in their town’s annual 4th of July Parade to shine a light on why wolves matter and the work Living with Wolves does to protect them.

## **How did you come to love wolves and want to protect them?**

“I saw my first wolf in the wild when I was eight years old. One day on my way home from school, I decided to go exploring and ventured into a wooded area. I came to a clearing and much to my surprise—and apparently theirs’ as well—I came upon four or five sleeping wolves. They merely sat up and looked at me. No sign of hostility—just curious, if anything. Never having seen wolves before, I thought they were just big dogs. However, they looked pretty scary and intimidating, so I promptly turned

around and headed for home. When I told my dad about seeing the ‘big dogs’ in the woods, I got a severe scolding. He told me there were no dogs in the camp, and what I had seen were wolves. He had a lot more to say, but I wasn’t listening. My thoughts were: ‘Wow! Wolves! Those were wolves! How cool is that?!’ That’s when my love affair with wolves began.”

## **Why do you support Living with Wolves?**

“The Dutchers’ first hand experiences living with the Sawtooth Pack uniquely qualifies them as experts on the social behavior of wolves. Their ability to impart this knowledge to people of all ages through their films, photographs, books and presentations has won converts and helped to dispel the myths that have caused wolves to be falsely vilified and unjustly persecuted for centuries. The work Living with Wolves does every day, in so many ways to make the world a safer and better place for wolves is why I am an avid supporter.”



**We thank Wally for his incredible efforts and contributions to Living with Wolves. He is an example of how one voice can make a difference.**





### **Our Board of Directors:**

We are proud of the engagement and support we receive from the members of our Living with Wolves Board of Directors. These dedicated individuals work continuously with us to advance our mission and understanding of wolves. Their many contributions help us to extend our outreach by putting their talents, contacts and expertise to work for wolves everyday.



Jim Gilliland

In July, Jim Gilliland, former General Counsel for the USDA, and founding Board Member said goodbye to Living with Wolves as he is stepping down after ten years of expert guidance, support and vision. We thank Jim for his unwavering commitment and thoughtful approach to working with our Board and staff. We look forward to working with Jim in a new capacity in the future.

### **Our Board Members are:**

Jim Dutcher  
Jamie Dutcher  
Ambassador Alan Blinkin  
Jean McBride Green  
Kim Kawaguchi  
Andrea Nasi  
Paul Paquet, Ph.D.  
Carolyn MacKenzie Stimmel  
Winston Thomas Ph.D.  
Hon. John V. Tunney  
Mary Lee Copp



Mary Lee Copp

We are thrilled to welcome Mary Lee Copp to our Board. A resident of Memphis, Tennessee and Sun Valley, Idaho, Mary Lee brings enthusiasm, energy, a commitment to philanthropy and a lifelong passion for wildlife to her role on the Board. We look forward to the ideas and vision she will bring to the table as we work together to protect wolves.

### **Our Advisory Board:**

The members of our Advisory Board play a key role in our work. Chosen to represent a wide range of fields involving wolves, they attend public meetings on our behalf, write public comments, advise us on activities in their fields of interest and geographic areas, and attend meetings with wildlife managers on all levels. They are our eyes and ears, vastly increasing our outreach and knowledge. They are:

#### **Science & Recovery**

Mark Bekoff, Ph.D.  
Mark Derr  
Cristina Eisenberg, Ph.D.  
Camilla Fox  
Larry Master Ph.D.  
Carter Niemeyer  
William Ripple  
Adrian Treves, Ph.D.

#### **Economics & Tourism**

Norman Bishop  
Francie St. Onge  
Nathan Varley, Ph.D.

#### **Ranching & Livestock**

Steve Clevidence  
Joe Englehart  
Timothy Kaminski  
Kyron Kunkel, Ph.D.  
Tim Tew

#### **Hunters**

Joe Brandl  
C.W. Pomeroy

“I have learned so much from your presentation, I feel a need to tell everyone I come in contact with about your research and story. My students and I were so moved, they are now raising awareness and money to support your work.” ~ Karen, AZ



# OUR PROJECT IDEAS FOR 2017



**With your support, we will continue to expand our outreach and communication efforts to build a strong vocal community of supporters nationwide, providing the public with the tools they need to achieve lasting conservation of gray wolves in North America and beyond.**

- We will continue our **National Geographic Live** presentations beginning in February at Lake Forest Country Day School in Lake Forest, Illinois.
- Development of a **Citizen Scientist** website page to include resources on how youth and adults can conduct and contribute their own scientific research to help wolves. This page would also include the Student Wolf Ambassador Presentation and details on how to become a Wolf Keeper: what you can do to help wolves.
- Continuation of the Yellowstone, Denali and Grand Teton National Parks **Research** where we are supporting key projects.
- Development of a series of **Online Presentations** depicting important aspects of wolf behavior, characteristics and social traits and why they matter.
- Reproducing our **Traveling Wolf Exhibit**. With its success Washington, D.C., Chicago and Detroit, we hope to bring additional versions of the exhibit to other communities across the country to deepen public awareness of the importance of wolves.
- Continued partnerships with other wolf conservation organizations and coalitions including the **Pacific Wolf Coalition**, the **Rocky Mountain Wolf Project**, and the **California Wolf Coexistence Group** sharing our resources to help galvanize the public and unite our message for greater impact.
- **Upcoming Publications** under development with The National Geographic Society include a book for teens and one for adults.

## OUR MISSION:

*Living with Wolves* is dedicated to raising broad public awareness of the truth about wolves, their social nature, their importance to healthy ecosystems and the threats to their survival. We build acceptance that can lead to coexistence between people and wolves sharing the same land.

Thanks to our supporters, Living with Wolves is empowered to ensure that there is a future for wolves in the wild. If you share this vision, please support our work and help us advance our efforts to protect this magnificent animal.

## MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY:

- Make a contribution
- Become a monthly supporter
- Create a legacy gift
- Honor someone special with a gift in their name
- Give a gift of stock or securities
- Provide in-kind support

Living with Wolves

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