

2014 Annual Report

Living with Wolves



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Dear Friend of Living with Wolves,

It is our pleasure to deliver to you our Annual Report. We are thrilled to introduce a new booklet format, to highlight the important work that Living With Wolves has been engaged in over the past year—work that has been made possible by your support.

We write today because of what we observed living with the Sawtooth Pack between 1990-1996; an experience that changed the way we understand wolves. Although almost twenty years have passed since our project ended, what we learned remains just as poignant a message today as it was when the project began—wolves are social animals. They are complex, highly intelligent, caring, playful, and above all devoted to family. This is something Western culture recognizes in other animals like elephants and dolphins, but is hesitant to accept in wolves.

We live in a culture that fears the wolf, and all too often condones its killing. Since much of this fear stems from misinformation and misunderstanding, we’ve made it our life’s work, and the mission of our nonprofit Living with Wolves, to educate the public about wolves’ social nature and to raise broad public awareness about this truth about wolves.

This year we have focused much of our energy toward educating children about wolves. We’ve given presentations at schools across the country. We are creating a special resources section for kids on our new and improved website. And through our partnership with National Geographic, we’re producing an educator’s guide and a family guide designed to help teachers and parents introduce the topic of wolves in the classroom and at home. We are also writing a storybook for young children, who, as tomorrow’s leaders, we believe hold the key to wolves’ future.

Much of what we have accomplished and hope to achieve for wolves depends on your support and involvement. We thank you for your continued commitment.

In these pages you will see highlights of what we have been able to do on behalf of wolves, because of you. The meaningful actions for wolves in this report give us hope for their future. While there is more work ahead, you should take pride in what you have helped us to make possible and what you have inspired for wolves in 2014. Thank you.

With sincere gratitude,

Jim and Jamie Dutcher
Founders, Living with Wolves



Wolf News – A Year in Review

Important developments for wolves, and some new challenges

- A federal judge has placed **wolves back under the federal protection of the Endangered Species Act in Wyoming**, taking management out of the hands of the state, until Wyoming can put a responsible wolf management plan in place. When Wyoming managed its wolves, it labeled the animal a predator killable-on-site year round, without limit or need for a license in 83% of the state.
- **California approved granting protection for wolves** under the state's Endangered Species Act in June of 2014. Although dispersers like OR-7 have been documented in California, the state currently contains no resident wolf packs.
- Oregon Congressman, Peter DeFazio, sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, asking her to **create buffer zones around our national parks to protect gray wolves** that unknowingly leave the park. Creating a buffer zone would protect wolves from state regulations that allow hunters and trappers to kill wolves, in some instances without limit.
- The state of **Montana has proposed a "wolf stamp"** to help fund wolf-related programs and allow non-hunters to contribute to wolf conservation. Currently, most funding for game agency programs is raised through hunting license fees. But after running into resistance from hunting groups, the stamp has been postponed and will not be offered this year.
- From 2009, when **Idaho** took over management of its wolves, through 2013, **people have killed at least 1,565 wolves**, reducing the statewide population for the last four years in a row to just 659 wolves at the end of last year. (For context, Idaho is home to about 50,000 coyotes, 20,000 bears, and 2,500 mountain lions.) Also since 2009, the number of breeding pairs has dropped from 49 to 20.
- In January 2014, Idaho's Governor Butch Otter requested \$2-million in taxpayer money from the legislature to form a **"Wolf Control Board" with the intent of drastically reducing Idaho's already declining wolf population**. The legislature appropriated \$400,000 for 2014, with the intent of fully funding the \$2-million over five years. **No other state has taken such extreme actions to kill wolves.**
- Two proposals are on the ballot this fall in **Michigan to put the legality of hunting wolves to a**



vote. Citizens are asked to vote "no" on both Proposal 1 and 2 if they want wolves protected and returned to non-game status. In August, lawmakers tried to undermine voters by passing another law that would allow for future wolf hunts by reauthorizing the unelected National Resource Commission to designate wolves as a game species, but conservation groups intend to sue and overturn that law as unconstitutional.



- In **Wisconsin**, efforts to ban the practice of using dogs to hunt wolves has been thwarted by a Wisconsin appeals court that ruled against banning this practice. Dogs are released by hunters to chase wolves. The hunters trail far behind, as the dogs run ahead tracking the scent of the wolves. This practice puts both the life of the dog and the wolf at risk. Wisconsin is the only state to allow the use of dogs to hunt wolves.



Turning Your Concerns into Effective Action



Our partnership with National Geographic allows us to reach out and inform thousands of people about the true nature of wolves, while countering rampant and widespread misinformation.

Here's how:

- Our Book, *The Hidden Life of Wolves*, continues to be a hit with audiences eager to learn more about wolves. Our carefully vetted, scientifically sound information dispels both old tales and current anti-wolf hysteria, providing thoughtful, easy to understand analysis. Now in its second printing, it has been translated into numerous languages including Norwegian, Japanese, Italian and Korean!
- **National Geographic Live!** Programs enable us to deliver our multi-media presentations to many thousands of people

to bring about change for wolves. Public outreach and education are some of the best ways to change the world for wolves. **Our recent presentations include:**

Phoenix: the Dutchers delivered two presentations, each with audiences of over 1,200 people. Many of whom left eager to take action for wolves.

Seattle: Jim and Jamie filled Benaroya Symphony Hall five times over three days in sold-out events, with **an amazing 12,000 people in attendance**. Two of those events were exclusively for students and teachers. They also spoke at the Woodland Park Zoo, where they

were greeted by a large group of educators, eager to find ways to integrate the truth about wolves into their school curriculums.

Chicago: Tickets for Jim and Jamie's presentation at the Goodman Theatre sold out months in advance. While in Chicago, they shared the Living with Wolves multimedia program with 1,700 students at Lane Tech College Prep high school.

New York: The Dutchers gave a presentation at the PAVE Academy charter school in Brooklyn, where 300 students were extremely excited to learn about wolves.





Maximizing our Impact

Thanks to your generous support, Living with Wolves is gaining in stature and continues to be a leading source of education, collaboration and reliable information for our supporters, partners, press contacts, scientists working on wolf issues, and wildlife managers at all levels of government.

Here are some examples:

Resolution passed for wolves:

We helped draft Resolution 14-022, designed to set the values of Wood River Valley apart from the brutal wolf management practices of the state of Idaho. We also spoke in support of the resolution at the Ketchum city council meeting where the resolution passed unanimously. It will soon be sent to Idaho's Governor Butch Otter.

Full-page newspaper ad in the heart of wolf country: We published a full-page ad over the busy Labor Day holiday, in the weekend edition of the Idaho Mountain Express. This provocative ad was written from the viewpoint of a wolf living in Idaho. Readers found it both powerful and educational, eliciting emotion yet remaining informative, impacting the hearts and minds of Idaho residents and visitors alike.

Speak for Wolves Flyer: Knowing that Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell is a Seattle native, we prepared a full-color flyer for audience members at our presentation in Seattle, encouraging them to write to her and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the pending decision to remove wolves from the Endangered Species List. The flyer was a take-away hit, and led to a huge and much-needed response. Encouraged by the feedback, we modified it for other venues.

Supporting a range rider: In order to keep both wolves and livestock alive, Living with Wolves sponsored a range rider program on a ranch on the eastern front of the Rocky Mountains in Montana. Increasing human presence around livestock has been proven to decrease conflicts with wolves.

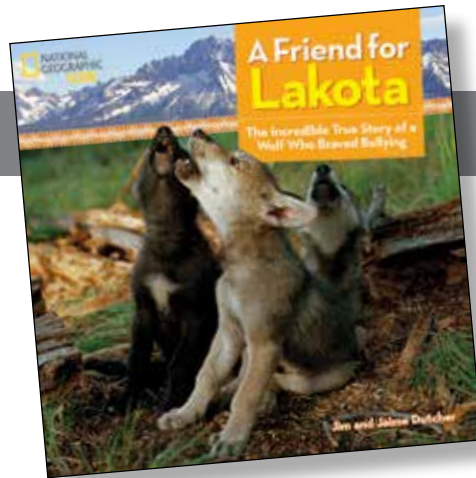
Pacific Wolf Coalition: We have joined more than 35 organizations in the Pacific Wolf Coalition, seeking to re-establish wolves in the ecosystems of California, Oregon and Washington. We engage in numerous collaborative efforts, including writing letters and OpEds, attending and speaking at public hearings, participating in coalition meetings and monthly conference calls.

ESA: We worked with former Senator John Tunney (a member of our Board of Directors and an author of and floor manager for the original Endangered Species Act of 1973) and Representative Pete McCloskey, a co-signer of the ESA, on a personal letter to Secretary Sally Jewell, urging her to retain the protection of wolves under the ESA, according to the authors' original intent.

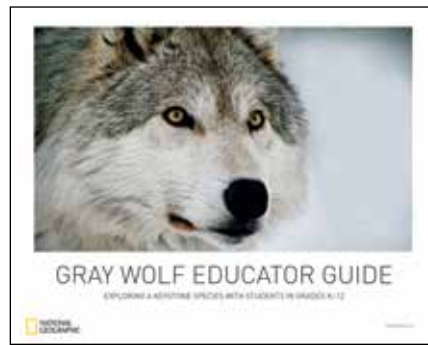


As the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's hearings on ESA wolf delisting were taking place, we organized oral testimony from speakers at three of the five public hearings, in Washington, D.C.; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Sacramento, California, with one common message: "withdraw the flawed proposed rule," and continue to protect wolves under the ESA until recovery is complete.

We actively participated in the public discussion that is leading to the protection for California wolves under the state ESA. Our Scientific Committee Advisory Board member and Pacific Regional Representative, Dr. Winston Thomas, spoke concisely and convincingly at the California public hearings in support of protecting wolves under the California Endangered Species Act.



- **A storybook for children**
Our children's book, *A Friend for Lakota*, will be published in partnership with National Geographic in the fall 2015.



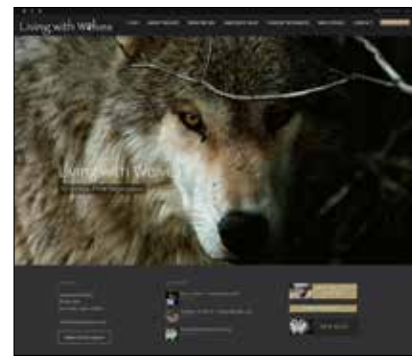
- **An Online Educator's Guide**
An educational resource about wolves for K-12 students developed in collaboration with National Geographic that includes: information, maps and activities to help teachers introduce the high-interest topic of wolves into their classrooms. And there is another family version just for parents and caregivers to share with their children. Available at www.NatGeoEd.org/wolves and at www.livingwithwolves.org.
- **Upcoming Presentations**
Jim and Jamie have a busy schedule this upcoming year. They are scheduled to give their popular **National Geographic Live!** presentation at both the University of California, Santa Barbara, and at the Kauffman Center in Kansas City, Missouri. They will also be presenting at the Southeast Wildlife Exposition in Charleston, South Carolina!

What Are We Working on Now?

A new website!
We are pleased to announce our soon-to-be-launched new website!

- See wolves as never before
- Expanded learning for students
- New discoveries on wolves and ecosystems
- How wolves and livestock can coexist
- Explore the social lives of wolves
- Understand the political wolf issues
- Rarely seen Sawtooth Pack photos
- And much more....plus how you can help

Explore our new website at
www.livingwithwolves.org.



Social Media at Work for Wolves

We're experiencing exponential growth on our Facebook page, driven by our multimedia programming, our messaging work and Jim and Jamie's educational presentations. Highlights of this growth include; a weekly reach of close to 1,008,000 individuals and our "Likes" increasing to over 600,000.

We utilize Facebook to:

- Raise public awareness and encourage reform of agencies like the USDA's Wildlife Services.
- Cover breaking news stories.
- Share scientific research.
- Rally supporters to speak at public hearings, sign petitions and write government officials.
- Promote the work of our advisory board and coalition members.



Working on Your Behalf

None of this would be happening without you, and your trust in us to spread your message about wolves with passion and commitment.

Every member of our Board of Directors joins you in contributing personally to Living with Wolves, both financially, and in outreach to other donors and by initiating official contacts, all of great importance to our work.

It is your belief in Living with Wolves, that allows us to take the effective steps that directly address your concerns and our shared goals. Through careful planning, and imaginative outreach, we ensure that your involvement and investment will help create a world where people and wolves can share the same land. Thank you.

Living with Wolves

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