

A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a wolf's face, showing its eyes, nose, and fur texture. The wolf has a mix of grey, brown, and white fur, and its eyes are a striking yellowish-brown color. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the fur.

Living with Wolves

CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS

**For wolves across North America,
a permanent place in our natural
world is not yet secure.**

But it could be, with your help.



Why Wolves Matter:

- Because **wolves play a critical role in the healthy ecosystems** in which we live, redistributing elk herds, which allows vegetation to recover from overgrazing along rivers and streams.
- Because **wolves strengthen ungulates** by culling sick, old and genetically inferior elk and deer, allowing the healthiest to breed and perpetuate their species.
- Because **wolves keep the world of predator and prey in balance**, by feeding other animals with the remains of their kills, and decreasing coyote populations so that rodents become more plentiful, creating a food source for many other animals.
- Because **wolves actually boost ecotourism**. Their reintroduction to Yellowstone National Park attracts over 150,000 new visitors a year, adding more than 35 million dollars to the regional economy annually.
- Because **wolves are complex, highly intelligent social animals** that are caring, playful and devoted to their families, much like us.

Wolves Help Keep Ecosystems in Balance

Their presence causes chain reactions that ripple through the ecosystem called trophic cascades

Elk behavior changes in response to wolves. Reverting to the way they acted before we killed off so many of their natural predators, elk are now more alert and elusive. They spend less time lingering in open meadows or along streams without care and more time on higher ground and in the security of the forest.

Many stream banks previously heavily impacted by elk, are now growing healthy willows and aspen. As a result, beavers have returned to eat their favorite food and engineer wetlands that attract frogs, birds and insects.

The stream banks once picked clean of vegetation and eroded by hooves, now erupt in wildflowers which nourish the insects which in turn feed the birds that now nest in the willows nearby.

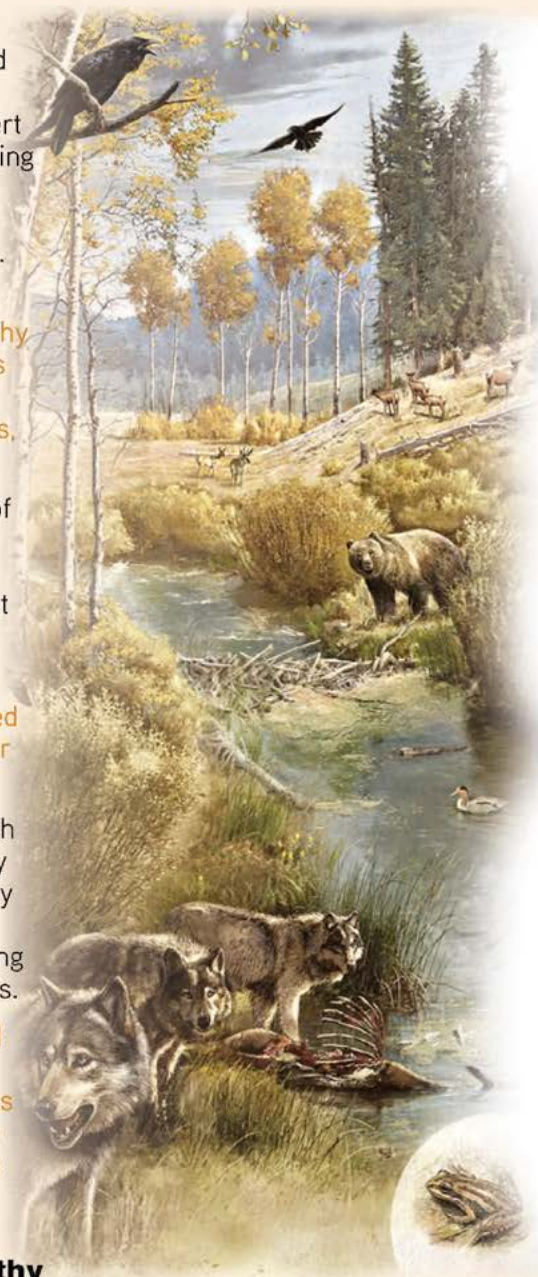
With more vegetation along stream banks, the water below becomes shaded and cool and clean- a healthy habitat for aquatic insects that nourish the fish.

When wolves return they compete with coyotes for territory, driving them away or killing them outright. As a result, they reduce the over-abundance of coyotes and rodent populations rebound, bringing more food to raptors, foxes and weasels.

For every animal wolves kill, they feed a dozen more. When they take down their prey, their prize eventually belongs to the entire ecosystem- from bears, to wolverines, to ravens, to shrews, to the very soil and plants that grow there.

Wolves' contribution to a healthy ecosystem is nothing short of amazing.

ART BY FERNANDO G. BAPTISTA, NGS STAFF, AMANDA HOBBS, NG STAFF SOURCES: ROBERT L. BESCHTA AND WILLIAM J. RIPPLE, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, DOUGLAS W. SMITH, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK





Why Wolves Need Protection:

- Fear, myth, misinformation and even hatred of wolves still guides people's view and treatment of the animal, threatening their recovery.
- In Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, where most wolves in the West live, state game managers encourage aggressive recreational hunting, snaring and trapping of wolves in the name of "management." In Idaho, wolves can be hunted during an alarming 7 to 12 month hunting season, and one person can kill up to 10 wolves a year, including pregnant and lactating females and their pups.
- Managing wolves through killing to solve wolf/livestock conflict has a harmful impact on wolves' family structure. When many members of an established pack are killed, the pack can disintegrate and critical pack knowledge can be lost. Dead wolves don't learn anything and removing them from problem areas does little more than create space for new wolves to begin the problem all over again.
- The US Fish & Wildlife Service's proposal to delist wolves nationwide is not supported by the best available science as required by the Endangered Species Act.
- Protecting wolves is protecting biodiversity and the wild places critical to our health, our planet and the future of our children.
- It's what people want. More than 1.6 million people have spoken out on behalf of wolves and their protection.

Myth Busters



Should people fear wolves?

No. Wolves are generally fearful of and avoid people. Only twice in the past 100 years in North America have wild wolves attacked and killed a human.

Are wolves killing all the deer and elk?

No, elk and deer populations are generally stable or increasing.

Do wolves kill for sport?

No, wolves kill to feed themselves.

Are the reintroduced wolves larger and different?

No, it's the same species of wolf that lived here long ago.

Can killing wolves make things worse?

Yes it can. Killing wolves can break up packs. Smaller packs have a harder time successfully bringing down large prey. Therefore, smaller packs are often forced to find prey that's easier to kill, such as livestock.

Are wolves killing lots of cattle and sheep?

Wolves account for less than 1% of all livestock deaths.

And there are ways ranchers can protect their livestock:

- Range riders and guard dogs
- Monitoring unhealthy livestock
- Creating birthing corrals
- Keeping cow calf pairs together
- Removing carcasses of dead livestock

For detailed information and factual sources
visit our website, livingwithwolves.org



Why Support Living with Wolves

We Educate: Through numerous educational books, magazines and guides produced in partnership with National Geographic, for adults, children and educators, we are a leading source of factual information about wolves and the issues that threaten their survival.

We Reach Out: To the general public nationwide through our website, social media, print media and our National Geographic *Live!* Presentations, bringing you critical information about wolves.

We Advocate: By speaking out, submitting testimony and participating in public hearings at the federal, regional and state level to continue to be a voice for wolves.

We Facilitate Research: Through working with ranchers and biologists to learn more about wolf behavior, their social structure and to increase scientific knowledge about wolves, creating solutions that will allow wolves to coexist with people on shared land.

We Collaborate: with ranchers, ethical hunters, scientists working on wolf issues, wildlife managers at all levels of government, as well as supporters and partner groups to increase our impact on behalf of wolves.

The Sawtooth Pack

A Unique Perspective:



Jim and Jamie Dutcher



**Please join us
in this effort.**

Give to
Living with Wolves today.

Thank you,
Jim and Jamie



Jim Jamie

Seeking to understand these unfairly demonized animals, Jim and Jamie Dutcher lived in a tented camp at the edge of the Sawtooth Wilderness with a pack of wolves, earning their trust and studying their social behavior. Through observation and sharing the land with the wolves for six years,

Jim and Jamie gained an unprecedented view of wolves rarely seen by people.

After three Emmy Award winning documentary films on the Sawtooth Pack, their commitment to protecting these magnificent animals led them to establish the non profit organization, Living with Wolves. **Jim and Jamie's unique experience with wolves informed their understanding of them,** dispelling the myth and misinformation perpetuated by fairytales, politicians and mainstream media.

Jim and Jamie continue their work through Living with Wolves, shedding light on the many threats wolves still face, while working toward solutions that facilitate wolf recovery.



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.

GET INVOLVED WITH US!

Living with Wolves
CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS

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