



Living with Wolves

CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR FRIEND OF LIVING WITH WOLVES,



This year we are so pleased to celebrate with you the 20th anniversary of the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park and Central Idaho, an event that marked the beginning of wolf recovery in the

American West. Since then, wolves have dispersed throughout the region, returning to ecosystems that had long suffered in their absence. They continue on their amazing path to recovery, expanding into states, like California, that haven't seen wolves in almost a century.

This year we also celebrate an incredible gift from two longtime supporters, John and Jean Greene. Their gift has allowed us to establish the John and Jean Greene Endowment Fund, which will, along with your continued support, help to sustain Living with Wolves now and in the future. We are inspired and humbled by the Greene's commitment to the protection of this magnificent keystone species.

Reflecting upon the past twenty years of wolf recovery in the West, we are astounded by the progress wolves continue to make despite the many challenges they face. Although we know the journey to protect wolves is long, we remain resolute. Our unique and storied approach to inspiring and engaging the public through education, science and partnerships will ensure that wolves can survive and thrive in the places they now live or will soon return.

In the pages that follow, we celebrate your support and the work we do on behalf of wolves that could not happen without you. We are confident that through our experience and skill and with the help of supporters like you, together we can create a world where people and wolves can share the same land.

Jim and Jamie Dutcher
Founders, Living with Wolves

P.S. Read on to learn more about how we were involved in wolf reintroduction!



A COMMITMENT TO WOLVES
Through their generosity, Living with
Wolves' Board of Directors member
Jean Greene and her husband
John help to sustain the future of
Living with Wolves.



WOLF NEWS – A YEAR IN REVIEW

Some Important Developments for Wolves, and New Challenges as of November 2015

This year marks the 20-year anniversary of wolf reintroduction to Central Idaho and Yellowstone National Park, a giant first step toward reversing their historic persecution and extirpation from the lower 48 states. As part of the reintroduction efforts, Jim Dutcher was appointed to the Idaho Wolf Management Committee and asked to serve as a wolf-handling specialist and consultant for the design of the enclosures used for the soft release of wolves into Yellowstone National Park. Over the next two winters, 66 wolves were introduced into Central Idaho and Yellowstone and the era of wolf recovery in the American West officially began.

Twenty years later wolf recovery is faltering. Under heavy political pressure and mounting legal costs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. FWS) is now considering a nationwide delisting which will turn over gray wolf management to the states. In most cases, states make their wolf management decisions based on the demands of special interest groups like hunters and livestock producers, leading to extensive hunting and trapping seasons and agency wolf-killing programs as the primary strategy to manage wolves.

- Californians welcome the discovery of its first family of wolves in more than 90 years. Named the “Shasta pack,” this new wolf family marks the beginning of wolf recovery in the Golden State. **California** is a leader in conservation efforts. Hopefully, the future for wolves there is a golden one.

- Named “Echo” by schoolchildren, a lone female wolf was the first of her kind to reach the **Grand Canyon** in 70 years, captivating a global audience. After traveling more than 750 miles looking for a mate, on December 28, 2014, she was shot by a coyote hunter in **Utah**. The hunter, claiming he misidentified the collared wolf for a coyote, was not prosecuted for killing an endangered species due to a loophole known as the McKittrick policy, which grants exception to those who claim they misidentified their target. In Utah, where the state pays a \$50 bounty for every coyote killed, the official wolf population is still zero.

- The **Desert Southwest’s** 109 Mexican wolves will benefit from continued federal protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The U.S. FWS remains committed to Mexican gray wolf recovery, moving ahead with the release of Mexican wolves into southwestern **New Mexico** despite the fact that state game officials have refused to issue a permit for the action.

- **Oregon’s** 82 wolves are still a protected endangered species under state law, but the state is considering removing protections now that delisting criteria have been met. The famous OR-7’s Rogue pack added two new pups this spring

following a first litter of three pups in 2014. OR-7’s brother, OR-3, has been photographed in the Cascade Mountains. Poaching continues to be an issue in Oregon, threatening wolf recovery.

- A genetically distinct population of wolves living on **Prince of Wales Island (POW)** and other neighboring islands of the Alexander Archipelago of **Alaska** is under threat of extinction due to excessive hunting, poaching and habitat degradation due to the timber industry. On POW, the population has dropped from around 300 wolves 20 years ago to as few as 50 today. As the U.S. FWS deliberates protecting these wolves under the ESA, with their decision pending by year-end, logging, hunting and trapping continue.

- Through two referendums, an overwhelming majority of **Michigan** voters made it clear that they do not support the trophy hunting and trapping of wolves. However, legislators passed a third law that circumvented these two referendums and the will of the people, clearing the way for the hunting of wolves to resume as soon as federal ESA protections are removed and management is returned to the state.

- After a federal judge restored federal ESA protections for wolves in **Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan**, several members of Congress from those states are working on legislation that would overturn the judge’s decision, returning wolf management to the states and allowing public trophy hunting and trapping of wolves to resume.



“I am so grateful for your website and the educational value that is shared with so many people all over the world. I have learned so much and continue to learn and I post your information and campaigns. Thank you.”- Rene, Germany

Our powerful messaging plays a role in countering the rampant and widespread misinformation about wolves that continues to threaten their survival. Our outreach is intended to inform, educate and engage people to create meaningful shifts in public attitudes toward wolves.

WORKING ON YOUR BEHALF

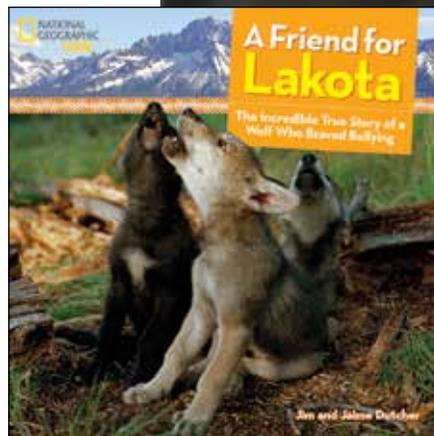
HERE'S HOW:

A FRIEND FOR LAKOTA: THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF A WOLF WHO BRAVED BULLYING:

Our children's book, published in September by National Geographic, is already having an impact on children's perceptions of wolves. A teacher in Scotland asked her class what words they would use to describe wolves both before reading the book and after, she noted, "the words changed from evil, snarling, and vicious to playful, protective and caring."

GRAY WOLF EDUCATOR GUIDE:

In partnership with National Geographic, Living with Wolves successfully created and distributed this educational resource to 5,800 schools in Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Washington and Oregon, providing teachers with activities, maps and



multimedia resources to enrich students' understanding of the gray wolf. Now available as a free electronic resource, many teachers are incorporating this curriculum into their classrooms ensuring that factual information about wolves is perpetuated rather than myth and misinformation.

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF WOLVES:

In its third printing, our best selling book, published by National Geographic, has sold 35,000 copies, providing readers with vital information about the social life of wolves and their importance to healthy ecosystems. It is now available in six languages.





“I would like to thank you for helping me get over my fear of wolves and realizing that if we don’t bother them, they will not bother us. I would also like to thank you for helping me understand the complex structure and emotions of a wolf pack.”

–Jon, Wisconsin, hunter



WOLF EXHIBIT AT THE DETROIT ZOO: We are providing outreach and education to thousands of visitors every day through our educational exhibit at the Detroit Zoo in Michigan, a state where wolves live and need protection.

PRESENTATIONS: Through our National Geographic *Live!*

presentations we communicate the importance of wolves to large audiences across the U.S., working to change hearts and minds. This year over 4,500 people attended our multi-media programs in Idaho, South Carolina, New York, Washington, DC and Missouri. To date, over 50,000 people have seen our presentations in North America.



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.

Education is the lynchpin that ensures the long-term success of our wolf conservation efforts. By educating communities about the benefits of protecting wolves, while addressing solutions to challenges regarding sharing the land with wolves, we can bring about changes in the treatment of this important keystone species.

MAXIMIZING OUR IMPACT

WOLF CONSERVATION CONFERENCES: We participated in a conference on large carnivores in North America and met with top scientists studying the ethics of carnivore management and the morality of trophy hunting. At the Pacific Wolf Coalition meeting our board member, Winston Thomas, met with conservationists from around the nation to discuss how to improve wolf recovery efforts.

WOLF AMBASSADOR ACTION PACK: Under development, the action pack will be filled with fun informative and educational tools to help students learn how to speak up on behalf of wolves in their schools and communities.

INCREASED WEBSITE RESOURCES: Our Living with Wolves website is the “go to” place for up to date information about wolves. We have added a wolf science blog called, “The Science Den,” that provides the public with explanations of peer reviewed science related to wolves, written in layman’s terms - wolf science made simple. We also added a new “language of wolves” page that includes recordings of wolf vocalizations.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH: Used to engage and inform the public about wolf issues such as the Endangered Species Act, protection status, petitions,

sound science, advocacy efforts, the work of partner wolf conservation organizations, and more. In 2015 our Facebook audience grew to over 1 million. We also joined Twitter and created a YouTube channel to show our video shorts and documentaries.

YELLOWSTONE, DENALI AND GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS RESEARCH PROJECT: We are collaborating with researchers and the National Park Service to study how human-caused mortality, primarily hunting and trapping, impact the familial structure and survival of wolf packs. It is our hope that this research will give us the tools to create and influence lasting solutions to the challenges facing wolf recovery today.

LIVING WITH WOLVES NOTABLE NUMBERS

1,122,231

number of Living with Wolves Facebook followers in 2015

52,566

number of people who have seen our presentations

99%

percentage of wolf deaths attributed to people in Idaho in 2014

1,300,000

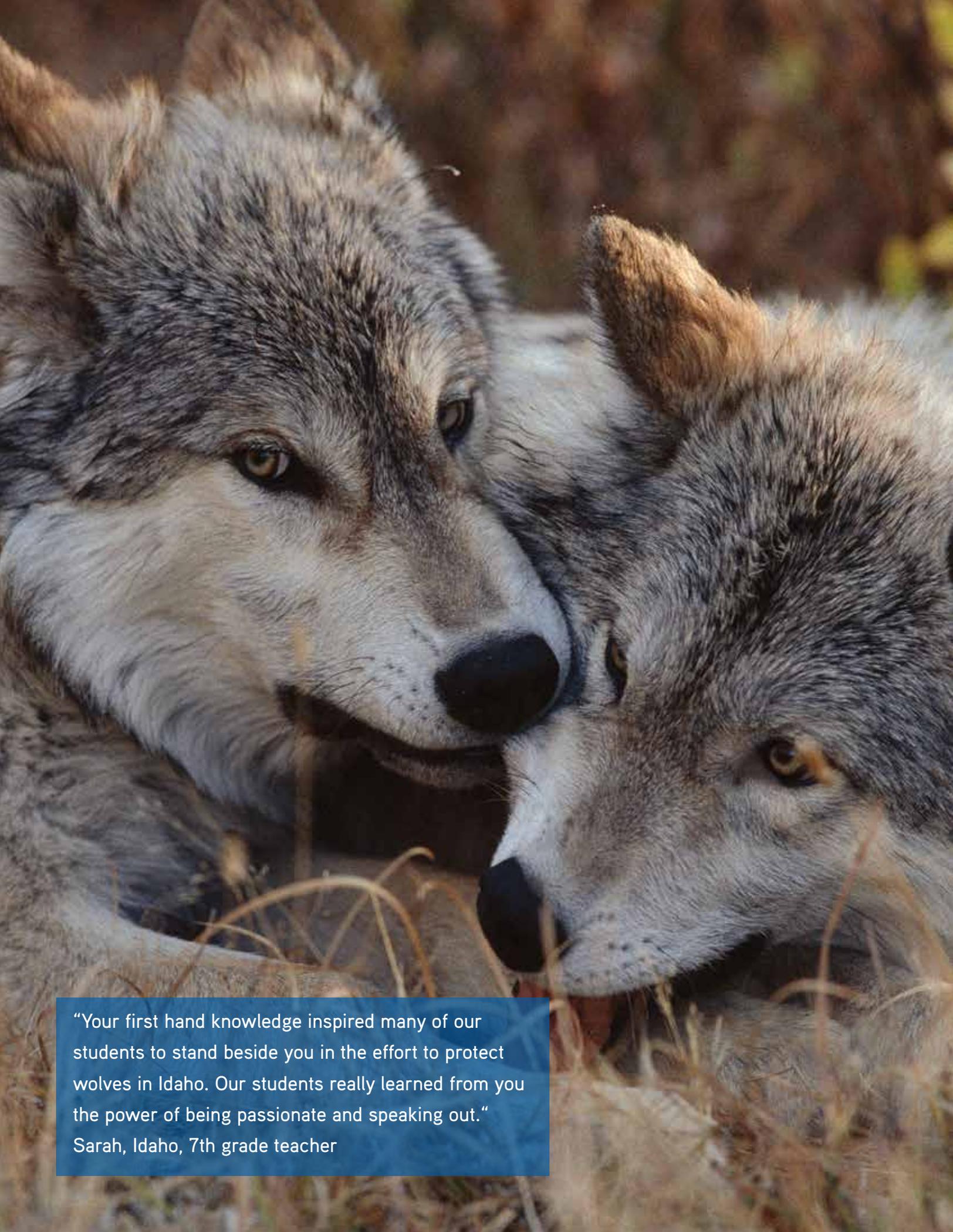
Number of visitors to the Detroit Zoo who were exposed to our wolf exhibit in 2015

\$35,000,000

annual revenue generated by wolf tourism in Yellowstone National Park

35,000

number of copies sold of our book *The Hidden Life of Wolves*



“Your first hand knowledge inspired many of our students to stand beside you in the effort to protect wolves in Idaho. Our students really learned from you the power of being passionate and speaking out.”

Sarah, Idaho, 7th grade teacher



In 2016 we will continue to expand our outreach and communication efforts to engage a broad public with a deepening focus on connecting with children, the next generation of wildlife conservationists. Communication is a powerful tool for social change whether aimed at pushing or supporting decision makers to change policy or toward shifting or reinforcing attitudes and behavior of the general public.

WHAT ARE WE WORKING ON NOW?

- We will continue our [NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE!](#) presentations beginning at the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center's Broad Stage on March 30 and April 1, 2016.
- Expanding our [TRAVELING WOLF EXHIBIT](#) to include a new interpretive drawing that explains the animal's unique physical traits and abilities.
- Develop educational materials for the public about the dangers and inhumane practice of recreational [TRAPPING AND SNARING](#).
- Production and distribution of our [WOLF AMBASSADOR PACK](#) for students and young children.
- Development of [NEW AND ENGAGING WEBSITE CONTENT](#) for children and students that will include a "students take action" page.
- Continuation of the Yellowstone, Denali and Grand Teton National Parks [RESEARCH PROJECT](#) where we intend to discover the effects that different levels of human-caused mortality have on wolf families.
- Distribution of our [GRAY WOLF EDUCATOR GUIDE](#) to more schools, organizations and individuals in places where wolves now live or may live such as California.
- Continued [PARTNERSHIPS](#) with other wolf conservation organizations including the Pacific Wolf Coalition working to galvanize the public and unite our message for greater impact.
- [UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS](#) under development with National Geographic include two children's books (one for early readers and one for young adults), and a book for adults.

HONORARY BOARD

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Barry Lopez
Peter Matthiessen (1920-2014)
Robert Redford

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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.

LIVING WITH WOLVES

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