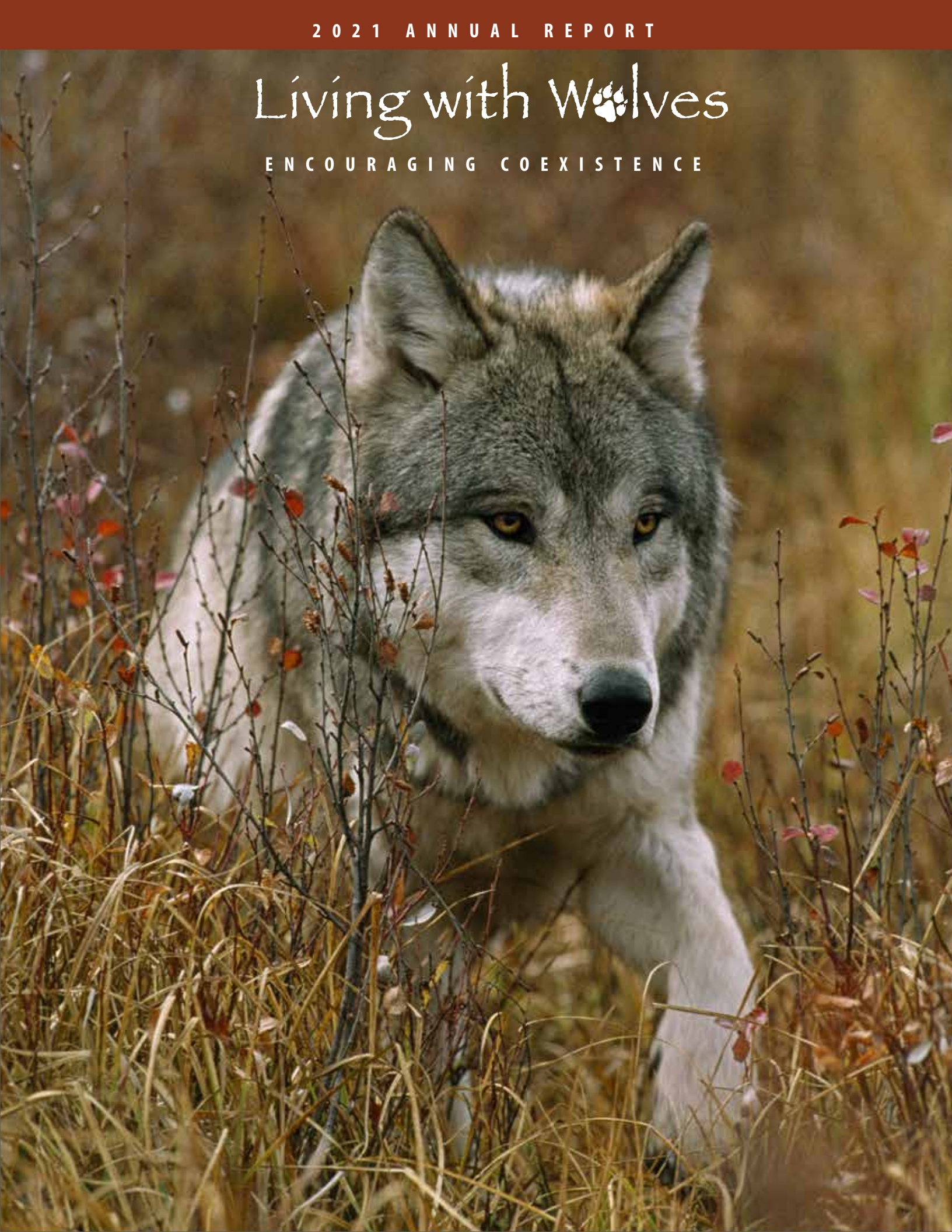


2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Living with Wolves

ENCOURAGING COEXISTENCE





Jim and Jamie Dutcher

Dear Friends,

Twenty-five years ago, our time at wolf camp in Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains came to an end. We never could have foreseen all that would unfold in the years that followed. We certainly didn't expect, two and a half decades later, that wolves would once again be facing enormous challenges simply by trying to survive.

This last year represents a huge setback for wolf recovery. Although the wolves of the Northern Rockies were removed from the Endangered Species List a decade ago, at least the

wolves of the Great Lakes had remained under federal protection. But in January of 2021, gray wolves across the lower 48 states lost endangered species protections.

In February of 2021, Wisconsin conducted a wolf hunt where 216 wolves were killed in less than three days. The hunt was stopped early because so many wolves were killed so quickly, far exceeding the targeted quota of 119. State officials had set a quota for another 130 wolves to be killed this fall, but the hunt has been temporarily halted by a judge.

Wolves in the West had been slowly recovering, year by year, despite increasingly grim hunting and trapping regulations in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. But now, it would appear the western states are doing their best to repeat history and

kill as many wolves as possible. This year, Idaho and Montana both passed aggressive legislation in an effort to dramatically reduce their wolf populations. There is now no limit to the number of wolves an individual can kill in Idaho. In Montana, the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission will only re-evaluate their new regulations after 450 wolves have been killed.

Fortunately, federal officials have finally taken action. Thanks to so many organizations and individuals who spoke up – perhaps you were one of them who joined us – the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is initiating a 12-month status review of the wolves in the Northern Rockies. During that timeframe, they will assess whether the new threats to wolves are grave enough to afford wolves protection once again.

This is a step in the right direction, but it doesn't go far enough. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland could, at any time, authorize an

emergency relisting to halt the assault on wolves that is coming. If she does not, many hundreds of these essential animals are going to be lost to us in the coming year. Therefore, we will continue to expose what is happening on the ground where wolves live. We remain vigilant to ensure that decision-makers know that we will not condone the continued persecution and slaughter of wolves.

With your support, we continue to protect wolves to allow them their rightful place in the wilderness.

Jim and Jamie Dutcher
Founders, Living with Wolves

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DANGEROUS TRAPS POSE A THREAT TO ALL OF US.



To **STOP** this proposal, IDFG needs to hear from you by **February 25**.

Visit livingwithwolves.org for instructions on **HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS** to keep wolf traps out of the Wood River Valley (Units 48 & 49).



A **NEW PROPOSAL** from Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) will open wolf trapping in the Wood River Valley. At least 173 dogs have been caught in traps and snares in Idaho since 2013 and several have died.

Wolf traps require specialized tools to release and **CAN BE SET 10 FEET FROM TRAILS**. These dangerous devices will bring an unnecessary threat to everyone who uses our trails and backcountry.

LEARN MORE on our blog at:

LivingWithWolves.org
ENCOURAGING COEXISTENCE

DID YOU KNOW?

Your voice helped to stop the wolf trapping proposal!



Thanks to all for speaking up! Idaho Fish & Game has again decided to pull its proposal to bring wolf trapping to the Wood River Valley.

Together with our community leaders and impassioned citizens, we worked to create the groundswell of opposition that led to this outcome.

If this threat resurfaces in the future, we will let you know. For now, your valley remains the last place in Idaho where families and pets are safe from wolf traps and snares.

LEARN MORE on our blog at:

LivingWithWolves.org
ENCOURAGING COEXISTENCE

DID YOU KNOW?

Idaho's war on wolves targets wolf pups.



This spring, at least 17 pups, ranging from only one to eight weeks old, were killed by hunters and Wildlife Services. At one week of age, their eyes would still be closed.

Wildlife Services, a federal agency, is killing helpless wolf pups at their dens in Idaho, on the basis that they could one day pose a threat to livestock.

Idaho Fish and Game records reveal that six of these pups were killed by rifle. The weapons used to kill the remaining 11 were listed as "other" or "unknown."

LEARN MORE on our blog at:

LivingWithWolves.org
ENCOURAGING COEXISTENCE

DID YOU KNOW?

You can see a lot of wolf in your dog.



Genetics studies reveal that domestic dogs are descended from ancient wolves. The DNA of any dog is nearly the same as that of a wolf.

The wolf passed along to dogs some defining characteristics: devotion to its pack, sociability, and a capacity for play, learning, communication, and expression.

Guarding territory, so tracking, herding, and moving large grazing animals from place to place are skills that be traced back to v ancestors.

LEARN MORE on our blog at:

LivingWithWolves.org
ENCOURAGING COEXISTENCE

DID YOU KNOW?

Idaho's elk population is robust and at a near-record high.



Idaho's elk population is estimated at 120,000, just 4% below the all-time record of 125,000. Unfounded fears that the return of wolves would decimate the elk population never materialized.

Rather than depleting Idaho's elk population, wolves are playing their vital role as top carnivores, keeping herds of prey animals strong and healthy by targeting the vulnerable.

Even with wolves back in Idaho, elk hunters are having high success rates. Four of the past six years have ranked in the top ten since 1935 in terms of total elk taken by hunters.

LEARN MORE on our blog at:

LivingWithWolves.org
ENCOURAGING COEXISTENCE
PO Box 896 • Sun Valley, Idaho • 83353

DID YOU KNOW?

Killing wolves has unexpected consequences



Killing wolves can break up packs. Smaller packs have a harder time bringing down large prey. Consequently, smaller packs may turn to livestock for food, forced to find prey that's easier to kill.

As social animals, wolves pass knowledge down through generations. Pack leaders are usually the first to respond to danger, putting themselves in peril. When leaders are killed, precious survival experience can be lost.

When packs hunt, ideally an adult is behind with the pup but small packs cannot afford to do so. Therefore, pups in smaller packs, left alone, are more likely to be killed by other predators.

LEARN MORE on our blog at:

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DID YOU KNOW?

The war on wolves has escalated.



Beginning July 1, there will be no limit to the number of wolves a hunter or trapper can kill. This reckless assault by Idaho's legislature will allow up to 90% of the state's wolves to be killed.

Wolves can be run over with and shot from any motorized vehicle. Sending dogs out to chase down wolves, using bait, and hunting with night vision scopes will also be allowed.

This overreaching new law was passed because the state legislature views wolves as inconvenient to agricultural interests, ignoring their vital role in keeping elk and deer herds healthy, and ecosystems vibrant.

LEARN MORE on our blog at:

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DID YOU KNOW? CAMPAIGN

Living with Wolves introduced the DID YOU KNOW? public service announcement (PSA) campaign in 2020. In 2021, we have continued to expand its reach. When public comment can influence policy, we create a new PSA as a call to action to get people involved. We used a PSA to rally public opposition to a wolf trapping proposal in one of the last places in Idaho where trapping is still prohibited. We will continue to add new topics of general interest, such as the role of wolves in limiting the spread of chronic wasting disease and the potential opportunities for wolf-watching ecotourism.

This past year, we ran the entire PSA campaign in four Idaho newspapers, where state officials have passed a radical new anti-wolf law. We also published several timely PSAs in Idaho's most widely circulated paper, drawing attention to the new wolf-killing law, as well as the second year of confirmed killing of very young wolf pups in Idaho. Rounding out the campaign for 2021, the PSAs appeared in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and in the monthly magazine, *High Country News*.

Next year, we plan to publish the campaign in Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado. Montana and Wyoming both have wolf populations that are under threat from anti-wolf factions, while Colorado represents an important opportunity to provide information about wolves and their behavior, now that the public has voted to re-establish wolves in their state.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

NEW
YORK



IDAHO

SEATTLE



COLOMBIA



REACHING OUT FOR 15 YEARS AND COUNTING...

The students at Taft Preparatory School in western Connecticut were well prepared for our visit and took their seats quickly. Many of the students had seen our films, and a few even welled up with emotion as we greeted them before the event. Then, as Jamie and I took the stage, a familiar, yet decidedly out-of-place, sound began to rise from the auditorium. More than six hundred kids were howling in unison! We stood there spellbound. Later, we learned from the teachers that this was a spontaneous gesture of welcome that had spread

throughout the audience. The students were excited about our visit, and their howl illuminated that excitement.

We had gone to Taft to deliver our multimedia presentation for the entire school. We have conducted more than 200 presentations since we said goodbye to the Sawtooth Pack. Sharing what the wolves had taught us, with others across the country and beyond, is our way of keeping their memory alive and honoring our commitment to the wolves that still struggle for survival today.

The Sawtooth Pack has touched a lot of hearts, and we often receive letters thanking us for providing inspiration. The most recent one arrived in September:

"I had asked for your advice on how to go about becoming a wolf biologist back in 2005, and the advice you gave me in response, I took to heart. I am now a 26-year-old senior at Humboldt State University majoring in Wildlife Management and Conservation. With graduation on the horizon, I thought it would be a good time to thank you again for the work you've done

and for taking the time to reply to a 10-year-old kid all those years ago. You have no idea how much that meant to me!"

Over the past year, COVID-19 has continued to limit our travel, but we have still been able to spread our message through podcasts and video conferences. We recently spoke with a 12-year-old girl, who also plans to become a wolf biologist. We look forward to hearing from her in another 10 years. These gratifying interactions give us great hope for the future, as a new generation of wolf advocates arrive on the scene.

LONDON



PHOENIX



WASHINGTON
D.C.



KING'S
ACADEMY

JORDAN



LOS ANGELES



KANSAS
CITY

ADVISORY BOARD PROFILE: CARTER NIEMEYER

“As the years passed, more and more wolves crossed that invisible border between Canada and the United States, and the more they did, the more I wished they’d just stay away. People were going to be their worst enemy, myself included.”



Carter with one of wolves that was released in Yellowstone in 1995.



Carter collaring a wolf to be released into the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho.

Carter Niemeyer wrote that perceptive statement in his memoir, *Wolfer*. One could say Carter has experienced the wolf controversy from all angles. Working in the field, he spent countless hours in the air and on the ground, interacting with every imaginable stakeholder who holds an opinion about wolves. Throughout his formative years and professional career, Carter always had great reverence for nature and wild animals, but as a federal hunter and trapper, his job necessitated that he kill wolves and other animals.

Despite the apparent contradiction, Carter has become a staunch advocate for wolves and other predators, speaking out passionately regarding the way they have been mistreated and mismanaged. His experience with wolves ultimately led to his participation as a key member of the team involved in the reintroduction of the gray wolf to the Northern Rockies. Carter was the initial project leader in Canada and was involved in the capture of many of the wolves that were released into Yellowstone and central Idaho.

Looking back on his career trajectory and his current views on wolves in the wild, Carter wrote a compelling reflection on the evolution of his perspective:

“People ask why I have changed from the old Carter when it comes to my opinion about wild predators. I made a career as a hunter and trapper. I watched and experienced a lot of predator killing in my life. Along the way, I lost my enthusiasm. Killing predators was a fool’s errand based on a killing culture and a tradition built on a history of predator persecution, because it was the thing to do. Predators were competition and in our way.

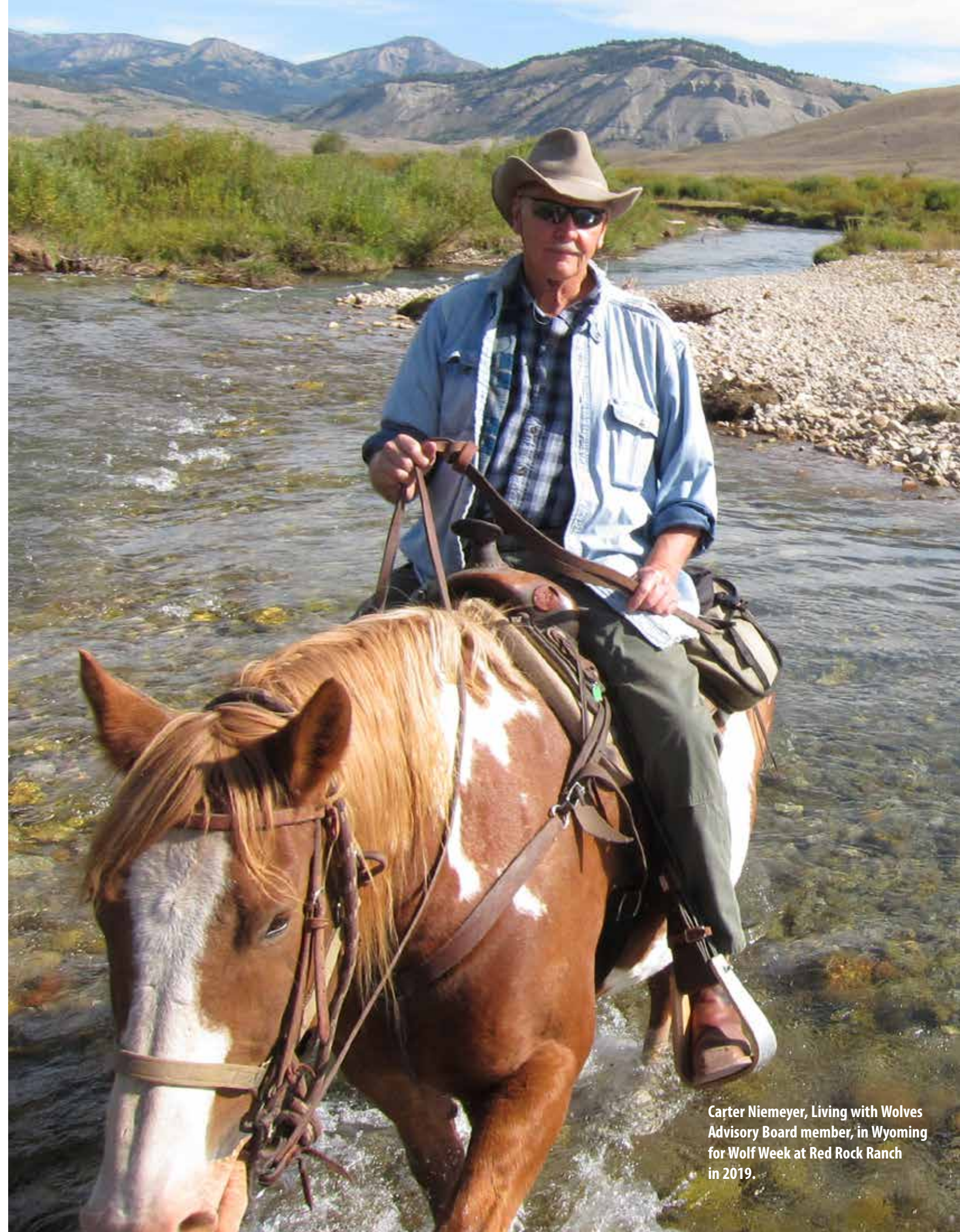
Nearly 50 years later, I admit I was wrong about all the premises I based my judgements on. Predators cause a small percentage of livestock loss compared to other factors like weather, disease, birthing problems, or the result of poison weeds, winter storms and the like. Livestock lost to predators are the result of human negligence from being over-extended or not protecting livestock by keeping an eye on them or securing them.

For elk herds in places like Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, it is the Golden Era for elk hunting. Elk are more numerous today than 25 years ago when wolves were reintroduced. Comparing wolves to mountain lions and black bears, lions and bears are more abundant and kill a greater number of elk calves than do wolves, yet the wolf is the fall guy.

The justification to kill is a need to control and manage the wolves, bears, and mountain lions, built on misinformation and anecdotal stories. In my opinion, it is dishonest, misguided, and pretty much politically driven.

My 40-year professional career led me to different conclusions based on field experience and observations. It isn’t about saving the livestock industry or protecting big game. It’s about subsidizing people’s negligence, in some cases, or about reinforcing lies that predators are reducing big game numbers. But mostly, it’s about human needs to trap, snare, or shoot predators, either recreationally or for some misguided notion that something positive comes from the killing.

I stopped believing in killing predators about 30 years ago and advocate for their welfare. We need them and they need us. The only shots I take now are with my cameras.”



Carter Niemeyer, Living with Wolves Advisory Board member, in Wyoming for Wolf Week at Red Rock Ranch in 2019.



WOLF NEWS 2021

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has initiated a **formal 12-month status review** for gray wolves of the Northern Rockies and Western United States regions. After reviewing petitions requesting emergency relisting of wolves under the Endangered Species Act, USFWS has determined that relisting may be warranted, stating the petitions presented “credible and substantial information that human-caused mortality . . . may be a potential threat to the species in Idaho and Montana.”



In August, a lone Mexican gray wolf was captured north of Flagstaff by an **Arizona** Game and Fish Department biologist. The wolf was roaming north of the designated Mexican wolf recovery zone. He was released shortly after his capture in an area south of Interstate 40 that serves as the primary management zone for the endangered Mexican gray wolf.



Fitted with a GPS collar, a young male wolf known as OR-93 traveled about 1,000 miles from Oregon into **California** before his collar stopped transmitting signals. His route took him as far south as San Luis Obispo County, where officials received the last signal on April 5. This is the furthest south a wolf has been spotted in California since 1922. In late September, officials received reports of three sightings of a wolf wearing a purple tracking collar, matching OR-93’s description. If an opportunity arises, wildlife officials may attempt to replace his collar to continue tracking his journey.



In November of 2020, **Colorado** made history by becoming the first state to opt to restore a species through a popular vote, as opposed to federal officials making the decision. State wildlife managers are currently developing a recovery plan for wolves, so that they can once again roam Colorado’s Western Slope.

To stay informed on Colorado wolf restoration efforts, you can visit the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website at wolfengagementmco.org.



The **Idaho** state legislature passed a wolf-killing bill that went into effect on July 1. The new regulations are intended to kill more wolves through extended hunting seasons, expanded areas where wolves can be trapped, and “expanded methods of take.” An additional \$200,000, to be paid by Idaho Fish and Game to the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board, has been allocated to reimburse hunters and trappers up to \$2,500 for each wolf killed. There is no limit to the number of wolves an individual can kill.

The practice of killing wolf pups continues in Idaho. Wildlife Services killed eight pups from the Timberline Pack on public land in hopes the adult wolves would leave the area. This pack has been studied by Timberline High School students since 2003.



Montana also passed aggressive new anti-wolf legislation this year. They have doubled the number of wolves an individual can kill from 5 to 10 wolves, through any combination of trapping and hunting. Hunting and trapping seasons have been extended, and the use of bait is now permitted. Night hunting for wolves with spotlights, thermal imaging technology, and night vision scopes is allowed on private land. Montana will also allow organizations to pay bounties, incentivizing people to kill wolves. The state’s Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission will convene to review, and possibly adjust, the new regulations after 450 wolves are killed.

Montana’s regulatory changes also removed the one-wolf quota in each of two wolf management units adjacent to **Yellowstone National Park’s** northern border. All wolves that leave the park boundaries can now legally be killed. Five Yellowstone wolves have already been killed by hunters in just

over a month, and the wolf hunting season continues through March 15 of next year.



Kudos to **New Mexico** for taking positive steps to limit the cruel and archaic practice of wildlife trapping. The Wildlife Conservation and Public Safety Act was signed into law in April. Also known as Roxy’s Law, named for a dog killed in a snare in 2018, the bill prohibits trapping, snaring, and poison on all public lands in New Mexico.



In August, the **Oregon** Department of Fish and Wildlife killed two pups from the Lookout Mountain Pack in an attempt to counteract livestock predation. In September, they killed the alpha male, a yearling, and a pup. Two more pups and a yearling were killed in October. Now, only the alpha female and two pups remain.



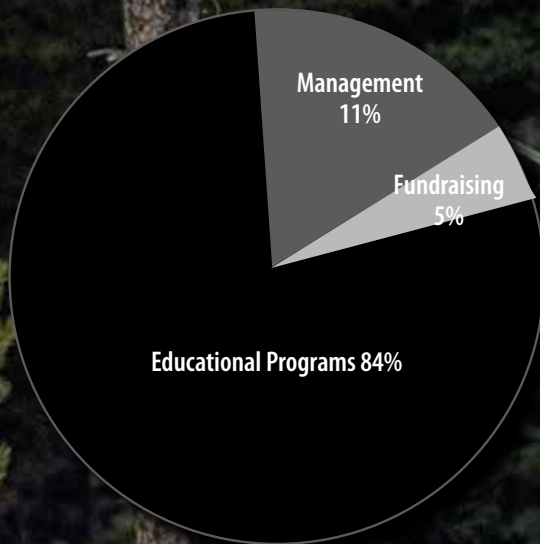
Under state law, **Wisconsin** must conduct an annual wolf hunt between November and February if wolves are not under federal protections. After nationwide delisting went into effect in January, the state’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had planned to wait until November of 2021 to conduct a hunt, but a court ruling forced the hunt in February. The kill quota was set at 119 wolves, but at least 216 wolves were killed in less than three days. Fresh snowfall and the legal use of hounds for tracking were credited with the staggering number of wolves killed so quickly.

State officials had set a quota for another 130 wolves to be killed in a hunt starting November 6, but a judge has issued a temporary injunction, halting the hunt. The DNR must update the population goal in its wolf management plan and implement new regulations for determining kill quotas before another wolf hunt can occur.

HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTION WORKS FOR WOLVES

Living with Wolves

2021 Expense Distribution



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OUR MISSION: Living with Wolves is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to engaging the public worldwide in education, outreach and research to promote truth and understanding about wolves, while encouraging coexistence and inspiring people to take action to protect them.

Living with Wolves • P.O. Box 896 • Sun Valley, ID 83353 • www.livingwithwolves.org • Tax ID: 20-4933982

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