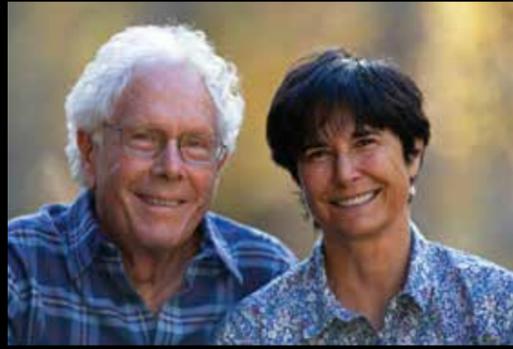


Living with Wolves

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



E N C O U R A G I N G C O E X I S T E N C E



DEAR FRIENDS,

Do wolves play? Yes they do — all the time!

As we began our work with the Sawtooth Pack in the 1990s, we had the opportunity to spend time with wolf biologist Dr. Gordon Haber in Denali National Park, Alaska.

At that time, he was conducting the longest continuous study of wolves in the world which began in 1939 by Adolph Murie. When Gordon died in 2009, we lost a meticulous scientist and an outspoken wolf advocate.

Few human beings have logged more hours observing wolves than the late Gordon Haber. He was a rigorous scientist, as evidenced by notebooks filled with minute-by-minute observations. Yet he was not afraid to step beyond pure science and acknowledge that wolves resonate in the human psyche in a way few other animals do.

Seeing just how much the Sawtooth Pack played, we wondered about their wild cousins. Were wolves in the wild — who were more burdened by survival issues such as being hunted and avoiding rival packs — still likely to play? Gordon provided an answer. After spending a lifetime observing wolves in Alaska, he told us, "If a half hour passes without at least some play, it is an unusual half hour in the daily routine of a wolf family."

It isn't coincidental that wolves are at the same time probably the most playful, and the most socially cooperative of nonhuman animals. We both feel that Haber was ahead of his time in how he understood the social order of a wolf pack.

Where other biologists saw a family group of hunters, Gordon saw a shared culture and the passing of information over generations. He saw a true society in which play is the glue that holds it together.

Jim Jamie

Jim and Jamie Dutcher
Founders, Living with Wolves





Wolves play, just like we do!

The Sawtooth Pack could spend hours chasing each other back and forth in a lively game of tag. If tag was their favorite game, keep-away was a close second. The alpha, Kamots, would pick up some random item and begin to prance about, flipping it up in the air, daring the others to try and take it away. Just about anything could serve as a toy — a bone, a stick, even a pinecone — but nothing matched our human possessions.

One of the items that interested Kamots the most was my hat. Whenever I was focusing my attention on something else, like peering through the eyepiece of my camera, he would quietly creep up behind me and try to snatch it from my head. The wide-brimmed hat was already tattered and tired after years of service, so one day, I decided that I would let Kamots win the prize.

When I saw him watching me, I pretended to be busy with my camera. I heard his soft approach from behind and felt his warm breath

on the back of my neck. There was a powerful tug on the brim and off it flew. Kamots knew that victory was his and began to prance about, tossing the hat into the air.

He managed to get it over his face and charged around the meadow, completely unable to see but still determined to keep the hat. He tried to adjust its position and ended up tripping over a root, tumbling and nearly losing the sacred object. When he got back up, the hat had slipped over his face again, leaving him no better off than before. Finally, he crashed through the willows with packmate Matsi on his tail, in hot pursuit of Kamot's prize. That was the last I ever saw of my hat — I never found even the tiniest shred of it.

There is an evolutionary reason for play. They are building speed, stamina, and learning how to cooperate with one another, but to us it always just seemed like they were simply having fun.

Adapted from "The Wisdom of Wolves" by Jim and Jamie Dutcher



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Newsletter Campaign



This year, we launched our regularly scheduled monthly e-newsletter to keep supporters informed about key developments affecting wolves. Each issue covers the latest wolf news, policy decisions, legal updates, and issues that influence wolves across the country. When urgent action is needed, we include alerts that mobilize supporters to contact lawmakers and speak up for wolves.

The newsletter is also an important avenue for sharing educational materials. We feature recent blog posts that explain current research, wolf ecology, management challenges, and the realities wolves face today. Issues include exclusive video clips from Jim and Jamie's documentary archives, offering footage that highlights wolf behavior and family dynamics of the Sawtooth Pack.

Throughout the year, the newsletter provides updates on our work, upcoming events, and resources that support our mission. It has become one of our most effective tools for keeping people informed and engaged, and it continues to grow each month. If you would like to join our email list, you can subscribe on our website under "Newsletter Signup" at www.livingwithwolves.org.



In Memoriam

ROBERT REDFORD (1936- 2025)

We honor the life and legacy of Robert Redford, who was an honorary member of the Living with Wolves Board of Directors, a valued contributor to many of our books and films, and above all, a dear friend. Robert and Jim first met in 1978, sharing a lifelong inspiration through their work in film and a deep concern for the natural world. When Jim asked Robert to serve on the Living with Wolves Board of Directors, he responded with an emphatic, "Yes!" Robert provided the foreword to the National Geographic book, *The Hidden Life of Wolves*, by Jim and Jamie. His wisdom, generosity, and unwavering support left a lasting mark on our work and our lives. He will be greatly missed.



JANE GOODALL, DBE, Ph.D. (1934- 2025)

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Jane Goodall, who served on our Honorary Board and supported Living with Wolves from the very beginning. Her groundbreaking work transformed the world's understanding of wildlife and inspired generations to take action on behalf of endangered species. Jane's legacy will continue to guide and inspire our work for years to come.

"Everybody thinks my favorite animal is a chimpanzee, but it's not true. Chimpanzees are so like people, some chimpanzees are really not nice at all, just like some people are really not nice. My favorite animal altogether is a dog, because dogs have taught me so much. Dogs are so faithful and give unconditional love, and I don't like to think of a world without dogs."

~ Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Ph.D.

Museum Update



Since opening two and a half years ago, we have welcomed more than 16,500 visitors from Idaho and beyond into the Living with Wolves Museum.

This year, we continued to deepen our impact by connecting people with the story of the Sawtooth Pack, offering a powerful lens into the lives of wolves and their capacity for forethought, resilience, and family. Visitors learn little-known wolf facts, how coexistence with ranchers is possible, the impacts of hunting on pack stability, and ways they can support positive change.

Our team remains dedicated to countering myths and misinformation while fostering understanding rooted in science and compassion. Steady attendance and an interest in educational programming highlights the museum's growing role as a trusted regional resource for education and advocacy. We look forward to expanding our reach in the year ahead.



Website Awards

We are thrilled to announce that the Living with Wolves website, created by Glick & Fray Design Agency, has recently been honored with three awards across highly competitive categories in nonprofit design and photography at a gala in New York City. The Eddie & Ozzie Awards are among the most respected honors in the publishing industry, celebrating excellence in editorial and visual communication.

This recognition underscores the importance of the work we do every day—using education and compelling storytelling to dispel myths, build understanding, and inspire coexistence with wolves. Through vivid imagery and fact-based content, Living with Wolves continues to bring people closer to the truth about these remarkable animals, helping shift public perception from fear to respect and ensuring that wolves have a rightful place on our shared landscape.

These awards are a meaningful reflection of the dedication behind every story we share, reminding us that powerful storytelling can change hearts, minds, and ultimately, the future for wolves.

"The Living with Wolves website sweep redefines how nonprofit conservation stories are told on the web, drawing national acclaim for both visual storytelling and user experience."

~ Glick + Fray Design Agency



Wolf Raids Crab Trap

Living with Wolves is proud to be supporting a groundbreaking research program in the Great Bear Rainforest of British Columbia for the past three years, which we highlighted in last year's Annual Report. Recently, the research team released trail camera footage that has captured global attention, and for good reason—it offers one of the most sophisticated examples of wild wolf behavior ever documented.

What makes this project so exceptional is that these wolves live within the Haítzaqv Nation territory, largely free from human persecution, allowing researchers a rare window into the full breadth of their intelligence, culture, and family stability.

While monitoring efforts to remove invasive European green crabs from the area, the research team began noticing unusual damage to baited traps placed in fairly deep water. To determine the cause, they set remote cameras along the shoreline. Within two days, they recorded a wolf entering the water, and then calmly emerging from

the sea carrying a buoy in her mouth. Using the attached rope, she then pulled the crab trap ashore, opening the bait cup with precision, and feeding from it—behavior that may represent the first documented instance of tool use by a wild canid.

This extraordinary discovery underscores the importance of investing in this research. You can read the newly published paper, *Potential Tool Use by Wolves (Canis lupus): Crab Trap Pulling in Haítzaqv Nation Territory*. To learn more about the “The Place of Wolves: Haítzaqv Wolf and Biodiversity Project” visit www.placeofwolves.ca.





Federal

Guilty of Wolf Torture?

In February 2024, a young wolf was run over by a snowmobile, gravely injured, and taken to the perpetrator's home. Taping its mouth shut, the wolf was fitted with a muzzle and shock collar, transported to a local Wyoming bar, and paraded before patrons. Hours later, it was tortured to death. The man responsible initially received only a \$250 fine.

Following international outrage, a grand jury was convened to determine whether Cody Roberts should face felony animal-cruelty charges. On August 20, 2025, the jury issued that indictment.

Roberts appeared in court in November 2025 and pleaded not guilty. The state may negotiate a plea deal, but if the case proceeds to trial, it is currently scheduled for early March 2026. If convicted, Roberts faces up to two years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

Judge Rules USFWS Violated ESA

In July 2021, conservation groups petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to relist Northern Rocky Mountains wolves, which were removed from the endangered species list by a congressional rider in 2011. This population spans wolves in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, the eastern third of Oregon and Washington, and a small part of north-central Utah.

More than two years later, USFWS issued a "not warranted" finding, prompting litigation that resulted in District Court Judge Donald Molloy's ruling that the agency failed to consider the best available

science and the cumulative impacts of aggressive state management on broader wolf recovery, including in Colorado and the Southern Rockies. He ordered the agency to reconsider protections for wolves in the Northern Rockies.

On August 6, 2025, one day after the ruling, three hunting organizations filed a notice of appeal to the Ninth Circuit. The appeal allows USFWS to postpone reassessing wolf status while the case proceeds.

As of November 2025, wolves in the Northern Rockies remain federally unlisted and under state management.

USFWS Abandons National Wolf Recovery Plan

In 2024, the USFWS announced plans to develop the first-ever nationwide wolf recovery plan by December 2025. After months of dialogue among diverse stakeholders, the agency reversed course in early November 2025, stating that no national plan would be released.

Their rationale: a national plan "would not promote the conservation of the species," adding that gray wolves in the lower 48 are considered recovered and no longer appropriate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Many biologists disagree, citing concerns about fragmented habitats and ongoing threats to long-term genetic health and population stability. Conservation groups have filed suit to challenge the decision.

As of November 2025, USFWS has not formally moved forward with a nationwide delisting of gray wolves.

Montana

Dueling Lawsuits in Montana Over Wolf Management

In August, the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission approved a state record-high kill quota of 458 wolves for the 2025-2026 season, plus an additional 100 wolves authorized for "control removals." This could result in up to 558 wolves killed in a single year, threatening long-term population stability.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' own data warns that harvesting 450 wolves could drive the population below sustainable levels within one year.

The Commission also raised individual limits to 15 wolves for hunting and 15 for trapping, allowing one person to kill up to 30 wolves in a season.

In response, two lawsuits were filed against Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Commission. The first, brought by two Republican lawmakers and the Outdoors Heritage Coalition, argues the agency failed to comply with state requirements to reduce the wolf population, going so far as to claim the state is *not killing enough wolves*.

Shortly after, four conservation organizations filed a separate suit seeking to overturn the newly adopted regulations, arguing the increased quota threatens the species viability and violates Montana's constitutional right "to a clean and healthful environment."

Judge Christopher Abbot began hearing arguments in late November. Meanwhile, wolf hunting and trapping continue under the new rules.

Colorado

Federal Directive Jeopardizes Colorado's Wolf Reintroduction

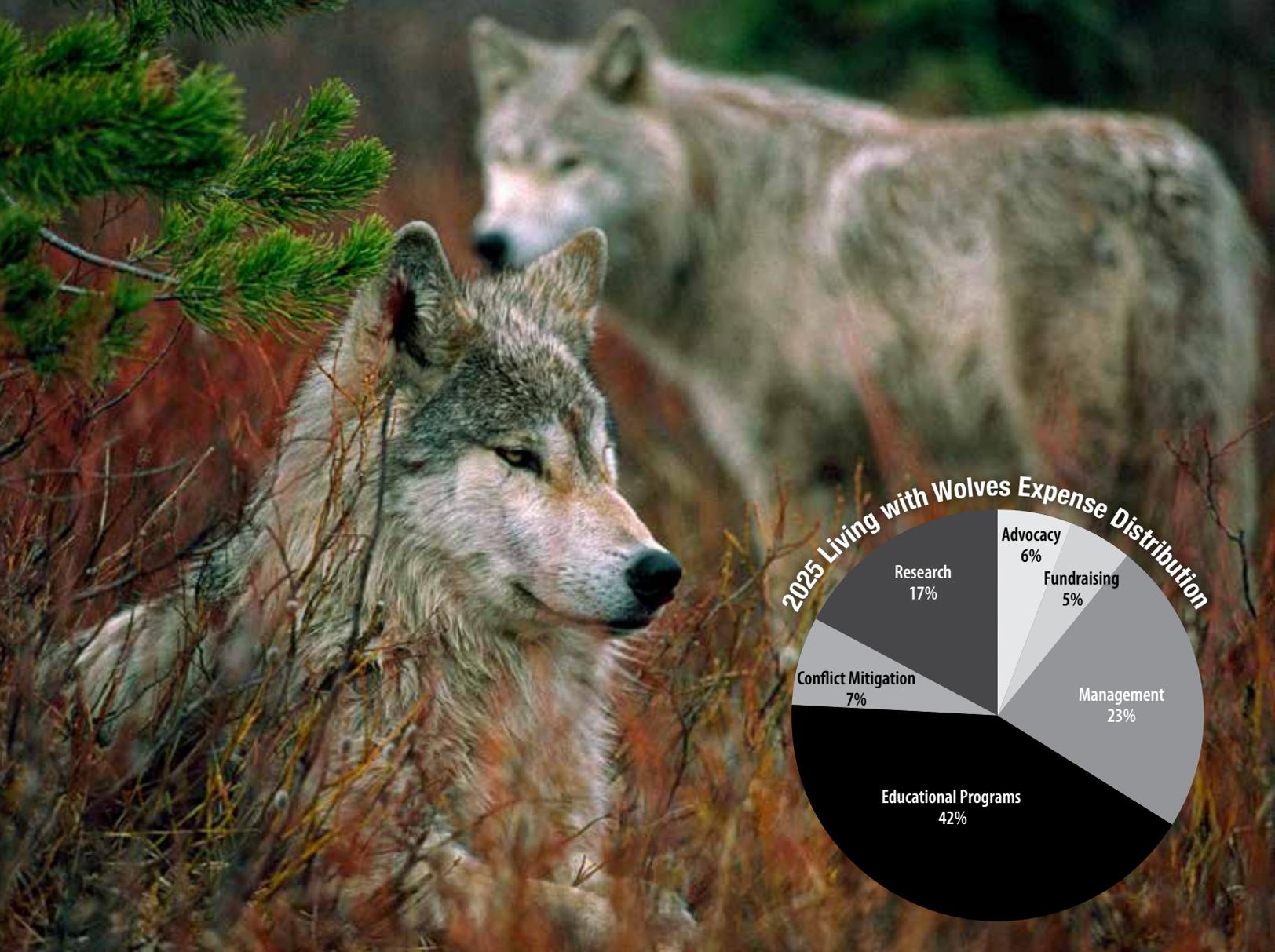
In Colorado, where voters approved wolf reintroduction in 2020, the state planned to release 10-15 wolves each winter for 3-5 years beginning in 2023. After Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming refused to provide wolves, Colorado sourced its first releases from Oregon.

Because Oregon's wolf population is relatively small, Colorado turned to British Columbia for the second year. That partnership was successful and prioritized packs without a history of livestock conflict.

Colorado had an agreement with British Columbia again this winter; however, a new federal directive announced under the Trump Administration in October 2025, now requires wolves to come only from Northern Rocky Mountain states, contradicting the original plan that allowed Canadian sourcing.

With Washington and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation also declining to provide wolves, Colorado has renewed discussions with Oregon, despite its low wolf population. Releases, scheduled between December and mid-March, require extensive planning. Because the federal restriction was imposed so late in the year, it could prevent the state from meeting its goals, threatening both the stability of newly formed packs and the overall success of the reintroduction program.





OUR MISSION: Living with Wolves is a 501c3 nonprofit 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.

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- Peter Matthiessen (1920-2014)
- Robert Redford (1936-2025)
- Hon. John Tunney (1934-2018)

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