

WOLF VISIONS

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER FROM MISSION:WOLF

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Aria climbs the rocks above the refuge for a fresh view!

WOLVES WITH A VIEW

Hello and welcome to WOLF VISIONS, Our periodic newsletter about life at Mission:Wolf. The last two years have seen a lot of transitions with both wolves and people. In only 18 months we accepted 19 new canine residents – some wolves and some wolf-dogs – all in need of a permanent home.

Three of these Illiamna, Arrow, and Zephir are the highlight of this issue. In early summer 2009 M:W agreed to take in eight wolf pups from Bear Country, a Wildlife Safari Park. The depressed

economy caused the pups to not be sellable and they were in need of a sanctuary. In July 2009, volunteer Dave Nora traveled many hours and successfully transported eight, four month old wolf pups to M:W. Four were Arctic wolves and four were grey wolves and all were very fearful.

Resident Magpie and Abraham instantly adopted the pups who eagerly looked up to them for support. Just as the puppies were starting to settle into life at the refuge Arrow's sister, Lil'Hailey, was discovered with a severe wound

on her back and was taken into the vet building for care. A week later we found that one of the grey wolves had died overnight. The next day two more were sick and died at the vet a day later.

Quick action by staff and vets isolated the 5 remaining virus-stricken pups. Aria was the worst and although he was unconscious for over a day, he made full recovery (as you can see him on the rocks above). The test came back to reveal it was Parvovirus. The three strongest pups were raised

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Featured Wolves: Zephir, Illiamna, and Arrow



Arctic Wolf Zephir



Arctic Wolf Illiamna



Grey Wolf Arrow

Visit us on the web at:

- www.missionwolf.com
- www.youtube.com/missionwolfsanctuary
- www.youtube.com/tracyanebrooks
- <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/beneficiaries/30372>

Mission:Wolf - Education vs. Extinction

A non-profit 501(c)3 organization created in 1988

Wolf Sanctuary

Born into cages and imprinted by humans, the wolves and wolf-dog crosses who come to the refuge cannot be returned to the wild. Mission:Wolf, located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of Southern Colorado, provides a quiet home far from pavement and people. They are given room to run in large natural enclosures with diverse terrain. We feed them raw meat on a feast and famine cycle. Male wolves are vasectomized or neutered to prevent future generations of captive born wolves. The refuge also houses a horse rescue facility where a few abandoned or neglected horses can get a second lease on life. Habitat expansion is a continual process dependent on the availability of land, labor, funds, and fencing.

Wolf Education Tour

Mission:Wolf operates a national education program that allows thousands of people across the U.S the chance to meet a live wolf. This experience often instills respect for wolves, wildlife, and nature. Our unique and informative program featuring Ambassador Wolves annually reaches over 50,000 people and has been viewed by millions via media specials. Our focus is to dispel the many myths and fears associated with the wolf, to promote an understanding of the wolfs' key role in the ecosystem, and to show why wild animals do not make happy pets. To set up an Ambassador Wolf Program in your area, please visit our website and fill out the Program Request Form.

Sustainability

Visitors to the refuge can learn many ways to leave a light footprint on the earth. Mission:Wolf is completely off the grid. Solar power provides electricity and powers our water pump and well. A gravity-fed spring supplies water. Xeriscaping* reduces water consumption. Organic greenhouses provide fresh produce. Composting and recycling minimize waste. A home-built processor filters used vegetable oil into fuel. All buildings are designed to use passive solar heating and cooling and are constructed with local, recycled, re-used or discarded materials.

* Xeriscaping: : a landscaping method developed for arid and semiarid climates that utilizes water-conserving techniques.

Conservation

With the help of caring volunteers and generous donors, M:W has secured 200+ acres of protected land, including a three acre village for visitors, 50 acres of fenced wolf habitat, and 150 acres placed in conservation for native wildlife. Additionally, the wolves enjoy a buffer of more than 240 acres owned by friends of M:W. With education and understanding we hope one day wild wolves and people will co-exist and that sanctuaries for captive wolves will be obsolete. When that day comes we intend to tear down the fencing so generations can enjoy a nature center overlooking the Sangre de Cristos Mountains and San Isabel National Forest.



Visiting Mission:Wolf

The sanctuary is open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm for educational tours year round. After receiving a tour from one of our volunteer staff, visitors are free to explore the sanctuary on their own, take photos, and browse the gift shop, provided that they obey all posted signs and do not disturb the wolves. Miles of open space allow visitors to hike across the adjacent National Forest.

Visitors and guests are welcome and encouraged to get involved and help, from feeding the wolves and building fence to keeping the sanctuary clean and assisting in volunteer projects. Although we do not charge an admission fee to visit, tour, or camp, donations are appreciated and are vital to ensure the future of our wolves and the sanctuary. Near our parking area, there is flat space available for visitors wishing to camp. As our resources are limited, we ask that you make an effort to be as self-sufficient as possible: bring your own food and supplies, pack out your trash, etc.

The primitive camping area includes a campfire ring, benches, and three communal picnic tables. While we are happy to provide guests with drinking water, the water system at M:W is fed by a solar powered pump, so our water supply is limited. We therefore ask that campers bring as much of their own water or other beverages as possible, so as not to overburden our water supply.

Mission: Wolf is located at over 9200 feet of elevation. Weather can be unpredictable, mountain storms can be intense, as well as the summer sun and wind. Come prepared for the weather and the elevation: don't forget sunscreen, and remember to drink plenty of water. M:W is about a 45 minute drive from Westcliffe, and over an hour's drive from Walsenburg. Cell phone reception is intermittent, although one can usually get a signal by hiking or driving to the top of a nearby hill.

While it is usually possible to drive in and out in a two-wheel-drive vehicle, there are approximately 15 miles of dirt roads between M:W and the nearest paved road, and these can become impassable at very short notice due to rain or snow. It is wise to bring extra food, water, and clothing, in case a sudden storm results in you spending more time in your vehicle than anticipated. Visit our website, call, or email for more information.



School group during a visit with Illiamna

Sustainability

To live sustainably is to “meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” For humans, sustainability is the potential for the long-term maintenance of our well being. Mission:Wolf operates by utilizing all available resources effectively and works to reduce waste at every opportunity. Mission:Wolf is self-sustaining through our use of solar power, passive heating systems, a greenhouse, and efficient buildings all created with recycled materials.

Due to the remote location of the refuge, we are off the power grid, and therefore must be self-sufficient for all our power needs. Solar power is a convenient, economical, and environmentally friendly way of meeting our needs for electricity. Everything from our computers to our power tools to our water pumps run off our solar system. Excess power generated throughout the day is stored in battery banks and can then be used to light the buildings during the night. In the event that we need an unusually large amount of electricity, or if we go for several days of poor weather without adequate sunlight, a backup generator can provide power to recharge our batteries and pump water. However, between the efficiency of the solar system and the willingness of staff and visitors to limit power use wherever possible, the generator is rarely needed.

Passive heating systems make use of the sun as a heat source to keep a building warm without the need for stoves or other heating devices. All of the buildings at Mission:Wolf are designed with large, south-facing windows to let in sunlight

to keep us warm during the day, even on a cold day. In addition, the buildings are well insulated and dug into the hillside so the north walls are earth-bermed, which helps keep much of the heat indoors, greatly reducing the amount of firewood we need to burn for heat during the winter.

All of the buildings at Mission:Wolf have been constructed out of scrap, recycled, or second hand materials. Volunteer staff and visiting groups gave their time to construct our facilities, which currently consist of a visitor center, an office with a downstairs tool shop, a veterinary building, a community kitchen/bath, and two bunkhouses that provide housing for our core staff. For other volunteer staff staying mid to long term at Mission:Wolf, there are several teepees that provide dependable shelter with minimal environmental impact. Three small teepees provide living space for staff during spring, summer, and fall. Three larger teepees have been equipped with wood stoves, and can continue to be occupied through the winter. Our largest tipi is set aside for visitors, and is well suited as a shelter for visiting groups should they be caught in extreme weather.

At Mission:Wolf, we strive to be as close to self-sufficient as possible. This even applies to our food. While it would be exceedingly difficult to grow all of our own food, indoor growing space in a greenhouse and our community kitchen, and an outdoor vegetable garden provide us with freshly grown organic herbs and vegetables. This provides healthy, tasty additions to our diet, as well as reducing the amount of food we need to purchase to feed our staff. This can be especially

helpful during the summer and fall: times when the output of our garden and greenhouse space are high, and we have numerous staff to help with summer projects and visitors. In addition to the direct nutritional and financial benefits of growing our own food, the greenhouse and garden offer volunteers and students a great opportunity to learn about gardening and agriculture. Our hope is it will inspire people to grow some of their own food at home.

Mission:Wolf also recycles everything possible. Our glass, cans, and plastic containers are taken to EcoCycle, a Boulder based recycling center. Cardboard can now be recycled locally in Westcliffe. All our organic waste is composted and used in the garden. We strive to teach people about the benefits of a sustainable lifestyle and how they can live more sustainably.



A group of volunteers install a new solar panel under the windmill at the farm

Wolves with a View: Illiamna, Arrow and Zephir

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by Abe and Maggie as the newest members of the Ambassador Pack. During the summer of 2009 the three pups would cautiously approach visitors. Illiamna was the most brave and curious about the people who would come into his home for the visits. As a result, it was decided that he would accompany Abe and Maggie on the Wolf Bus for the fall 2009 tour of the northeast. At his first program, where he met hundreds of people at Cornell University, he became playful and relished the attention he was receiving. Throughout the rest of the tour he learned what a river, lake and ocean are all while being a teacher to the thousands of people who came to the presentations. The tour

that year ended at the 2009 Defenders of Wildlife Carnivore Conference in Denver. At the conference, wildlife biologists and wolf enthusiasts alike had the opportunity to meet and learn from Abe, Maggie, and Illiamna.

When the tour was over, Abe, Maggie, and Illiamna were reunited with Arrow and Zephir. The five of them continued to live together until the summer of 2010. As the pups matured Arrow started to challenge Abe for the role of alpha in the pack. For both animals safety we decided to separate them, moving Abe and Maggie to a new enclosure and keeping Illiamna, Arrow, and Zephir together as a pack. To the staffs surprise Zephir, who is the most shy around people, was

brave enough to start exploring the roof of the Old Kitchen that they had access to in their enclosure. Zephir and Illiamna could occasionally be found together on the roof getting a fresh view of the refuge! (see photo) The three pups have matured and still live together in a large enclosure in the lower half of the refuge. Frequently, all three can be seen playing or sleeping together on the hillside. They will still cautiously approach select visitors and staff. The other two wolves that survived the Parvo virus, Aria and Lil' Hailey, currently live together in an enclosure of their own. All five animals seem content and happy with life at the refuge.



How Do Wolves Give Fish Cold Water?

Trophic Cascade

Since the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park in 1995, we have learned much about the effect large carnivores have on an ecosystem. In the past it was thought that an ecosystem was built from the bottom up... with plant life as the basis from which everything grew. Once healthy plants were established, insects, small rodents, birds, larger herbivores and finally the top predators fell into a balance with each other. Almost all conservation and reintroduction efforts were based on this idea. In a damaged area, biologists would first try to rebuild the plant life before doing anything else.

However, some ecosystems could not be fixed before reintroducing an endangered top-level animal. In Yellowstone National Park, the US Fish and Wildlife Service was required by the Endangered Species Act to reintroduce wolves. In the years since the wolf reintroduction, Yellowstone has become a premiere scientific laboratory for wilderness observation and ecosystem recovery. Scientists have come from around the world to watch the effect wild wolves have on the park.

We have discovered that an ecological effect called the **trophic cascade** has taken over Yellowstone, with the wolves initiating a more natural ecosystem balance than has been seen in over 65 years.

The idea of a trophic cascade is relatively

basic. The term “trophic” refers to the different levels of a food chain (with the plants being one trophic level, insects the next, all the way up the ladder). However, the “cascade” forces us to look at the traditional food chain from a different perspective. Picture a small stream flowing through the woods – then the stream comes to a waterfall, or cascade. As the stream falls over the edge of the cascade, it hits a rock and splits, then each of those waterfalls hits another rock and splinters again. You end up with a single stream at the top scattering out into many cascades. Now, put the two terms together: trophic cascade.

We are learning that a large carnivore at the top of the food chain is just like the little stream – its effects on the rest of the ecosystem splinter out over all of the trophic levels. In other words, when wild wolves return to an ecosystem, by chasing and hunting their prey and competing with other species, they help restore balance to the ecosystem.

Since wild wolves have returned to Yellowstone, the elk and deer are stronger, the aspens and willows are healthier and the grasses taller. For example, when wolves chase elk during the hunt, the elk are forced to run faster and farther. As the elk run, their hooves aerate the soil, allowing more grasses to grow. Since the elk cannot remain stationary for too long, aspens and willows in one area are not heavily grazed,

and therefore can fully recover between migrations. As with the rest of the country, coyote populations were nearly out of control in Yellowstone before the wolves returned. Now, the coyotes have been out-competed and essentially reduced by 80 percent in areas occupied by wolves. The coyotes that do remain are more skittish and wary. With fewer coyotes hunting small rodents, raptors like the eagle and osprey have more prey and are making a comeback. The endangered grizzly bears successfully steal wolf kills more often than not, thus having more food to feed their cubs.

In essence, we have learned that by starting recovery at the top with predators like wolves, the whole system benefits. Recently it's been shown a healthy ecosystem absorbs more carbon dioxide than other ecosystems. This means that wolf reintroduction will even help with Global Warming and the impact that greenhouse gases are having on our atmosphere. A wild wolf population actually makes for a stronger, healthier and more balanced ecosystem. From plants, to insects, to people, we all stand to benefit from wolves. With only 5% of our nation's wilderness left, people are recognizing the important roles complete ecosystems play in keeping all of us healthy.



How You Can See A Wild Wolf...

Have you ever wanted to catch a glimpse of a wild wolf? If the answer is yes, you're in luck. With the amazing recovery wolves have made in the US over the past 10 years, it is now easier to find them than it has been in over a century. Thousands of people every year have the privilege of seeing a wolf in its natural habitat. Now remember, that doesn't guarantee that you will find a wolf whenever or wherever you look. It takes dedication, persistence and the right equipment to be successful.

The most likely place to find wild wolves is in the Northeastern corner of Yellowstone National Park or Alaska. Since being reintroduced, wolf packs have moved through the Lamar Valley and spend most of the year rearing their pups, hunting and socializing within a couple of miles of the road. When you reach Yellowstone, ask a Ranger where you might find the wolves, and then keep a keen eye out for large groups of people with spotting scopes. The best months to spot wolves are December through March when less foliage and snow make tracking easier. The most opportune time of day to see the wolves are dawn and dusk. Be sure to take warm clothes, sunscreen, water, binoculars, a spotting scope if you have one, and lots of patience. The most important thing to remember is to respect the wolves and other wildlife and not to feed any animals. They need lots of room and you probably won't get closer than ½ mile away from them.

So, go out and enjoy! Some of the M:W staff's fondest moments with wolves have been in the wild. Come to the refuge, get a close look at their eyes and learn about their personalities, then go see them in the wild where they belong. For the first time in our history, any individual with a bit of patience and the ability to travel may gain a personal experience with a wild animal. There are many organizations with expert guides that provide education while leading people in search of wildlife.

The Ambassador Wolf Program

"I forget what I hear - I remember what I see - I understand what I touch."

In response to continued requests from Americans seeking a chance to connect with nature and learn about wolves, the Ambassador Wolf Program continues to travel across the country each spring and fall. In a busy twelve weeks, the wolf bus will cover more than 15,000 miles and reach over 50,000 people from the Idaho Rockies to the forests of New England. After two decades of nationwide education, the Ambassador Program has witnessed the return of wild wolves to twelve states. Now that wolves have returned to the wild, the need for public education and Ambassador Wolf programs is greater than ever. Since Gray Wolves have been removed from the Endangered Species List, some states have released permits for wolf hunting. It is all the more important for people to understand what

wolves really are, and how to co-exist with them. People are slowly recognizing the benefits of having large predators in our ecosystems and how this will improve their future. To witness our society's attempt to adjust to living with large predators again is an inspiration to millions of people. Many Americans desire to possess the things they cherish. As public interest in nature increases, so does private ownership of wild animals. Today, there are more wolves confined to life in a cage than one can find living in the wild of the United States. Ex-pet wolves and wolf-dog crosses are being cast away at alarming rates. Many end up homeless or are simply destroyed before they reach three-years-old. Mission:Wolf takes in all the wolves and wolf-dog crosses that we can, however, we

turn away homeless animals each week and have turned down over 6,000 requests over the years. The overall message of the Ambassador Wolf Program is one of respect for all things wild and free. Direct interactions with live wolves illustrate wolf behavior, the differences between wolves and dogs, and the need for wolves to return to the wilderness areas of the world. Experience has taught us that the stare of a live wolf relates this message louder and stronger than words ever will. The Ambassador Wolves of Mission:Wolf have visited over 1,000,000 individuals in formal programs. Each program is structured to accommodate individual audience needs and interests. Our approach is straight forward without political overtones and focuses on commonsense biology and

Photo By: Jeff Kollbrunner



Tracy with Illi, Maggie, and Abe at a presentation

sociology. To set up an Ambassador Wolf Program in your area, please visit our website and fill out the Program Request Form. Due to limited time and resources, we can only respond to about 20% of these requests, so please be patient and persistent. Planning usually

needs to start months in advance, so don't wait too long. And remember... the more programs that can be setup in your area, the more likely it is that we can come. For questions, please write, email or call the refuge.

2010 Fall Tour Recap

The fall tour of 2010 was a special one in the 20 plus year history of the Ambassador Wolf Program. For the first time Kent and Tracy took an entire pack on the road, five wolves and wolf hybrids total. Abe and Magpie are seasoned veterans of life on the road but along with them were Zeab, Apollo and Farah, who at the time were only six to seven months old and new to the tour. Abe and Maggie were able to visit some of their favorite stomping grounds, the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean included, while Zeab, Farah and Apollo were able to experience those places for the first time. With over 20 presentations across six different northeast states, it was a daunting task to care for five animals on the bus and the 35 plus animals back at the refuge in Colorado. With dedication, a lot of hard work and a little help from some friends, the Mission:Wolf team were able to safely teach and inspire thousands of people.



Kent with Abe, Farah, Zeab, and Apollo at Lake Erie on Fall Tour

Ambassador Wolf Education 2011

Requests for wolf programs are sometimes overwhelming – so many people from Coast-to-Coast have hopes of an experience with the wolves that we need to turn away many. We have requests for events in over twenty states and limited time and funds to respond with.

2011 will see the wolf bus rolling from Seattle to Cape Cod with events in Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Kansas, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and possibly New Mexico.

In April the bus has plans to visit native tribes next to Olympic National Park. Then we will work our way south to celebrate the return of wild wolves to Oregon. In May we will be in Steamboat Springs and Aspen before returning to the refuge for summer events.

In October the bus will start out with events in western New York including our 23rd annual program at Cornell University. We work our way east to Cape Cod and then south to Rhode Island. There are discussions of returning to Wash DC to meet with political representatives. We will celebrate Halloween with events at Mohonk Mountain House near New York City. On our return journey we will work in both Kansas and Colorado before returning to the refuge for the winter. To see a color photo of Ambassador Wolves in action, look at National Geographic Magazine March 2011, page 44.



Illiamna stepping out of the Wolf Bus. Photo by Vincent J Musi

New Arrivals

Zeab and Farah

Zeab and Farah came to us in June of 2010 from Seacrest Wolf Preserve, a facility in Florida which breeds strictly for zoos and educational facilities. That spring, Seacrest contacted us, asking if we could take in two puppies, in the hopes that they could grow up to become ambassadors. We agreed, and, in June, our staff picked up the six week old black puppies when they arrived at Denver Airport. We decided to name the female puppy Farah, the Arabic word for "joy," and the male became Zeab, Arabic for "wolf." Because they had been hand raised and socialized to humans from an early age, Zeab and Farah were happy puppies, curious and outgoing around both the volunteers and visitors. When the puppies first arrived, Leo and Luna, two of our more outgoing wolf dogs, served as adoptive parents, and Zeab and Farah lived at the Farm with Kent and Tracy. After living there for a month and a half, Zeab and Farah were joined by a third puppy, Apollo. When they reached four months of age, Zeab, Farah, and Apollo moved into a full sized enclosure at the refuge, giving them lots of room to run and play. These days, Farah is the most outgoing and mischievous of the puppies, and loves to find new things and people to nibble on. Zeab is somewhat more reserved, usually waiting to say hello until after his sister, but, with patience, he will usually come around to greet staff and visitors. Being over a week older, Zeab and Farah have both enjoyed treating the smaller Apollo as their personal chew toy. The puppies have had a very social upbringing and are not so shy around strangers and we thought they were ideal candidates for our Ambassador Wolf Program. In the Fall of 2010 Zeab and Farah joined Maggie, Abe and Apollo on the Wolf Bus for the tour of the northeast. Hopefully they will be able to continue to tour as ambassadors for years to come. This way, they would become teachers to thousands of people, and be able to spread our message of respect for the wolf and nature



Max

Max was born in May of 2008, and sold as a wolf dog cross to a couple living in Boulder, CO. His family tried very hard to give him a good, loving home. He had a big secure yard, was raised by two family dogs, and was fed the best food available. As Max matured, he became more independent, and it became very difficult for him to travel. He also got into a conflict with the neighbors' dogs. The couple saw the writing on the wall

and realized that Max would not be suitable as a traveling pet. A professional dog trainer they were working with recommended Mission:Wolf and assisted in the transport here. Max is a large, black phase grey wolf with no sign of any dog. When he arrived, he was placed next to Raven and her two adopted yearling pups, Lil' Hailey Star and Aria, in the hopes of introducing them as a pack. It soon became apparent that Max and Aria would not get along, so we are currently looking into other potential companions.



Minigan

Minigan arrived at Mission:Wolf on December 15th, 2010. He came to us from Dumb Friends League, a Denver based dog shelter where he had been labeled a wolf-dog and was going to be put down. We believe he was 11 months old upon arrival at the refuge. Minigan has been living with staff in the community kitchen and vet building, along with Kona and Asia, two of the Mission:Wolf dogs. While Minigan has a few wolf-like behaviors and characteristic, we believe him to be mostly German Shepherd. Minigan has a very unique and interesting personality and staff have affectionately nicknamed him 'Goofy.' He is very shy and cautious around new people but once he is comfortable with someone he is very sweet and loving. Minigan is learning how to live the life of a dog and our hope is that one day, under the right circumstances, we can find him a proper home.



Zeab and Farah at 15 weeks



Photo By: Scott Dye

Apollo

Apollo came to us from Boulder, CO, where he had been taken in as a pet by a young man after being put up for adoption on Craigslist as a Husky/German Shepherd cross. The new owner had to drive all the way to Spokane, WA to pick up little Apollo, who at the time was still so young that he needed to be bottle fed. The two bonded very closely, but soon enough the wolf in Apollo began to show. At a routine checkup, a vet identified Apollo as likely having a good amount of wolf in him, and, after researching the difficulties of taking care of wolf-dogs, Apollo's owner realized that he would be unable to care for his puppy as he grew up to be an adult wolf or wolf-dog. Further research also led the young man to the conclusion that Apollo would have a much easier time accepting a new home the sooner he was moved. So, after looking into possible wolf rescues, Apollo's owner decided to give his young puppy a home at Mission:Wolf. Apollo arrived at three months of age, and we placed him with our other wolf puppies, Zeab and Farah. The puppies all took a liking to each other right away, and together they will be able to grow up as pack. Apollo, being a week younger than his new siblings, was the smallest when he arrived, and quickly became Zeab and Farah's chew toy. Nevertheless, they all enjoy playing together. Apollo traveled on the Wolf Bus in the fall of 2010 to the northeast along with Abe, Maggie, Zeab, and Farah as part of the Ambassador Pack. Our hope is that he will continue to be an Ambassador for years to come.



Zeab and Farah when they first arrived at M:W

Mememorials

Kawh

4/18/1995-2/14/2010



Kawh was a black, male born April, 18th 1995. He was part of a litter of Whisper's who, attempting to make a den, ran into a huge boulder that prevented her from digging any deeper than a foot or two. Instead of finding a new spot, she birthed her puppies in a small depression she made at the base of a tree. The pups were exposed to extreme snowy, wet, and cold April weather. Whisper was an inexperienced mother who was busy worrying about what was going on in other pens and frequently left the pups exposed in the cold.

Of the five pups born, two died within a few days. The others were moved to secure place and hand raised. Kawh and his two brothers, Merlin and Druid, survived to be beautiful black adult wolves. Kawh lived with Beorn and the rest of the Driveway Five until one winter Kawh took advantage of Beorn's being injured and kicked him out of the pack. Kawh was then the alpha male of the pack and Tierra's new mate. Most alpha wolves are alpha out of respect versus bullying, but not Kawh. His lead his new pack by bullying Skinwalker and Porini into submission.

The very next breeding season the two remaining boys, Porini and Skinwalker, had enough of Kawh's bullying and tried to mate with Tierra. Kawh would not stand for this. He fought with Skinwalker until we stepped in and moved Skinwalker to a new home, leaving Kawh and Tierra together.

Years later, when Kent had a pretty bad accident, we needed to call in the helicopter for evacuation. Kawh became aggressive and tried to climb the fence to get the helicopter. He obviously knew that "his dad" Kent had been really hurt. He howled a lot until Kent returned and at last was well. Kawh & Tierra were happy until she passed away in May 09. We later gave him a beautiful white female wolf named Keechee. She loves it but he seemed to just be happy in his home. Keechee was very loving and caring for him as he became older and more ill until he finally passed. We know that he is finally free to run as wolves were meant to be.

Mowgli was a male gray wolf born on April 11th 1995. Mowgli was born jet black with a bright white chest patch. He was shy around people and only occasionally venture towards the fence to meet visitors. Despite his shyness, Mowgli was a strong willed wolf and left a lasting impression on everyone that met his intimidating, bright yellow gaze.

Mowgli grew up with his brother, Ned, and another male named Druid. They lived next to the veterinary building, also called the "Puppy Palace." Also housed in the Puppy Palace was a six-year-old female, Raven (the first), who had lost her position as alpha and needed a new home, so she was introduced to the boys. Raven soon became alpha of her new pack. The pups looked to her for food and attention. As Mowgli matured, he and Raven began to flirt and soon they were established mates. Raven and Mowgli enjoyed many years of ruling the roost together.

Sadly, Raven passed away in 2000, leaving her mate alone to keep Ned and Druid in line. By the time February of 2003 rolled around, both Ned and Druid decided they had enough of being sec-

ond and third ranking. The two boys revolted and kicked Mowgli out of the pack. Luckily, he moved to the northernmost enclosure with a beautiful white wolf, Mountain Spirit. He enjoyed the companionship of his new mate for many years, and his overly excited attitude towards his feed bucket made him famous with the staff. Mowgli spent the rest of his days stalking his jealous brothers Ned and Druid through the fence from his new uphill throne.

At Mission: Wolf we provide our resident wolves with a peaceful home, as near their natural habitat as possible. It is hard for us to watch our wolf family/friends die, yet part of our goal is to also want to prevent more wolves from being born in captivity. Once born in captivity, they are imprinted by the scent of humans and may never be released. As difficult as it is to see our beautiful wolves pass, we know that they are at last free. His memory will remain in our hearts forever.

Mowgli

4/11/1995-11/23/2009



Alf, beloved dog of Rachael Messiter. ???/???-9/14/2010



Piper, beloved dog of Irene LaRusso. 9/9/1996-7/5/2010



Paco, beloved dog of Betty Brooks.



Quandry, Kreutzer family dog 7/1995-7/15/2010

SUMMER AT THE REFUGE

Life at the refuge during the summer is exciting and busy. The beautiful mountain weather in the summer allows us to work on larger projects that the winter months don't. Over the years Mission:Wolf has become a popular stop for youth programs, such as Road Less Traveled and Science Discovery, and for summer camp day trips. Many college kids from all over the world will spend the summer with us while taking a break from their studies or as part of an internship. There is never a dull summer day!



Summer Projects...

Everything at the refuge, from wolf fences to community buildings, have been built by volunteers. Some come as professionals, some as novices, but a common goal unites them. Volunteers are encouraged to learn new skills which creates a unique and positive learning environment.



Fence building and maintenance is an on going project



Getting hands dirty while working on the horse pasture



The wolves eat 1,000 pounds of meat of week. Here a group helps to prepare wolf food



Volunteers Travis and Andrew constructing a new shed made out of recycled materials



A group photo around a completed Gong. Volunteers from France, Japan, and America all contributed to create a piece of art for all to enjoy. It works well to signal dinner time!

Experiential Education...

Education vs. Extinction. Mission:Wolf exists to educate people. Over the years, we've learned that people learn more from personal experiences than all the books, lectures, or movies combined. We come for the wolves but most of us leave having learned valuable life lessons, from vehicle maintenance to interpersonal communication and everything inbetween.



Its hard to say who is enjoying this visit more; the kids or Abe!



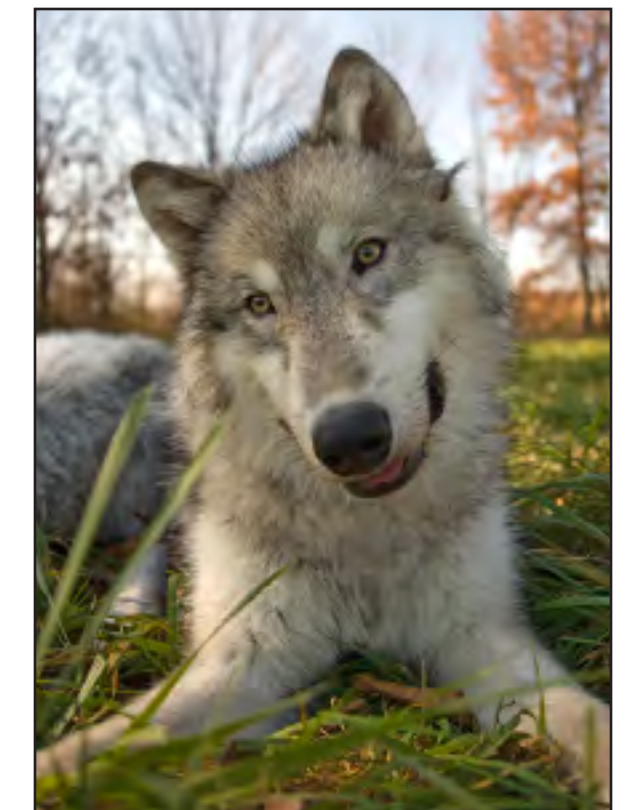
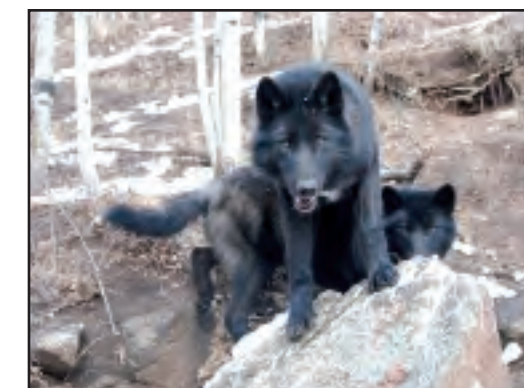
Volunteers and visitors pose for a group photo after a hard days work



Often a face-to-face encounter is the most powerful and memorable experience groups have

Cultural Immersion...

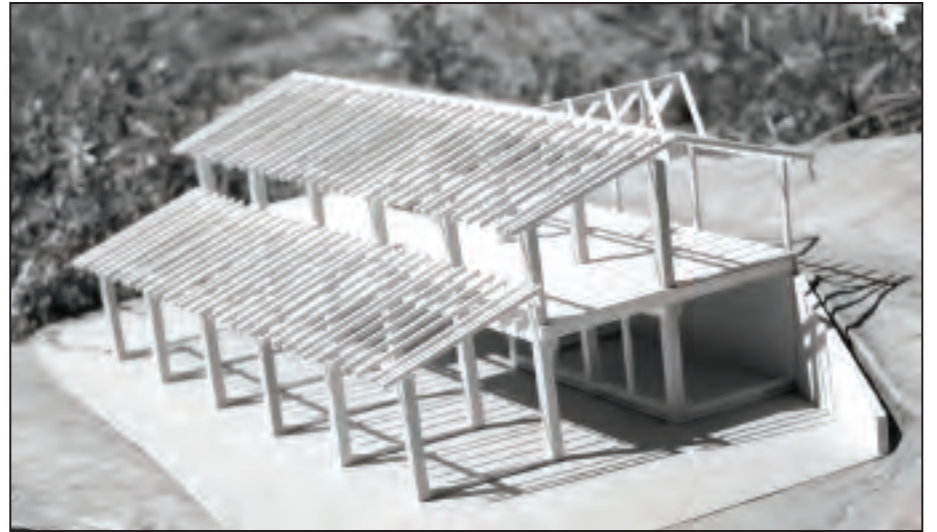
Frequently Mission:Wolf hosts international volunteers. They come from all over the world for a few months to a year. They get introduced to our culture and us to theirs. A unique international culture is created where often multiple languages are spoken around the dinner table or while working on a project



Illiamna Photo By: Monty Sloan

What We're Working On... New Horse Barn and Veterinary Building

Mission:Wolf frequently receives horses that have been injured or are just old but are not ready to be put down. We will never put an animal down before its time and as a result we sometimes need to care for a few horses for months. Our goal is to create a solar-powered, earth-bermed, 3500 sq. ft barn that will provide shelter for five horses, a food storage area, a vet room for horses and wolves, bathroom, hayloft, workroom and caretaker apartment. This facility will be used to increase our ability to care for more unwanted horses as well as provide a space for groups to learn more about horses from our own herd. Included will be a spacious place where we can invite animal professionals to share their expertise on animal behavior and to provide veterinarians an on-site area to work on both wolves and horses. A larger rodent proof storage area will improve our ability to plan ahead and purchase bulk quantities, allowing us to store more food for the refuge animals. In 2009 we acquired the framing materials, finalized blueprints, obtained building permits and leveled the ground to prepare for the construction of a foundation and large retaining wall. In 2011 we anticipate completing the foundation retaining wall and erecting the primary structure. We have groups lined up this year to provide up to 10,000 hours of volunteer labor. We are seeking materials to provide these groups the items required to complete the foundation and exterior finishes. In 2011 we anticipate completing the interior finishes and caretaker apartment. We are in need of funds, building materials to finish a teaching horse barn and this will improve our ability to help animals and provide learning opportunities.



Model by Daniel Lazarek

We own the land, have a small horse shed, and many framing materials, but we need help or money for the following items:

Roof sheathing materials/shingles	Floor decking	Bathroom fixtures
Block foundation retaining wall	Modular apartment for caretakers	Exterior siding
Interior vet room finishes/equipment	Poles 20-30 ft long	Septic System
Horse barn tools and equipment	Horse fencing and gates	Linseed Oil, Paint
Solar power well/solar electrical system	Hardware	Good quality horse trailer

Financial Update

A Financial Recipe for working with wolves and people with success.

We have found that people love to place expectations on everything, sometimes just so we can find failure and justify what we do not like. At Mission:Wolf I have found that by leaving the refuge open at all hours, to all people, at no cost and by not allowing people to use money to gain a personal experience that the result is overwhelming calmness and support. So many folks want to help, we need volunteers to coordinate other volunteers. When people work at something they are interested in and care about they produce fine products in short time. Nonetheless, it still takes money to keep things rolling. With many thanks to Nancy At Sangre Solutions, we have worked hard to record the last six years of work in a way that allows us to illustrate how far we can stretch a dollar. Here is a brief summary of how we utilize every dollar we receive.

2010 Financial Records for Mission:Wolf:

Income:	
Cash	
Donations	\$119,426
In Kind Materials	\$34,785
Membership	\$45,521
Grants	\$29,700
Program Fee	\$33,276
Sales	\$31,592
Interest	\$118
Restricted Income	\$1,500
Total Cash Income	\$295,919
Volunteer Labor	\$1,098,540
Total Income	\$1,394,459

Expenses:		
	Cash	Vol Labor
Transportation	\$30,173	
Facility & Depreciation	\$38,980	\$295,595
Cost of Sales	\$15,008	
Staff Expense	\$20,690	\$186,545
Vol. Supplies & food	\$42,413	
Animal Care	\$35,151	\$188,800
Wolf Education	\$54,208,	\$202,600
Operating – fuel, taxes, etc	\$24,062	\$225,000
Total Cash/Labor	\$260,685	\$1,098,540
Total Expense	\$1,359,225	

Color Me Wild!



“Peaches in the moon”

Color in this scene of MW wolf Peaches in a dreamcatcher moon.

Artwork by Tracy Ane Brooks

Caretaker of the Year: Matt and Tara Ash

Every year at M:W we find many folks who continue to surprise us and find new ways to help support the wolves and the volunteer staff. There are always several that stand out and deserve a newsletter of their own to explain all of the projects they have worked on and support they have offered. Over the last several years Matt and Tara Ash continue to amaze and inspire all of us with their generosity and dedication. It seems like it started around 2003 when they talked their Ohio vet into seeing Maggie and Raven for health certificate renewals – we were on our East Coast tour in the wolf bus. Then they started visiting and volunteering at the refuge and would bring friends and family to help. Soon they sold the house in Ohio, moved to Colorado and although they live 4 hours away they make it down to see the wolves and help several times a year. In 2009, they met us at the Defenders of Wildlife Carnivore Conference in Denver and helped by working at our information and merchandise table. They also assisted getting Maggie, Abe, and Iliamna from the bus to the conference room safely.

Matt and Tara have three large malamute dogs that are their pride and joy at home. It must be something to do with their love of dogs that attract the wolves to both of them. They battle over who gets more attention from the wolves, little do they know that they both get more attention together than many of the staff and other visitors. Several of the wolves now recognize the two as good friends and offer passionate greetings.

Over the years they have done much from buying staff tipis, donating a work truck in beautiful condition and when we broke the motor they paid to get a new one. They haul parts and food for both wolves and people and when we asked them to stop at our vet to pick up supplies they ended up paying off the thousand dollar plus vet bill for emergency work on elder wolf Keechee. She survived and so did the wolves bank account. Their help does not stop with the wolves – when we walk into the feed store for horse supplies we find they have paid off our account and left extra for more food. They live near the DIA Airport and their home is now becoming a rest stop for traveling staff. They are also the first Wolf Caretakers of the Year to agree to join our Board of directors so they can help assure the refuge has a long-lasting future. We wish to extend a big Thank You! to Matt and Tara.



Matt and Tara visiting Maggie

Builder Bob in His Own Words

(How did you find Mission:Wolf) It is a long and a short story. First and foremost, I'd been aware of the reintroductions into Yellowstone, Idaho and Montana (both the soft and hard releases). I have been a fan of wolves over most of my life and always wanted to see one in the wild (to this point in time, I never have). I had hopes that wolves might be migrating to Colorado or that some form of reintroduction might be either in the planning stages or happening. I turned to the internet and looked for wolf reintroduction in Colorado. Suffice it to say that the only site I found back then was SINAPU but all the site talked about was potential re-introduction (someday).

With that, I asked about wolf preserves/refuges in Colorado and lo and behold the first one that popped up on my search engine was Mission:Wolf. I read the website information religiously and became so intrigued that I actually sent my membership in without ever visiting M:W. About a month later, I actually did make it down to Mission:Wolf. My first introduction to humans at M:W was Court, I must say I was so impressed that later that day when I left to come home, I promised Court that I would be back (not sure he really believed me). I came back one month later and have been coming back ever since.

Why do I love M:W? Well, M:W is one of the places I feel I can contribute to the welfare of the wolves and wolf crosses that live at MW. I also feel at peace at MW and I have been extremely fortunate to come to know some very exceptional people that care about the welfare of the wolves and wolf crosses there. In fact, I consider all of you my friends. I consider it my true fortune to know Kent and Tracy, Kathy and staff. Simply, when I am at M:W, I feel complete-I've seen some things in my life and M:W gives me peace. There is a dynamic at Mission:Wolf that you have to experience and once you do it is my theory that will come back again and again. Thus I try to help wherever and whenever I can and I enjoy it!

I have also seen the passing of some of the wolves at M:W and one that I really miss is Sabertooth. Clearly, Abe, Maggie, Raven, Sangre, Guinness, Selway, McKinley and Spirit to name just a few that I've had the fortune to interact with. Simply I feel comfortable and at home at Mission: Wolf. I also have a philosophy: I take nothing from M:W but give to it. BUT, I truly get more from M:W than I give. One visit to M:W and you know that to be true.

A long time ago, my oldest daughter knowing that I've always been a conservationist at heart, gave me a picture of a Wolf in a snow storm. At the bottom of the picture is a saying that I truly believe: "In wilderness is the salvation of mankind". The picture hangs in our family room here in Colorado Springs.

As ever Bob

*This was written by Bob as the response to a simple question; Why Mission:Wolf? Thanks Bob for all you do!



"Builder Bob" with Maggie



Bob getting a big greeting from Maggie and Abe.
The wolves adore Bob

Color Me Wild!



Artwork by Tracy Ane Brooks

"Peaches"

Color in this scene of Peaches in a Dreamcatching Moon.

Thank You!

M:W wouldn't be able to do what it does without the generous contributions of countless people and organizations. To those who are unnamed and have helped us in the past, present, and future we sincerely acknowledge you!

M:W Volunteer Staff:

Adam Smith, Adrien Landon, Agoston Galambos, Alex Liethen, Allison Hughes, Andrew Elmgren, Angel Early, Annie White, Benoit du Reau, Bob Dudik, Brent Baldwin, Brittany Salley-Rains, Bruce Kreutzer, Cari Ellinghaus, Carol Kennedy, Charles Weill, Choena Ellinghaus, Conor Williams, Court Lewis, Dan Lazarek, Danny L'Episcopo, David Kreutzer, David Phillips, Dennis Weber, Denzil Bennett, Derek Jack, Edwardo, Emily Hackman, Gale Motter, Hailey Adams, Hannah Flagg, Hannah Lee, Jacob Brett, Jeff Schwartz, Jeff Wagner, Jenny Wager, John Frushell, Julie Kreutzer, Julien de Cosmi, Justin Gaydek, Kathy Bennet, Kayla Barber, Kent Weber, Koki Nosaka, Liv Visgirola, Lucile Marescot, Luke George, Lynn Donaldson, Madalyn McCay, Madeline Woods, Matt and Tara Ash, Melanie de Posch, Michael Darmstadter Lydon, Miroslav Krenek, Molly Harrison, Nadine Kneip, Nick Shrewsbury, Olivier Guerin, Pat Willis, Paul Cortright, Peter Rose, Pierre Landon, Rachael Messiter, Randy Woods, Roman Landon, Sarah and Lauren Woods, Sherry REI, Stacey Sonnenshein, Stefanie Lehmann-Skidmore, Sumitra Shinde, Tamas Brooks, Timo Ilmen, Timothy Reed, Tracey Schwartz, Tracy Ane Brooks, Travis Moonschein

Volunteers:

Amanda Haning, Mei Jing Craddock, Norm Hanne, Marlena Hanne, Andrew Hoying, Sarah Cleveland, Elizabeth Kain, Nate Zaik, Kyle Schwarz, Robin Abrams, Mark Zika, Laura Thurlow, Peter Butzloff, Christian Marin, Liukara Mariman, Stewart Whitsett, Joseph White, Suzie Stephenson, Jon Tsoiris, Katie McGath, Randel Fitzgerald

Volunteer Groups:

Monarch Center, Northwestern ASB, Boyscout Troop 640, Moondance Adventures, Living Well Transitions, The Road Less Traveled, Colorado University: Science Discovery, The Cottonwood Institute, Outer Edge Performance, The Sierra Club, Mountain Park Environmental Center, Jefferson County Open School, Colorado College Rotary Club, Jessica Shenk, The Student of Colorado College, La Veta High School, Beaver Consulting, Stephen LeFavre, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Aspen Academy, Rye Middle School, DC Oaks High School, Aspen Middle School, Jim Milavec, Junior Crime Stoppers, Best 8 Days, Susan Dunley, Kevin Coursey, Julie Francis, Jenna, The Gadabouts, Spanish Peaks Academy, Developmental Pathways, Telluride Academy, Girl Scouts of the USA, Cottonwood Institute: Foothills, Pueblo Community Resources, Boy Scouts of America, Youth Empowerment, Boyscout Troop 685, Recreational Equipment Inc., Girlscout Troop 163, the Dernoot Family, Colorado College: Breakout, The San Juan Wilderness Program, Melanie Sypher, Kevin, Telluride Mountain School, Pike's Peak Community College

CARETAKERS: Elizabeth McBride, Donna Heyse, First Data Foundation, Anna Peterson, HP & IR Snyder, Brad Vanderburg, Angela Nomellini, Kenneth Olivier, Susan Menz, Williams Crockett, Ted Gorski Memorial, Lynn Donaldson, First Data Foundation, Deborah & Thomas Sarine, Stevan Calvillo, Ralph & Donna Hood, Evelyn & Richard Mercer, Matt & Tara Ash, Marian Findley, Jenn Stone, Karen Byington, Fiona Baldwin, Sascha Rockefeller, Audrey Sturmer, Monarch Center, Mary Lee, TH Distributing, Ryan & Jessica Dean, David & Jean Farmello, Global Impact X4, Alpha Omega Foundation, Nicholas Wargo, Stephens Foundation, Norma Sundin, Wet Mountain Community Foundation, Thelma Clark Memorial, Synovus, Entergey Corp., Steve Young, Carol Lebiezinski, Lynn and John Huydic, James N. Cost Foundation, Elizabeth Stanley, in memory of Dr. Jacklyn Graber, Dr. Bill Hancock, Dr. Hecht, Dr. Gaynor, Bellcrest Animal Hospital, Julie Sperry- The Cliffs Veterinary Clinic, Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Sanctuary

EDUCATORS: Pamela Brown, Jane Cane, Alice Victor, Irene Larusso, Sharon Mcguire, Del Nelson & Dixon Brooke, Jennifer McCarthy, MPH Productions, High Desert Museum, Bill Gawlowski, Harry at Nomadics Tipi, Mary Ann Matteson, Red Empress Foundation, Boulder Animal Hospital, Snowbird Resort, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Kelly Grennan, Mohonk Mtn. House, Lee Blake, Beaver Lake Nature Center, Genessee Country Museum, Wayne Cadden, Defenders of Wildlife, National Audubon Society Centers, Nora Maloney, Sierra Club, Tanglewood Nature Center, Jeff and Anna Kollbrunner, Mary Cicale, Dr. Lawrence, Ann Michaels, Dave & Peggy Nora, Paul & Linda Schutt, Helix LTD, Bill & Diane Reed, Peggy Knapp, Bob at Fordland, Jan Fennell "Dog Listener", Acorn Media, Vincent J Musi of National Geographic



Board Members with Illiamna

GENEROUS LOCAL SUPPORT: Valley Ace Lumber, Hough Electric, Metro Solar, Al and Simone Stucco, Boulder Glass, Solar Solutions, Wet Mountain Tribune, Westcliffe Petroleum, Colorado Mountain Bank, Westcliffe Supermarket, The Chop Shop, Western Tire, Creative Minds, The Feed Barn, Fine Line Graphics, Harald and Lisa Frank, Mountain Mail, Sky and Linda Clark, Sparrowhawk Photography, Paul Biron, Nancy and Jerry at Sangre Solutions, Huajatolla Co-op, local Huerfano and Custer County ranchers and neighbors, Enos Yoder and family, Jane and Elton of Sunflower Natural Foods, Jeff and Karen Wilson- La Plaza Hotel, Phil and Heidi Ensley

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Kent Weber, Tracy Ane Brooks, David Kreutzer, Tracey Schwartz, Sarah Woods, Tamas Christman, Randy Woods, Julie Kreutzer, Jeff Schwartz

Wolf Caretakers

Welcome to the membership corner. I'm Carol Kennedy, membership coordinator. I have been volunteering here at Mission:Wolf for 6 years. I try to volunteer once a week, helping with office work.(or any other project that needs help). As you can imagine membership is the lifeblood of Mission:Wolf. A membership means that you make a donation that provides for the care and feeding of the 36 wonderful wolf and wolf dog mixes. In return you receive an 8x10 color photo of your wolf, their biography, a Mission:Wolf decal, and a newsletter. All donations to Mission:Wolf are tax deductible, your receipt will be included in your packet. We feed about 1000 pounds of meat a week to our wolves. The wolves all get a small daily breakfast that contains vitamins and any other supplements they may need. Then they get a big feed twice a week. This feeding is as near to what they would have in the wild as possible. We have accepted three new puppies this year, Farah, Zeab and Apollo. It is so cool to have puppies. We never let our wolves breed, since those puppies must live in captivity.



Carol with Aria

REMEMBER-wolf memberships make great birthday, anniversary, and Christmas or memorial gifts. It's a great way to say "I'm thinking about you". You get the tax receipt and your friend gets the wolf packet as a gift from you. THANK YOU so much for your contributions.



Become a Wolf Caretaker

One of the best ways you can help out Mission:Wolf is to become a **Wolf Caretaker**. With over 30 hungry wolves to feed, we go through nearly 1,000 lbs. of raw meat each week. While most of the meat comes from deceased livestock donated by local ranchers, this is still a daunting and expensive prospect. The money to pay for this and to operate the refuge comes from our wolf caretaker program. Please consider becoming a member of Mission:Wolf today, and helping to feed our wolves.

Which wolf would you like to sponsor? (please circle)

A one year membership includes:

- * An 8x10 full color photo of your wolf
- * Your wolf's biography
- * A sample of your wolf's naturally shed fur
- * A Mission:Wolf logo sticker
- * A subscription to the Mission:Wolf newsletter

Abraham, Amulet, Apollo, Aria, Arrow, Asia, Aurora, Batman, Buku, Daisy, Farah, Fenris, Hailey, Illiamna, Keechee, Kona, Luke, Luna, Leo, Minigan, Magpie, Max, McKinley, Mountain Spirit, Nokona, Oreo, Orion, Raven, Sangre, Selway, Soleil, Talon, Texx, Valley Spirit, Zeab, Zephir

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00	Student/ Senior
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40.00	Individual
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00	Family, Group or School
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250.00	Contributor
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500.00	Patron
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1000.00	Feed A Wolf For A Year
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3000.00	Feed A Pack

Please send cash or checks to: Mission:Wolf P.O. Box 1211 Westcliffe, CO 81252

For credit card orders and other gifts including shirts, tote bags, posters and more, please visit our online store.

100% of all profits from the Mission:Wolf online store support the refuge:

www.missionwolf.com/store

As a small sanctuary, we're not able to purchase and stock many gifts. Now, thanks to Cafepress.com, you can purchase hundreds of different items with your favorite Mission:Wolf resident wolf on them.

20% of Cafepress profits go to Mission:Wolf:

www.cafepress.com/missionwolf

For E-Bay Sellers: Opportunity to raise money for Mission:Wolf
E-Bay Giving Works Program, MissionFish.

You can designate that **5% - 100%** of your profit from a given sold item can be donated to Mission:Wolf through MissionFish.