

WOLF VISIONS

Volume 30

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER FROM MISSION: WOLF



Mission: Wolf
 PO Box 1211
 Westcliffe, CO 81252

Nonprofit Org
 US Postage Paid
 Permit #63

Email info@missionwolf.org to receive your newsletter digitally

FEATURED WOLF

Illiamna (pictured left) steals the hearts of volunteers and his new companion.

Morning greeting to the sunrise! Illiamna's Arctic wolf heritage shows in his light coloring and small ears (C. Potts)

THANK YOU
 Howls of gratitude for your continued support!

Mission: Wolf

Mission: Wolf is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that connects people with nature using hands-on experiential education. Through volunteer internships and education programs, we inspire individuals to become stewards of the earth. While providing a home for rescued wolves and horses, we create opportunities for growth through community service and personal interactions with animals. We value education, sustainability, and improving relationships between people, animals, and the world around them.

In This Issue

Sanctuary

*New Pairings
 Bring Happiness to
 Old Wolves*

Page 4

Education

Horses Teach Us a Thing or Two About Wolves

Page 7



Sustainability

Sustainability in Your Own Home

Page 11

Table of Contents

- pg. 2 M:W Director's Page
- pg. 3 Featured Wolf, Crimzon Fund Update
- pg. 4 New Pairings, New Arrivals
- pg. 5 Memorials
- pg. 6 Colorado Wolves
- pg. 7 Ambassador Update, Horse Education
- pg. 8-9 The Family Behind The "Pack"
- pg. 10 Jane's Studio
- pg. 11 Bring Sustainability To Your Own Home
- pg. 12 In Memory, Wish List
- pg. 13 Coloring Contest, Financial Report
- pg. 14 Acknowledgments
- pg. 15 Wolves of Mission: Wolf
- pg. 16 Contact Us, Sponsor a Wolf

🐾 Sanctuary 🐾

Mission: Wolf is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that has provided a sanctuary home to wolves and wolf-dog crosses for over 30 years. Our mission is to inspire respect for the wild and connect people with nature. As people learn compassion for the wolf, they also learn to respect all forms of life, which leads to further protection and enhancement of wild habitat. M:W is run by a group of dedicated and hard-working individuals, who live and work sustainably in the remote Wet Mountains of Southern Colorado. Read on to learn more about the people and wolves of our sanctuary.

Change Is In The Air

Reflection on M:W History: How Do We Bring Our Values Into The New Era?

The sanctuary is, first and foremost, a place for wolves. Over three decades, more and more people have found their way over the treacherous unmarked roads to the refuge. The wolves have served an incredibly important educational and inspirational purpose to increasingly large numbers of visitors. The staff at the sanctuary have found more and more of their time going to the needs of the public. This time of worldwide crisis and change has taken many things from all of us, but it has given us at the sanctuary the gift of time to stop, think, and plan. **We reflect on the history of Mission: Wolf in order to move forward in a way that honors our past, our values, and above all, the wolves.**

Mission: Wolf started in the '80s as a sustainable place for captive wolves to live out their lives in peace. The goal was to set aside land in the wolves' name that would survive and provide sanctuary beyond the people who created it. Our ethic is very basic: We do not own the land or the wolves, but rather we are caretakers of both.

The refuge succeeds because of the people who give their time and expertise to the wolves. From the very beginning, we have welcomed anyone who does not scare the animals. Working with people that are genuinely interested in a common goal allows us to thrive. We can provide higher quality and personalized care for wildlife, operate a sustainable facility on very little funding, provide life skill training, and actively engage people from all over the world with hands-on experiences that develop respect for sustainable living and nature.

Mission: Wolf is a sanctuary for the wolves rather than a zoo. The recipe to calming a stressed-out captive wolf is to create large homes, provide them a healthy and natural diet, offer consistent companionship, and allow them to serve a purpose. A captive wolf's purpose is to tell his story so that humans learn the tragedy of keeping wild animals in cages and gain compassion for wild diversity. Our goal is to allow each individual wolf to express their unique personality - shy wolves get peaceful hillside with little human interruption, and fearless wolves become human teachers. The best lessons at Mission: Wolf come not from the staff, but from meeting a wolf eye-to-eye.

For a few years prior to COVID-19, the Mission: Wolf staff expended more and more time and energy to deal with people's needs rather than wolves' needs. We were no longer primitive and hard-to-find; it seemed we were on the map. It became obvious our

facility itself was physically overwhelmed. Even though we restricted groups in size and number, reduced short term camper spaces, and established two days a week devoted to visitors, we started to see over 200 new faces arrive without notice on a single day. We are satisfied that we have honored public demands but wow, we have been hauling out \$4,000+ of port-a-potties each summer.

The demand for experiences offered by Mission: Wolf inspires us but disrupts our balance between sanctuary for wolves and experiences for people. For the last five years, our plans to rebuild and replace decades-old fence lines, maintain wood cabins built from scraps, and keep a fleet of vehicles hauling loads of meat across treacherous roads have been delayed as we respond to visitor needs.

In this time of social isolation surrounded by global chaos, we have found the time to ask ourselves: How do we keep our wolves happy? **How do we balance the need to educate the public and maintain sanctuary for wolves?** How do we balance the wolves' need for quiet with the noise of our tools and volunteers as we build and maintain the refuge?

To answer these questions, first we look to the physical capabilities of the refuge itself. A decade-old plan we created in 2007, and started building in 2017, is now nearing completion. **Our new solar powered studio will provide the ability to keep the sanctuary quiet for the wolves, provide workspace for maintenance, and still allow thousands of individuals to gain valuable life skills as they learn to manage the refuge.** The structure will also provide additional visitor parking, accessible bathrooms, a sheltered lobby to meet our wolf caretakers, and ample space for educational and art displays.

We also look to how humans interact with the sanctuary. **We are deep in discussions on how to support people who want the Mission: Wolf experience while also staying true to the sanctuary's own needs and values. Read the ways you can experience Mission: Wolf below.**

If you are reading this, you are likely working toward our common goal of providing sanctuary for these wolves. If you have volunteered your time, sponsored a wolf, met a wolf eye-to-eye, or advocated for wildlife, we are grateful to have you on our team. You will always be welcome here. Thank you for your support as we work toward a future that balances our many demands as a refuge and provides the best lives we can for the wolves. – K. Weber



Wolf-dog Cephira rests high above the refuge (K. Weber)

Four Ways You Can Experience Mission: Wolf

We've created programs to accommodate public needs that include group programs, individual short-term live-on-site volunteers, long-term staff, and daily experiences that include a tour of the wolves and an opportunity to contribute time and energy as a volunteer.

Groups: will be coordinated through our email on an individual basis. Groups will be limited to a maximum of 9 individuals and only two groups will be allowed on site concurrently.

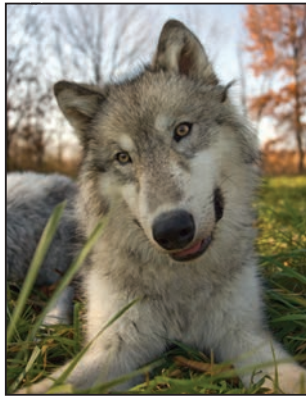
Individual Short-Term Volunteers: individuals and small groups of self-sufficient campers will be provided a tour and one of our five campsites in return for much-needed help maintaining the sanctuary, building new wolf fences, and preparing for the upcoming winter season.

Day Visits by Essential Volunteers: This is what started Mission: Wolf and what we intend to retain for years into the future. Individuals and small groups who are interested in a day visit of the sanctuary will be able to sign up online for a limited number of spaces. We ask all volunteers to bring their gloves to help gather firewood or maintain landscapes and buildings as skill sets allow. Essential help can also be the donation of necessary supplies including food for wolves and staff along with building and automotive parts and supplies.

Join the Mission: Wolf Pack: M:W sees a new opportunity to step forward and prepare for the next decade. We'll be opening long-term opportunities for people with a range of skill sets, including business operations, human relations, carpentry, mechanics, graphic design, gardening, and the willingness to learn all of them! Inquire at info@missionwolf.org.

Featured Wolf: Illiamna

In the spring of 2009, Mission: Wolf received a call to rescue two litters of captive-born wolves who were bred to be sold in the exotic pet trade. One litter was made up of British Columbian Timber wolves, whose dark brown fur caused these puppies to quickly be known as the most challenging ones to spot in their rocky, dense enclosures. The other litter was the complete opposite: beautifully striking Arctic wolves with dazzling white coats. While they were easier to spot during the summertime, once winter rolled around a blanket of snow would allow them to disappear into the foliage. Life seemed beautiful in their new home until parvovirus spread quickly through the eight puppies. Three of the puppies were not able to withstand the horrible disease and passed away. Among



Year-old Illiamna (M. Sloan)

the five survivors was Illiamna, a quirky Arctic wolf who grew to be one of our largest animals at the refuge. His adorable underbite gives him an eternal goofy grin which lovingly earned him the nickname “Silly

Illy.” This isn’t his only alias; you can hear staff members refer to him as “Llama”, “Amna”, and more. Illy is an exuberant feeder who excitedly dances all day on feed days for his dinner and munches on his pieces with splendor. In his early years, Illiamna was one of the main members of our ambassador wolf pack. He would happily greet visitors and bring joy to those who watched his silly antics. After traveling on our Ambassador Wolf program for multiple years, he retired with his partner Raven, a beautiful black timber wolf, to their hillside enclosure. In 2017, Illiamna lost his much older partner, Raven, to natural causes. Illy was enjoying the bachelor life until March of 2020 when he noticed his beautiful new neighbor. Merlin, a 12 year-old wolf-dog had recently been taken in by M:W after her previous sanctuary closed due to financial constraints. After months of courtship, Illiamna and Merlin were placed together to live as a pair (read more on page 5). The dynamic duo can now be seen excitedly running and dancing together during feed days. – K. Wilson



Illiamna (left) takes the stage on tour



Illiamna takes time to relax and smell the rose hips (C. Potts)

Crimzon Fund Saves Wolves and Improves Quality of Life

As the sanctuary grows, so do relationships with visitors and volunteers. This includes professionals in various fields and these relationships can offer so much to the animals. One such relationship was developed with Dr. Bill Hancock, a previous USDA veterinarian for M:W who helped care for many of the wolves and wolf-dogs. Veterinary care can be costly. The M:W Crimzon Fund is designed so our supporters can allocate their donations specifically for those costs. The fund is dedicated to a wolf-dog named Crimzon who came to the sanctuary in the late 80’s. She became terribly ill, and it was discovered that she had diabetes. Dr. Hancock did what he could to help Crimzon but was unsuccessful. Since then, the Crimzon Fund has helped us care for animals who suffer from health issues.

Many of the current animals have been diagnosed with illnesses ranging from cataracts to cancer to discoid lupus. The quality of life for each animal is taken into consideration when providing care. We do our best not to infringe on their comfort unless absolutely necessary. Over the past three years, six of our older animals were diagnosed with different forms of cancer, some of which we were able to treat. Amulet, for example, had a tumor on her paw. We were able to get her surgery



Tiger (left) resting with Rosie (J. Lemon) at Belcrest Animal Clinic, extending her life for over a year. Not all illnesses, however, can be easily treated with surgery, especially when the root of the problem has yet to be discovered. Talon, who passed away in March 2021, began having seizures two years ago. It was an expensive journey during which we gained little information. We were able to manage his condition with medications and close monitoring. Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to him this year shortly after he turned seventeen years old.

While many of the health problems faced by our animals occur later in life, this is not always the case. Tiger, one of our younger residents, has been battling discoid lupus for the majority of his life. Discoid lupus is an autoimmune disease, meaning that Tiger’s body thinks the skin on and around his nose doesn’t belong

there. There is no cure for this; we can only manage symptoms. We use many different supplements and vitamins to support his body, and he has received multiple rounds of steroid treatments throughout his life and will continue to do so. He responds well to the different treatments and enjoys his days lounging on his hill alongside his sister Rosie.

The Crimzon Fund has been vital in providing the quality of care the animals deserve. We would not be able to offer this level of care without the love and generosity of our supporters, as well as the amazing veterinary teams we have been able to work with like Dr. Julie Sperry (our current USDA Veterinarian), Dr. David Glover and the Belcrest Team, and Dr. Rainier Ko and the Powers Pet Emergency Team. We are so grateful for all their advice and hard work. – T. LePore



Talon persevered through seizures (C. Potts)

🐾 New Pairings 🐾

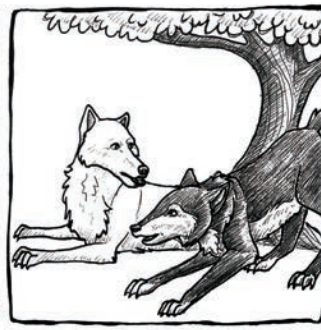
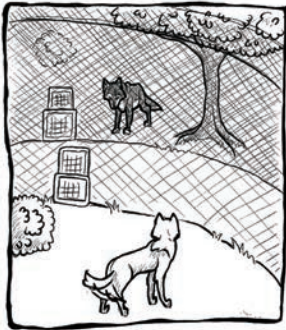
M:W Wolves Find Companionship and Comfort in Old Age

Merlin and Illiamna

Since Merlin's arrival at Mission: Wolf in March of 2020, she has lived in the enclosure just above sweet Illiamna. He has lived alone since losing his partner, Raven, to old age in 2017. Merlin, too, before her arrival at Mission: Wolf, lived much of her life in an enclosure by herself.

Though shy and aloof by nature, Merlin and Illy quickly struck up a friendship across the fence. They were seen running back and forth with wagging tails, trying to incite play from across the buffer zone, and staring towards each other longingly. We figured they'd make a great pair and began the careful process of introducing them.

First, Merlin was let down into the buffer zone between their enclosures and given plenty of time to explore. Then, it was Illy's turn. They were kept fence-to-fence like this for months, taking turns inhabiting the buffer zone and giving the staff time to examine their behavior for any signs of aggression or dominance. Next, careful to keep them separated, we let them into each other's enclosures to sniff around and get to know their potential partner's living space. After several successful flip-flops, the staff watched enraptured from the kitchen loft as the two shared an enclosure for the first time. After many a play bow and a couple grumbles over bones, we are delighted to see Illiamna and Merlin finding their footing as packmates. – M. Fertig and J. Goodman

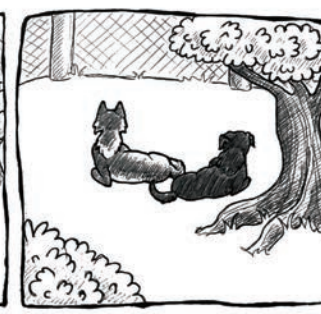


Illiamna and Merlin's long courtship ends and a playful partnership begins. (M. Fertig)

Merlin (left) is more wary than bold Illiamna (C. Potts)

Fenris and Batman

Though Illy and Merlin's pairing took months, two of our older male wolf-dogs found love and comfort quite quickly with each other. Batman had lost his partner, Amulet, to cancer in 2019, and Fenris lost McKinley, his source of confidence, just this last summer. Batman and Fenris were seen wagging their tails, even whining, at each other through the fence across the buffer zone between them, making it incredibly clear that they were impatient to be together. Stoic Batman and shy-boy Fenris, once lonely old men, can now often be seen sunning themselves under their favorite tree on the hillside, watching vehicles ascend the driveway, and reveling in the confidence their partnership has given them. – M. Fertig and J. Goodman



After years of living in neighboring enclosures, Fenris and Batman are quiet companions (M. Fertig)

Batman (left) and Fenris search for kibble (C. Potts)

🐾 New Arrival 🐾



Artemis in her new home (J. Lemon)

The staff are beyond thrilled to welcome a new member of the Mission: Wolf Family. Artemis is a six-year-old, three-legged wolf-dog who was privately owned by an individual who had hopes of opening up a wolf-dog sanctuary. Artemis escaped her enclosure and roamed around Alamosa for roughly eight months. She is skittish and shy but would come close to people's homes, which put her life in danger. Animal control officer Deputy Rodman reached out to Mission: Wolf for help saving Artemis.

The staff from M:W built a capture kennel to set up on the property of Marie and Kenny Behil. Marie and Kenny worked with Artemis every day for over a week to get her comfortable with the kennel. They were able to successfully trap her inside, then stayed next to her for hours until M:W staff were able to arrive and bring her to her new home. Artemis would have lost her life without the love and patience shown by Marie and Kenny as well as all their neighbors.

We are excited to have been able to bring her to the refuge and provide her with a safe and loving home. She is beginning to adjust to her enclosure and the new routine of the sanctuary. She is curious of her new neighbors and we are excited to hear her howl and become comfortable in her new home. – T. LePore

Memorials

Valley Spirit

2006-2020



Known simply as “Mama” around the refuge, Valley Spirit was the beloved matriarch of the pit-wolf pack. She arrived at the sanctuary in 2009 with a newly born litter of puppies – Batman, Buku, Oreo, and Asia – who we believe are wolf-pitbull crosses. For over a decade, Mama lived with her mate, Talon, and her daughter, Asia, in the lowermost portion of the refuge, with her boys close by in neighboring enclosures. She was a fiercely protective yet gentle and patient parent, demonstrating the tremendous care and love inherent in a wolf pack. Even in her elderly years, she dazzled staff with breathtaking feats of athleticism. On feeding days, she would lock onto airborne morsels like a homing missile, leaping several feet high to snatch it out of the sky, her jaws making a “SNAP” that echoed up and down the valley. Mama passed peacefully on a warm summer day. She will be remembered for her beauty and grace, as well as the lessons in love she taught so many. – A. Hoffman

Asia

2009-2020



Asia was the feisty lone lady of the pit-wolf pack. After a short-lived experiment living inside the staff kitchen in her youth, it became clear she was happier living outdoors with her mother, Valley Spirit, and step-father, Talon. (Asia was a great example of why wolf-dogs generally do not make good pets!)

Living in the most reclusive part of the refuge, Asia became wary of people. But in the latter half of her life, staff worked hard to desensitize her to the presence of humans, and she came to tolerate and even enjoy periodic visits. She had a quirky and sweet personality, endearing staff with her trademark head-tilt. She adored Valley Spirit, and the two developed one of the most powerful mother-daughter bonds the sanctuary has ever seen. Asia passed shortly after her mother due to bone cancer. M:W had never been home to a creature quite like her, and never will be again. – A. Hoffman

Talon

2004-2021



Few words can truly describe Talon (AKA Timber) and what he meant to us. His life journey was arduous to say the least, yet he remained joyful and kind. He lived for many years with his mate Valley Spirit and his adopted daughter Asia but after his first seizure he had to retire. He came to live near the staff house where he developed an intriguing connection with another canine, Minigan. Together they would go on walks where each of them would try hard to be the leader. Two years passed quickly after that first seizure; the staff developed bonds with him through his intensive daily care. His adorable antics (Talon-style zoomies and pancake play bows) brought such joy. Although a goofy character, his strength and persistence through each challenge gave inspiration and memories to last a lifetime. It was an honor to know and care for him. Even though it was not unexpected for him to pass as he was seventeen, truthfully none of us were ready. – T. LePore

McKinley

2005-2020



For much of her life, McKinley laid atop her shade structure, elegantly keeping a watchful eye over the sanctuary with her partner, Texx. After Texx passed in 2018, she was able to find companionship with Fenris who had also

lost his mate. Fenris and McKinley spent their days contently curled up alongside one another basking in the sun. Capturing the gaze and attention of the visitors from afar, McKinley was always graceful and dignified in each step and vigilant of her surroundings. She was a quiet, sweet soul, but also possessed a fiery heart. True to her calm demeanor and resolve, she showed almost no signs of discomfort even as her body began to decline after being diagnosed with calcification in her spinal disks. After medical treatment, her body continued to match the wild spirit within her for a while longer. Under her tranquil and relaxed aura there remained a hint of pure exuberance in her eyes. – T. LePore

Lil' Hailey Star

2009-2020



In early September, we said goodbye to Lil' Hailey Star, the featured wolf of our 2020 newsletter. Hailey was an incredibly strong-willed animal, battling many medical issues throughout her life and persevering through them all. She was tenacious

and memorable to those who cared for her, and all those lucky enough to catch a rare glimpse of this perfectly camouflaged wolf on the rocky hillside. Hailey overcame every adversity thrown her way with awe-inspiring elegance, even outliving her original cancer diagnosis in 2019. She lived a long and sparkling life alongside her lifelong partner, Aria. Together, they taught everyone here what unconditional love is all about. They shared a spectacular bond that inspired us all. While every animal has an important lesson to teach, Hailey in particular showed us patience, determination, and perseverance. Her wisdom will live on in our hearts. She will be missed. – T. LePore

Education

Mission: Wolf offers educational tours of our facilities to members and volunteers, as well as more comprehensive experiential programs for schools, universities, youth groups, treatment centers, and environmental organizations. We strive to present the most up-to-date scientific information about wolves and the vital role they play as a keystone species. However, our most important task as educators is to facilitate positive experiences between animals and humans. The wolves are the true educators at the sanctuary. No amount of research, no lecture, book, or film, can do justice to the feeling of looking into the piercing, contemplative golden eyes of a wolf. The wolves teach us to be more aware of our bodies, minds, and emotions. Our ultimate goal is to put ourselves out of business; we hope one day no more captive wolves will need sanctuary, and we can listen to them howl in the wild. In the meantime, we want to create a space that allows people to restore, or even establish, a connection with nature.



Wild Wolves in Colorado: Next Steps

Proposition 114 passed in 2020, meaning that voters have directed Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to reintroduce wild wolves to the western part of Colorado by 2024. We asked John Murtaugh of Defenders of Wildlife to help us understand what this means for the citizens of Colorado. Thank you for the information, John!

What are the next steps now that Prop 114 has passed?

“CPW will create a plan to reintroduce wolves to Colorado by December 31, 2023. Their intent is to do this both in a timely fashion but also in a manner that can be accepted by all Coloradans and build social tolerance long-term. All that’s been approved so far is the rough outline of a plan to gather input, both professional and public. That will include two groups. The first is a Stakeholder Advisory Group comprised of a diverse group of Coloradans to discuss various aspects of wolf reintroduction and bring their recommendations to the CPW commission. Traditionally, groups like this include landowners, sportspersons, and non-governmental organizations. We’re hoping that the group in Colorado will also include nontraditional partners: voices that have been left out in the past, such as outdoor recreation and tribal representation. The second is the Technical Work Group, which will largely be made up of state and federal agents familiar with wolf recovery as well as academics, who will look at what it takes to actually implement the reintroduction.”

What have we learned from past reintroductions in other states?

“We’ve learned so much from the reintroductions that happened in central Idaho and Yellowstone National Park in the mid-1990s. One, wolf reintroduction is actually pretty easy. As long as wolves have access to water, prey, and land

without humans, they can adapt to live just about anywhere. Second, biologists have recorded ample evidence of the vital ecological role wolves play in healthy ecosystems. And third, we’ve learned a lot about conflict prevention. We’ve learned a number of coexistence strategies that make it easier to live alongside predators like wolves without the loss of livestock and we’ve documented that there is virtually no threat to humans. Yellowstone National Park sees millions of visitors every year, yet there has never been a report of a wolf attack in the park.”



Arrow stands out in the snow (M. Dornblaser)

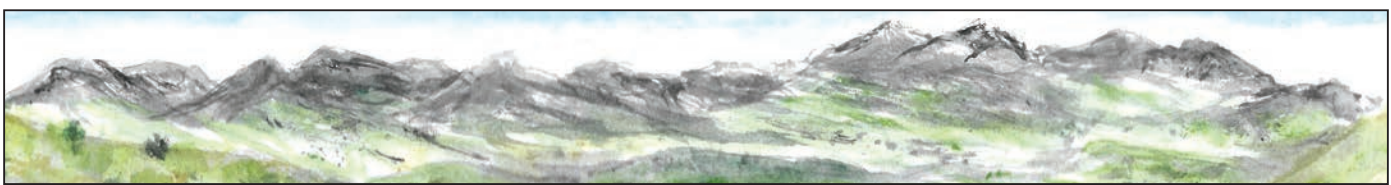
How much conflict do wolves have with cattle?

“Well, proportionally, very little. Based on a US Fish and Wildlife Service 2015 report looking at cattle losses to wolves in the Northern Rockies, counting only counties that have wolves in them, losses to wolves are about 0.009% (or 148 cattle out of 2 million). To set our expectations appropriately, we can expect

very few cattle to be lost to wolves in Colorado, but that’s not to say that these losses aren’t important. Most ranchers feel they’re already dealing with a lot of problems and setbacks. We don’t want the wolves to be one more thing that stresses their business. That’s why coexistence strategies are critical and must be adequately funded- so that we can ensure wolf recovery works for all.”

How do we support small-scale ranchers?

“Fortunately, we’ve learned a lot about living with wolves, including strategies for the cattle themselves! When given a choice, wolves prefer to eat elk. Wolves have evolved to eat elk and it’s a more nutritious meal, but hunting is hard! If the cows are exposed and haven’t been conditioned to predators, well, that looks like an easy meal to a wolf. With the right stockmanship, cattle can rekindle the wild instincts of their ancestors and learn to keep themselves safe from predators. But there is no one tool! Instead, we utilized a suite of tools, including fladry, fox lights, and range riders. Oftentimes, ranchers care quite a bit about their animals and many of the tools used in coexistence have broader impacts to the well-being of livestock. A big reason to learn from what other states have learned about coexistence is to help support the kind of ranching we want to see in Colorado. Those are ranches that are often family-owned with free ranging livestock who support the vision of healthy, well balanced ecosystems. Unfortunately, industrial scale ranching consisting of massive feed lots are replacing the traditional rancher. If we want to keep ethical ranching around, we have to invest in it. Right now, that means prioritizing supporting them through this transition. Well-funded and proven coexistence strategies are a great place to start.”



🐾 Ambassador Update 🐾

An eye to eye encounter with an ambassador wolf creates confidence and promotes compassion and empathy for living creatures. After a million encounters coast-to-coast the wolf bus has been parked since 2014, but the ambassador pack carries on an important mission, touching the lives of those who are able to make it to the sanctuary.

It's a crisp, winter morning. The sun is



Ydun greets a staff member (C. Potts)

starting to peak up over the hill making the Sangre de Cristo mountain range burn red. Before staff are even awake, loud thuds can be heard as the ambassador pack (Zeab, Nashira, and Ydun) start their wind-up in anticipation for their breakfast. The girls awkwardly find themselves in Zeab's way as he puts his focus on the wolf kitchen. After a long hour of patience from the ambassadors, the staff have their meal prepped, and they assume their feeding positions. Once breakfast is done, they are ready to lay in the shade and enjoy a warm, spring breeze.

Every ambassador wolf leaves their own unique imprint on those they encounter. Each wolf also has their own identity that must mesh with the other members of the pack. Our newest ambassador, Ydun, adds a vibrant, youthful energy to the ambassador crew. As Ydun matures, her role changes the

dynamics of the ambassador pack. At first, Nashira was begrudgingly forced into an authoritative position and uncle Zeab had little interest in dealing with the playful antics of this wild child. I am here to tell you that this spring, Nashira has blossomed in her motherly role. Zeab, reluctant to step into the leader role, has grown a lot of confidence with Ydun and Nashira by his side. – C. Madison



Zeab relaxes on a chilly day (C. Potts)

Horse Education

Building a respect-based bond with a horse or a wolf has been the most effective way we have found to provide the refuge animals with the best life we can. The horse education program has helped us learn techniques like pressure-release, mirroring, and mimicry which can help to calm stressed animals and cultivate bonds to provide care throughout their lives. Both horses and wolves respond very well to these methods.

All living creatures have what could be called a personal space bubble. That bubble can be bigger or smaller depending on who or what is approaching the individual. When a person can recognize the communication in an animal's body posture, they can build a mutually respectful bond by offering the animal consideration, compassion, and personal space. When working at a distance with an animal, it is important to be able to read the body language presented; if done correctly, you can work with a scared or feral animal in a way that keeps the animal safe as well as the person working with them.

Tracy Ane Brooks, a founder and



Tracy Ane Brooks and Doeschka (K. Weber)

director of Mission: Wolf, has worked with both horses and wolves for many years practicing and demonstrating these techniques. These methods have allowed Tracy, as well as other caretakers, to calm scared animals and allow them to feel safe in their homes. While working with scared horses and developing these techniques, Tracy realized she could apply that same knowledge to work with some of the more fearful wolves and wolf-dogs at the sanctuary. A wonderful example of this is our oldest living wolf-dog, Soleil. When Soleil first came to the sanctuary, she was very fearful. She paced through her enclosure and had a hard time understanding that she was safe. Tracy entered the enclosure and worked with Soleil at a distance. She mirrored her by matching her leg movements to Soleil's. By going into the enclosure, she applied pressure, which made Soleil focus on her. Mirroring Soleil's movements is what stopped the motion itself. When someone copies your movements or behaviors, it makes you curious or self-conscious which most often triggers you to stop that motion. Once Soleil stopped, Tracy released the pressure by abruptly turning around and leaving. Over time this taught Soleil that

if she paced, Tracy paced. If she sat still, Tracy did as well. Ultimately, mirroring allowed Soleil to become comfortable and understand that she would experience no harm from her caretakers. This is only one example of how well the animals at M:W respond to the technique of building a respect-based relationship.

With many of the educational groups who visit Mission: Wolf, we can offer them an introduction to respect-based techniques with the horses. This educational style offers individuals the ability to see how it can be done and then allow them to have that hands on experience and practice. All the love and effort makes the horses amazing educators; they teach individuals how to talk to them using their body language. It is a beautiful way to work with animals where both feel equally respected and honored and the work is fun for both the animal and the person. We are all extremely excited for the horse program to continue and help develop a greater understanding and deeper compassion for the sentience and intellect all animals possess. – T. Lepore



Tricia LePore and Tracy Ane Brooks stand with Guardian and Doeschka (K. Weber)



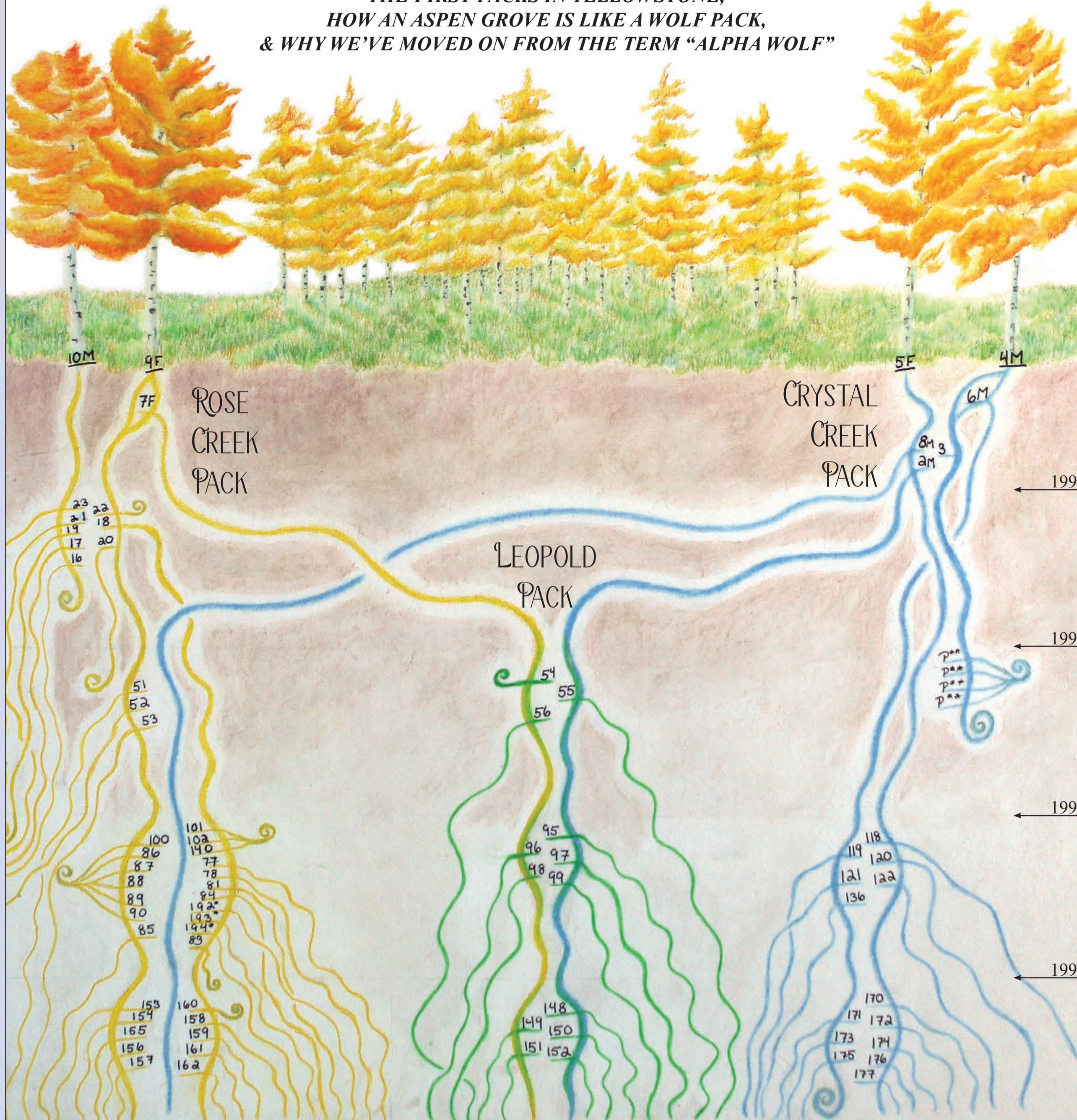
Tricia walks in step with Guardian (K. Weber)

KEY

- Line** = Wolf
- Number** = Wolf identification number
- M/F** = Sex of breeding wolf
- Yellow (left)** = Rose Creek Pack
- Blue (right)** = Crystal Creek Pack
- Green (center)** = Leopold Pack
- Line leaves diagram** = Wolf dispersed to different pack or away from Yellowstone
- Line ends in a curl** = Wolf dies
- Two lines come close and new numbers are formed** = The two wolves mated; the numbers identify the offspring

THE FAMILY BEHIND THE "PACK"

THE FIRST PACKS IN YELLOWSTONE, HOW AN ASPEN GROVE IS LIKE A WOLF PACK, & WHY WE'VE MOVED ON FROM THE TERM "ALPHA WOLF"



(Continued from left side of page)

Wolf biologists in the mid-20th century tried to understand the connections between wolves by observing captive wolf packs. **These captive studies gave rise to the idea of an "alpha wolf," one who fights and bullies their way to the top of a dominance structure.** The "alpha" term was popularized by scientist L. David Mech in his 1970 book, *The Wolf: Ecology and Behavior of an Endangered Species*.

However, observations of wild packs began to challenge the idea of "alphas." Scientists studying wild wolves dug deep into pack social structures to see the way wolves connect (the roots binding them to one another). The new information caused Mech to reevaluate his previous work, an important part of the scientific process. Mech now regrets the term "alpha wolf."

"The term alpha isn't really accurate... the term implies that the wolves fought and competed strongly," says Mech in a 2008 video. Mech explains that in reality, wild wolves become leaders when they mate and produce offspring, just like a pair of humans producing a family. Wolf biologists now prefer "breeding female/male" or "mother/father wolf" as more accurate terms.

Mech has continually tried to get the publisher of his 1970 book to stop printing, but no luck. He speaks out to get people to stop using the term, but it is still widespread. Even at Mission: Wolf, we're still working to update our language; you can find the word "alpha" in some of our recent publications.

Why is using "alpha wolf" a problem? **The term does not represent the true nature of wild wolf pack dynamics.** Wolf packs are really wolf families, with all the quirks, arguments, and love that we associate with human families.

Follow along this aspen-root-inspired family tree for two of the wolf packs in the 1995 Yellowstone reintroduction, the Rose Creek Pack and the Crystal Creek Pack. Thanks to the hard work of many wild wolf observers, we can see how the packs developed and interacted over time.

The Rose Creek Pack was introduced as wolves 10M, 9F, and 9F's daughter 7F. The Crystal Creek Pack was introduced as wolves 5F, 4M, and 4M's son 6M. Crystal Creek puppy 2M and Rose Creek's 7F grew up and mated to create the Leopold Pack in 1995, the first naturally-formed pack in Yellowstone since reintroduction. Crystal Creek's puppy 8M grew up and mated with wolves 9F and 18, thus joining the Rose Creek Pack.

If you like learning about these packs, check out *The Rise of Wolf 8* by Rick McIntyre for more stories about these wolves and how they created families in Yellowstone. The Leopold pack was named for former-wolf-hunter-turned-conservationist, Aldo Leopold; read his book *A Fierce Green Fire* for his fascinating story.

Each fall, visitors to Mission: Wolf are amazed by the colors of the landscape. As the grasses and shrubs of our high-altitude desert begin to brown and early-season snows frost the hills in pure white, a bright shock of golden yellow stands out on the hillsides. The iconic, vibrant golden leaves of quaking aspens are a gorgeous autumnal sight from Alaska and Canada all the way down to Mexico.

The northern range of Yellowstone National Park is another home for quaking aspens, but the trees' survival has not always been easy. In the 1920s, aspens thrived along the many streams and ponds of Yellowstone. However, in the 1950s, the previously-abundant aspen had all but disappeared from the banks. Scientists believe beavers cut down adult trees and elk browsed (ate) the young aspen shoots, which prevented any new trees from growing big enough to establish themselves in the ecosystem. How could the aspen trees recover when so many of the new shoots were being eaten?

Enter: wolves.

In 1995, wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park. The effect on the elk population is well-documented, and those effects cascaded through the whole ecosystem. In the two decades following wolf reintroduction, the browsing of the aspen trees dropped from above 90% down to 58%, which allowed aspen shoots the chance to grow into trees. Experts credit the wolf reintroduction for the widespread recovery of aspen in Yellowstone and expect that the benefits of wolf reintroduction are here to stay. Yellowstone aspens owe the wolves some gratitude!

The relationship between aspens and wolves goes further; they have something very interesting in common. From the surface of an aspen grove, all you can see is the individual trees. However, below the ground, a vast network of roots connects them. A grove of aspens is actually one single organism, and all the trees are genetically identical. The wolves in a pack are not genetically identical, of course! **Still, similar to an aspen grove, a wolf pack has many connections that are nearly impossible to understand without digging deep into how the individuals interact.**

*Puppies 192, 193, and 194 were originally numbered 82, 79, and 80 respectively.

**These puppies were not given numbers; they died shortly after birth, along with their father, wolf 4M.

Text by C. Potts, Illustration by A. Visconti.

References: National Park Service (NPS.org), L. David Mech (DaveMech.org)

Sustainability

The sanctuary is designed to keep our environmental impact minimal while we work to become as self-sufficient as possible. We continually strive to improve our sustainability efforts while educating visitors about resource conservation, gardening, sustainable building design, renewable energy, and recycling.

Building a Sustainable Future with Jane's Studio

Over the course of the last three years, Mission: Wolf staff and volunteers have been on a crusade to finish Jane's Studio — a solar-powered agricultural studio and workspace outfitted with radiant floor heating and solar hot water systems. Coming up at the end of a challenging year (COVID-19, the death of a contractor, and engineering errors), staff have found themselves working on the installation of drywall and ceiling panels, painting all of the rooms, preparing the site for various inspections, and woodburning the trim boards — just to name a few projects.

As Jane's Studio nears completion, it will provide much-needed showers, bathrooms, laundry, kitchenette, and a veterinarian room. In addition, the studio will address the growing public demand for experiential educational opportunities. A rough workshop will host welding, carpentry, mechanic, electrical, and other maintenance-oriented projects

and a fine art studio will provide opportunities for painting, jewelry, metalsmithing, woodworking, signmaking, and more.

In recent years, there has been an overflow and abundance of youth groups seeking work. The studio will provide space for teachers to educate and, in the process, create unique and functional art and gifts to be sold in the art gallery to fund the future of the wolves.

Sustainability has been an important value of Mission: Wolf from the very beginning, so Jane's Studio was designed with an eye to longevity and low environmental impact. Check out the diagram below to understand more about how we chose to build sustainably!

Creating Jane's Studio has been an ambitious and often difficult project, but we're proud of how far we have gotten. If you want to support the finishing of the studio by donating parts, funds, or time, please reach out – we're always glad for the help!



1. Solar Panels: 32 solar panels produce 9.8kW photovoltaic energy to a 48-volt battery system. Inverters produce 8800 watts of usable electricity – plenty to run our power tools!

2. Art Studio: The upstairs art studio will provide a space for artists to creatively use new and recycled materials. The products will then be sold in the gift shop to raise money for the wolves.

3. Gift Shop: Visitors will be able to support the wolves through buying art and other goods, including recycled t-shirts from Jim Morris Environmental T-Shirt Co.

4. Water System: An eleven-panel solar hot water system feeds a 400-gallon storage tank averaging 180 degrees even in the cold winter. The hot water flows through 4,000 ft of tubing to provide radiant floor heating.

5. Vet Room: A fully-equipped, clean vet room will allow us to treat animals without the stress of transportation over rocky dirt roads to vet clinics. An additional benefit of less transportation is lower environmental impact.

6. Passive Solar Heating: South-facing windows provide warmth from the sun's energy.

7. Indoor Tool Shop: The enclosed workspace will allow us to fix broken vehicles, tools, gates, and more – even in the frigid temperatures of the mountain winter. Repairing is more sustainable than buying new!

8. Fireproof Bunker: Jane's studio doubles as a wildfire-proof metal bunker that will help us keep our wolves and staff safe during the long wildfire season.

9. Butterfly Garden: The garden will provide a safe space for pollinators in honor of Wolf Angel Jane who made the whole studio possible.

Bringing Mission: Wolf Sustainability Home

Here at Mission: Wolf, sustainability is not just a value – it's a requirement for survival! However, most of our supporters live in cities instead of off-the-grid. We asked our volunteers how they bring Mission: Wolf sustainability back home to houses and apartments. Sustainability should be open to everyone. Pick something from this list to bring to your home, and let us know how it goes!



1. Help pollinators, like butterflies and bees, by planting native flowers that will attract and give them energy along their journeys.
2. Hang laundry rather than using a dryer to save water, power, and money. Plus, your clothes will have a nice outdoor scent to them!
3. Bee populations are declining at startling rates; keep your own bees to aid in the recovery of this important species.
4. Grow your own herbs for a great, easy way to get fresh produce at home.
5. Compost your foods to create your own soil mixture.

6. Fluorescent lightbulbs save loads of energy and money.
7. Learn to repair and reuse the items that you already own.
8. Ride a bike or walk to work as a healthy alternative to driving cars, especially if you are not already carpooling.
9. Public transportation is another great alternative to driving.
10. Donate old clothes and household items rather than throwing them away.
11. Go online for more information about ways to be sustainable in your community.

12. Save water by taking shorter showers.
13. Community gardens can be a great way to help pollinators and grow your own produce.
14. Eat a more vegetarian based diet to save you money and save hundreds of gallons of water that normally are used to produce meat.
15. Check out recycling as a great way to be sustainable! Every city's recycling programs differ, so research your own city's specific program.

Text and Illustration by K. Wilson

Land Conservation Update



A crisp, snowy morning (J. Lemon)

Mission: Wolf's priority from the very beginning was to get the wolves away from one thing: humans. Wolves are incredibly sensitive to noise and energy. The secluded nature of the refuge allows for a tranquil peace. Even in the remote foothills that Mission: Wolf is nestled within, we find ourselves watching human development happen at every little crevice. Preservation of local land is essential to the delicate wildlife and floral communities living among us. To protect this beautiful land that wolves once roamed, Mission: Wolf created the Land Conservation Fund. At this time, over 340 acres is owned by Mission: Wolf in the wolves' name, and almost 300 acres is owned by friends of Mission: Wolf who are dedicated to protecting and preserving wild habitat. To help us preserve the Wet Mountain Valley for years to come, contact us at 719-859-2157 or info@missionwolf.org. Donations directly to the land conservation program can also be made online at www.missionwolf.org/donate. – K. Wilson

In Memory: Pam Brown, Levi Holt, Kent Knowles

Year 2020 was a challenge to many, to say the least. The M:W sanctuary lost three special friends last year. It is with sad hearts and howls of gratitude that we remember and celebrate the amazing feats achieved by Pam Brown, Levi Holt, and Kent Knowles. Completely independent of each other, they created a backbone to support the return of wolves to the United States.



Pam babysits Shaman

She coordinated our Ambassador Wolf events and taught us the best way to calm a challenging group of people: simply walk in a wolf. Reactions start with fear and in moments transfer into admiration and respect.

Pam taught me a lot and shared the challenges she and John experienced; in New York, two of their wolves were poisoned on the streets, and a sheriff shot and killed their most famous wolf, Slick. Through the tragedies and setbacks, they persevered in their mission. Pam and John had the privilege of taking a wolf to Carnegie Hall where it howled with 2000 people. Pam completed her tribute to John and their life in a book *The Wolf Who Howled at Carnegie Hall*. Go to missionwolf.org to purchase a copy!



Levi, in full wolf regalia, greets puppy Luna

Pam Brown AKA The Wolf Teacher: Pam and her partner, John Harris, dedicated much of their lives to wild wolves and the environmental movement. They were instrumental in the creation of The Endangered Species Act, took wolves to meet Congressional leaders, and led the charge to stop the cruel fur trade across New England.

We took a wolf into a local school for our first program nearly simultaneously with John's passing in the 80's. We met Pam a couple years later and began to collaborate.

Black Beaver AKA Levi Holt: A member of the Nez Perce Nation and the grandson of Yellow Wolf, Black Beaver shared the creation story of the Nez Perce, assisted in the return of the native Nez Perce language in schools, and brought back the wolf dance to the nation. We met Levi and his family on a late night in Boise and made an exception to let them into the tennis courts where we were exercising the wolves. In a moment they were all nose to nose with two wolves, Sila and Merlin, who quickly accepted them as family.

For the next few years we worked with

Levi as we presented programs across the Northwest in support of wolf recovery. He facilitated a meeting with the Elders of the Nez Perce tribe to discuss wolf recovery in Idaho. A short time later, the wolves flocking in for the reintroduction were blocked last-minute by a late-night meeting of Idaho politicians. The wolves were trapped in kennels on an Idaho airport runway. It was the Nez Perce tribe that came forward, signed a contract with the US Fish and Wildlife service and took control to release the wolves into the Idaho wilderness. I sometimes wonder if, without Levi's help, those wolves would have ever reached the forest.



Kent Knowles

to Washington DC. Kent set up a week of events in the DC area to complement the one event we had planned. Kent ended up creating twenty-six separate events that reached Federal Agencies, a few colleges, elite private schools, and some inner-city schools along with the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and even a few senators and representatives. It was Kent's events that took center stage and ended up front page stories in the NY Times, Boston Globe and several TV features – in just one day.

The people we reached that week heavily influenced the return of wolves to Yellowstone and resulted in a whole year of presenting events nationwide including the NBC Today show in NYC. We kept in touch over the decades since. Last year, in failing health, Kent called to say that his time was near, he had to shut down the raptor center, and he wanted the wolves to be supported in his absence. Kent sent the wolves a generous donation that truly helped us get through a very hard year.

These three individuals, who I do not believe even knew each other, all left their mark on my heart and in the hearts of thousands. It seemed to be an Impossible Mission for wild wolves to ever return to Yellowstone Park, or to see a wild Peregrine Falcon. Today we have many wild Peregrine Falcons that visit the wolves at M:W, and wild wolves have returned to 15 states from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Coast – a feat I did not think I would ever see in my life. Howls of gratitude to Pam Brown, Levi Holt, and Kent Knowles. – K. Weber

How to Help: The M:W Wishlist

In-kind donations are a huge help in keeping our daily operations going. Here is a list of items we can use. Please call us if you have questions, or if you would like to ask about our current needs. Thank you for your help! For USPS, our mailing address is: PO Box 1211, Westcliffe, CO 81252. For UPS/FedEx, our mailing address is: 80 Sheep Creek Road, Westcliffe, CO 81252.

Wolf Care:

- 5 gallon buckets
- Galvanized water tubs (sizes 10-15, 30-80, or 100-200 gallons)
- Supplements and medications: Eggshell Membrane; Milk Thistle; Vitamins A, B complex, C, and E; Devil's Claw; Bravecto chewable flea and tick prevention (Large and XL); TriHeart Plus chewable heartworm prevention (Large); Vetericyn; General antibiotics; Rimadyl or Novox
- High quality butcher knives (non-serrated)
- Kibble (Wellness Core Original Formula and Wellness Limited Ingredient Lamb & Oatmeal)
- Fruits (watermelon, bananas, and blueberries)
- Wolf food (raw meat, no pork or salt/spices)

Tools:

- Garden hose (¾ inch) and hose repair parts (splitters, couplings, valves, etc.)
- Hand tools (shovels, rakes, pickaxes, etc.)
- Ryobi battery-powered tools (drills, saws, sanders, flashlights, etc.)
- Welding rods (all sizes)
- Air compressor
- Large flatbed trailer
- 4WD trucks
- Lathe
- Pipe bender

Office:

- Ballpoint pens
- Markers (dry erase or permanent)
- Scissors
- Postage stamps (old stamps work, too)
- Envelopes (#10 Mailing; 9" x 12" Manila)
- Printer ink & toner (Brother TN-336, HP 61XL)
- Printer paper

Construction:

- Concrete block
- Flagstone and brick pavers
- Rebar, sheet metal, angle iron, etc.
- 2" diameter steel poles (10')
- Chain link fence (9 ga., 8' tall; 11 ga., 4' tall)
- Fencing tools and materials (fencing pliers, hog rings, fencing staples, tie wire, etc.)
- 2" x 4" steel horse panel (16' x 48", 4 ga.)
- Lumber, treated or untreated (warped wood is fine)
- Hardwood flooring
- Log poles (especially lodgepole pine)

Sustainability:

- Potting soil or seed-starting mix
- Vegetable and native plant seeds
- Solar panels and batteries (contact us first)
- Solar-powered lights
- Solar cooker/oven
- Veggie oil converted vehicles
- Reusable produce bags

Volunteers:

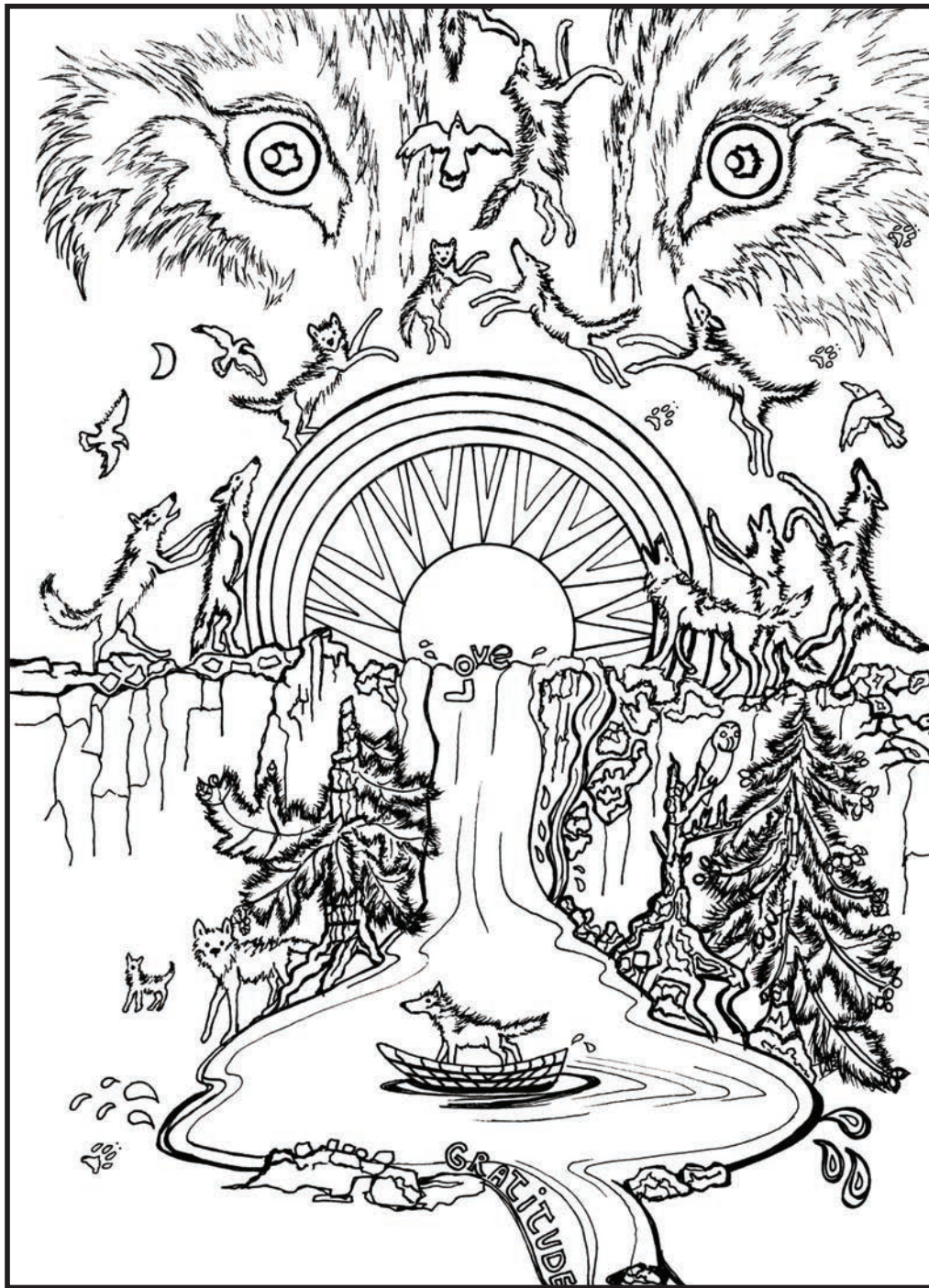
- Sustainable toiletries (septic-safe liquid hand soap, body wash, and shampoo; deodorant; toothbrushes; toothpaste; feminine products, etc.)
- Mattresses, futons, foam pads, pillows
- Dr. Bronner's products
- Blue Dawn dish soap
- Simple Green all-purpose cleaner
- Environmentally-friendly laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies (scrub brushes, steel wool)
- Toilet paper (septic-safe; pref. brand Grove Collaborative)
- First aid supplies (bandaids, ibuprofen, antiseptic and antibacterial, etc.)
- Sleeping bags
- Headlamps
- Winter appropriate boots, hats, gloves, socks, etc.
- Trash bags (especially 13-gallon tall kitchen and 55-gallon contractor bags)

Horse Care:

- Clean grass hay and supplies (hay trailer, tarps, straps, and shed)
- Grain buckets
- Horse trailer
- 4' tall graduated field fence (12 ½ and 14 ga.)
- T-posts and materials for new horse barn
- Round pen panels

Wishing Well Coloring Page

It's the annual M:W coloring contest! Flex your creative muscles by decorating this original design any way you see fit. The contest is open to all ages, and a winner will be chosen in each of these three categories: Most Creative, Most Intricate, and Judges' Favorite. Winners selected by the staff at Mission: Wolf will receive a Caretaker Packet for a wolf of your choosing, and an authentic wolf fur bracelet!



Submission Deadline:
June 31, 2021

Winners will be notified by:
July 31, 2021

Please submit your best work to:
 Mission: Wolf
 PO Box 1211
 Westcliffe, CO 81252

Or submit digitally to:
info@missionwolf.org

Name: _____

Phone: _____

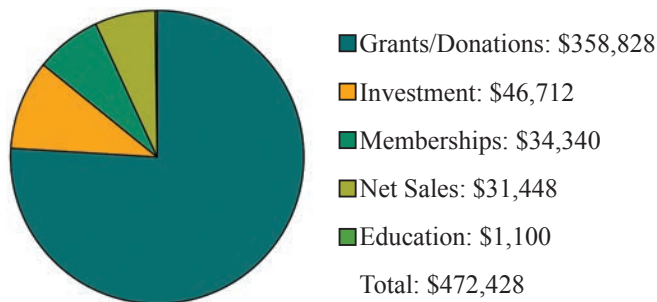
Email: _____

Address: _____

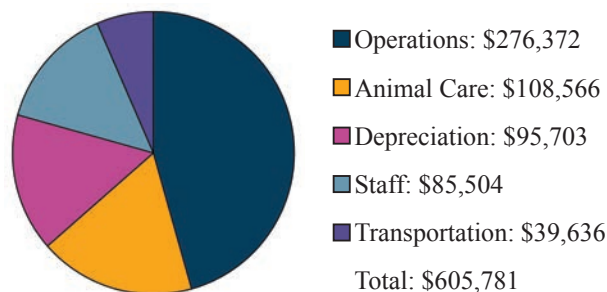
Welcome to the Earth Wishing Well! What do you wish for the future to help protect animals and the environment? **Write your wish in the pool below the waterfall around the boat.** Think positively with hope and confidence! Once you've written your wish and colored the page in, now's the time to think: what can I do to make my wish come true and help the Earth?
Artwork by Tracy Ane Brooks

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2019

Income:



Expenses:



Don't worry, we're not going under! 2019 was a challenging year due to studio engineering errors and other delays that greatly increased our expenses.

Assistants and Volunteers: Ariella Brown, Adam Brown, Rachel Brown, Zach Brown, Lizzy Sholz, Lydia Jones, Katie Ketterer, Joe Stanley, Ari Abrams, Janet Hula, Alyssa Kern, Emmanuel Bolanez, Daniel Davis, Tracy Omo, Kyle Omo, Karen Wiederstein, Robert Weiderstein, Jesse Shaich, Pietro Giacomini, Josie Rodgers, Janine Cohen, Addie Barragan, Charles Bouers, Richard Delta, Jean Korver, Dan Korver, Jason Silvermaan, Rachel T., Loren T., Kelsy Richardson, Angela Cordeiro, Alex Assila, Matt Turner, Riki Jones, Brandi, Misty, Sylvia Anchen, Christian Flores, Mark Langanke, Hayden Langanke, Emiline Keupman, Maosen Li, Kate Monroe, Morgan Bertrami, Colton Busse, Parker Rehmus, Jordan Wilson, Sean Dulock, Mackenzie Goltz, Tom Jackson, Liana McKlintock, Rore Salerno, Linda Bell, Jeanine Cochran, Andreas Txai Villacorta, Jackie Stonebraker, Yosei Ikeda, Linda Gentsch, Jim Vornberg, Caroline Vornberg, James B, Hillary Connell, Adam Connell, Jeremy Lux, Danielle Freeto, Matthew Williams, Jameson Williams, Daisy Rodriguez, Abby Jacobs, Mark Jacobs, Jessica Kelley, Jon Sickbert, Kira Rigg, Bryce Rigg, Nancy Goodman, Justin Dombrowski, Leah Kessler, Jennifer Bolser, Dietmar Grimm, Anna Gayer, Janet Bychek, Adam Petcavich, Morgan Curtis, Travis Gabriel, Jon Kratowicz, Michelle Gilman, Robert Glass, Alison Glass, Blake Biertz, Jillian Biertz, Grey Biertz, Colin Bloom, Leon Hinkin, Robin Heid, Siona Heid, Nathan Collins, Rebecca Manzana, Christina Wingert, Ketah Simpson, Maggie Simpson, Darius Gallegos, Mark Goodman, Mark Dornbraser, Robert Hudson, Bailey Brown, Wingfield Rehmus, Michel Haddad, Adam Aronovitz, Pat Garrett, Felicia Valusek, Jena Collins, Justin Collins, Annamarie Soreigli, Julia Trejo, Elie Sebag Soreigli, Austin Hoffman, Dave Kreutzer, Suzanne Jones, Alex Liethen, Colin B, Reed Williams, Tina Nation, Chris Nation, LeeAnn Bailey, Alaina Neal, Kayla Reiner, Joseph Lewis, Madi Laughlin, Filip C, Jordan Cosgrove, Frank and Kelsi Nosal, Alyssia and Sebastian, Ling and Josh Worman, Amy and Daniel Nelson, Keith and Family, Amy Gray and Family, Kinzler Group, Gottschling Family, Kennedy Family, Russell Family, Kottis Family, Halley Family, Brian and Ashlee Group, Burkett Family, Schmidt Family, Cheryl +10, Shannon Family, Stewart Family, Swithin & Family, Eckert & Friends, Sanford Family, Howley Family, Struttman Family, Pearson Family, Rachael +2, Montgomery Family, Eisenbise Family, Abrams Family, Delone Family, Branigan Family, Kaufman Family, Bayless Family, Burns-Grey Family, Jarmolowicz Family, Patrick and Family, and Rogers Family.

Volunteer Groups: Kansas University Alternative Breaks, Women Rising Wild, The Road Less Traveled, UMC Youth Group, Team Russell, Parker Rehmus and the Watermelon Team, AIM House, Boy Scout Troop 989, Adventures Cross Country, Horizons Exploratory Academy, Wolfwood, Where There be Dragons, Get Schooled

Business Friends: Deb Gaarde & Legacy Custom Embroidery, Jim Morris Environmental T-Shirt Co., Hilary & Tamas & Dragonfly Coffee Roasters, Andy & Photography by Noel, White House Custom Colour, Doggy Doors, Pacific Domes, SolarRight, Bomb Footbags, JVS Graphics, Metro Solar, Provider's Resource Clearing House, Cuddles and Curls, and Droneworld.

Thank You

Mission: Wolf Staff:
 Mike Gaarde, Tricia LePore, Kacey Wilson, Laura McGehee, Eric Alvarado, Camille Potts, Jordan Goodman, John Lemon, Mateo Fertig, Aliera Visconti, Colton Busse, Chloe Madison, Austin Hoffman, Reed Williams, William Fontana, Misha Brindleup, Truly Collins



Minigan is thankful for the colorful bandanas that keep him safe on walks! (A. Visconti)

Board of Directors:
 Tara Ash, Matt Ash, Tracy Ane Brooks, Kent Weber, Tamas Christman, Julie Kreutzer, David Kreutzer, Randy Woods, and Sarah Woods.

In Memory:
 Pam Brown, Levi Holt, Kent Knowles, Kirk Coonley, Curtis Bauter

Caretakers and Educators: Ed Kraynak, Karen Mines, Michael Scheimann, the Fred & Donna Nives Foundation, Nora Maloney, David & Jean Farnello, Sander & Deb Orent, Anita Keefe & the Alpha Omega Foundation, the Guy B. Reno Foundation, Michael Gardner, Dara Garretson, Dell and Dixon Brooke, the Jocarino Family Fund, the Van Beuren Family, the Stephens Family Foundation, Mo Sparks, Rosemarie Sweeney & family, Paul & Darcee Jacob, Linda Coonley, Hannah Snyder, the Douglas E. Mitchell Charitable Fund, Blake Facente, Paul Jacob, Connie Emmerson, Rhonda Cleland, Bonnie Yurkanin, Richard & Debbie Keefe, Alan & Sally Bailey, Ann & Truly Collins, Sandy Stanley, Dave Nora & Peggy Kavookjian, Alexander Gram, Sheri Price, Patricia Walker, Rebecca Gray, David Warren, Torger Anderson, Joan Thompson, Ralph Marzulla, Karen & William Snyder, Joan Silaco, the Red Empress Foundation, the Gardner Foundation, Alice Victor, Nona Hattan, Nathan Varley & Linda Thurston, Steven & Cynthia Magidson, Wayne Cadden, Bev McGehee, the Footbridge Foundation, Inge Lauwers, Cynthia Houston, Susan Gardner, Kenneth Olivier & Angela Nomellini, Richard & Linda Clark, Norman Williams, Monica Glickman, Steven Sledziona, Virginia Redman, the Bielawski Family Fund, Gay Davis Miller, Ralph Noistering, Barry & Lee Fisher, Deborah Spring, Dan & Millie Matlock, Irene Larusso, Rebecca Bayang, Charles Landrum, Julie Welte, Craig Weaver, Joshua Johnson, Lewis Coonley, Suzanne Westgaard, Stephanie Burr, Donna Heysse, Cliff & Pam Wren, Bonnie Box, Mark & Carol Rickman, Pearl Gosnell, Thomas Funkhouser, the Hudyck Family, Susan Lin, Alexis Pyatt, Linda Giers, Anita Littlewolf, Elaine Shields, Peter Meisler, Pierre Schlemel, John & Judith Rinas, Karl Hemmerich, Nancy Vanderhoeven, Barry & Erin Sharaf, Anne Turyn, Linda Beilstein, Sharon Martel, Brian Blackman, Nancy Tumbull, Dot's Diner, Cathie Gagnon, Cynthia Wayburn, Priscilla Seimer, Marjorie & James Penrod, Jack Longo, Kelley Brockmeyer, the Ted Gorski Trust, Joyce Comin & Wini Milby, Sal Bellofatto, Robert Poole, Irene Becker, Tom & Susan Luchka, Bob & Pam Troyer, Elspeth Baillie, Carolyn Buongiorno, Bill & Edna Gaarde, Kirk Scott, Tina Winzent, Richard Clark, Lauryn & Curt Eisenhower, Lucy Coleman & Lydia Lee, Amy McCarthy, John Orth, Rebecca & George Rose, the Abel Family, Kay Ledyard, Sandy Buckner, Marie Amicucci, Peter Fahrenwald, Chris Ross, Fay Forman, John Kearns, Thomas & Mary-Lynn Foreman, Steve & Becky Andrews, Ralph & Donna Hood, Tamara Atkin, Bradley Kay, Friends of Horses, Safe Landing Horse Rescue, Carol Martinez, Nelson Brooke & family, Susan Menz, Seiichi Matsuda & Bonnie Bartel, John & Deb Mitchell, Betty Stanley, Cathy Snow, Alan Hirsch, Arthur & Carrel Pickoff, Sharon Martel, Karen Brammer, Walter & Els Van Woudenburg, Susan Menz, Deborah & Bill Gaarde, John Peleaux, Marie Amicucci, Neil & Diane Swan, Mike & Carol Finn, Betsy & Newell Woodbury, Wes & Nancy Taylor, Vicki Boesel, John & Gail Genovaese, John & Judith Stovall, Watson Land Co., Steven Linderer, Leslie & Don Caldwell, Joan & Tom Rauch, Ray & Betty Garber, Marty Wolff, Bill & Sallie Stout, Christine Swank, Elizabeth Cole, Paul & Jaclyn Creadon, Herbert Kober, Dan Fischer, Randy & Sarah Woods, Peggi Collins, Claudia Cole, Greg & Karen Shattuck, Ann & Dwaine Robey, Melanie Brisbon-Lindsey, Todd H., Buzz Innderdahl, Peter & Donna Sharpe, Gail Terry, Patrick & Susan Nichols, Larry Trilling, Jim Bradburn, Elliot Jackson, Hugh Leney, Mike & Joanie Liebman, Julie Gaylord, James Qualey, Thomas & Denise Shepard, Mark & Doris Dembosky, Elizabeth Fuls, Jackson Immuno Research Labs, Jeff Harvey, and Dr. Jeff & the Rocky Mtn. Vet Crew.

Generous Local Support: Allen & Lisa Avery, Allison & Chris Sable, Elevation Meat Market, Kirkpatrick Bank, Challenger Electric, the Sangre Art Guild & 3rd Street Art Gallery, Valley Ace Hardware Store, Chappy's Bar & Grill, Jane & Sunflower Natural Foods, Four Kings, Hunger Busters, Silver Cliff Mountain Inn, Westcliffe Supermarket, Westcliffe Petroleum, Gary Taylor & 91.7 KLZR, Cliff Lanes Bowling Alley & Rancher's Roost Cafe, Sangre Home Decor & Coffee Shop, Sugar & Spice Mountain Bakery, Sean & West Custer County Public Library, the Courtyard Country Inn, the Westcliffe Inn, Westcliffe & Silver Cliff Post Office, Valley Feeds, Westcliffe NAPA, Oak Disposal, Custer County Schools, Cole McCollum, Lia Coleman, Gardner Elementary School, Nancy & Jerry at Sangre Solutions, Crestone Graphics, the Wet Mountain Tribune, Custer County Chamber of Commerce, High Peaks Animal Hospital, the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation, The Daily Perks, La Plaza Inn, Dundee Memorial Dog Park, Trails West Trading Co., Growing Spaces, Rye Elementary School, Sandy Dolak, La Veta Public Library, the Huajatlolla Heritage Festival, John C. Fremont Library, Amy Martin & the Pueblo Rawlings Library, the McClelland School, Lathrop State Park, Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo, John Mall High School, the Mountain Mail, Solar Solutions, Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center, Paula Woerner & Wolfwood Refuge, Pueblo Animal Emergency Hospital, Paint Stain & Stucco, Clear Glass, SustainAbility Recycling, Fine Line Graphics, Colorado Gives & the Community First Foundation, Outdoor Buddies & Wounded Warrior Project, the Ezulwini Foundation, Stan & Bill Stiffler, Richard Miller, Pam & Wolf Edwards, Dr. Koh at Powers Pet Emergency, Wayne McGee & Skyla & Allie, Dr. David Glover & Belerest Animal Clinic, Paul Biron, Dr. Davis, Dr. Julie Sperry & Cliffes Veterinary Clinic, Ron & Beatknick Auto, Karen & Trey Crockell, Adele Rose, Audrey & Dick Stermer, Paul & Linda Schutt, Jason Stewart, Alicia & Jake Shy, Joshua & Erika Wofford, Erin Farrow & Lake County High School, Shirley Nickerson, Joe Solano, Gil Vasquez, Hannah Crawford, Willie Britt & family, Eric King, Heather Whitlock, John Johnson, Luke George, Bruce Medina, Pat Neverdahl, Wendy Rusk, Rebecca Hamish, Jim & Claudia Cole, Mark & Doris Dembosky, Phoenix Rising, Bonnie Rose, Nancy Joroff, Kathy Reese, Mike & Lisa Herring, Enos Yoder & family, Bill Tezak, Mike Shields & family, Jennifer & Steve Macoskey, David & Amy Shepard, Bill & Sallie Stout, Alicia Waugh, Bob & Carol Allison, Mitch Campbell, Nequette Drilling, Greg Curtis & family, the Sanders Family, Birgit Burchlechner, Kay Ingram, Kris & Michael Gates, Lexus of Colorado Springs, Royal Gorge RV, Big O Tires of Canon City, Neil Peachy, Southern Colorado Cold Storage, Bob Fulton, Cross Creek Equine, the Wilson Family, Bob and Kay Parker, the Tenacious Unicorn Ranch, and friends & neighbors of Centennial Ranch & Aspen Mountain Ranch.



Staff members Colton Busse, Tricia LePore, John Lemon, and Kacey Wilson clean, walk, dig, and build! (J. Goodman, A. Visconti, C. Potts)

Caretaker of the Year Ed Kraynak

The wolves of Mission Wolf have been fortunate to have a wolf caretaker like Ed. Not only has Ed helped feed many wolves, he also values conservation of space for nature. He is aware of our long-term land conservation program and understands the need for buffer space around sanctuaries like Mission: Wolf. We identified an adjacent lot years ago as critical to our goals. Before we were able to secure the lot, it was developed with a house and shed. When the owners retired from mountain living after a decade of watching us grow, they gave us the first choice to purchase the land and offered us a discount. We were near to retiring a twenty-five-year land debt and were not in a position to do it again. Ed saw the need and came to the rescue seemingly overnight. The property now provides the wolves a seventy-three acre buffer and a residence for the founding directors Tracy and Kent. Ed knows how helpful drones can be, so he sent the sanctuary a quality-range drone. Not only is it fun to see a new perspective of the place, but it also allows us to quickly investigate a commotion in the distant wolf enclosures, see if staff vehicles are stuck or if campers have arrived. An occasional sighting of our wild neighbors is a highlight including coyotes, bears, deer, raven and more. Howls of Gratitude to Ed for his amazing support of the animals!



The drone gives a birds-eye view of the refuge.

The WOLVES of MISSION:WOLF

Apollo

- Wolf-dog; high wolf content
- Lives with Farah
- Tall, shy, and majestic

Aria

- Arctic wolf
- Enjoys walking along the fence with neighbor Cephira

Arrow

- Black-phase Gray wolf
- Lives with Zephir
- Striking, green eyes

Artemis

- Wolf-dog
- Three legs, still fast
- Newest member of the pack

Batman

- Pitbull-wolf cross
- Lives with Fenris
- Not a fan of birds

Buku

- Pitbull-wolf cross
- Lives with his brother, Oreo
- Definitely an introvert

Cephira

- Wolf-dog; high wolf content
- Enjoys wagging her tail at neighbor Aria

Farah

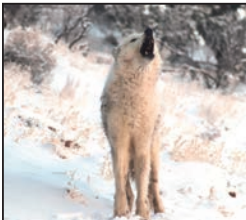
- Black-phase Gray wolf
- Lives with Apollo and is constantly trying to play

Fenris

- Wolf-dog
- Lives with Batman
- Can't howl; tries anyways

Flash

- Wolf-dog
- Lives with Saurya
- Loves bones, hates sharing

Illiamna

- Arctic wolf
- Lives with Merlin
- The ladies love him

Merlin

- Wolf-dog
- Lives with Illiamna
- Playful if no one's watching

Minigan

- Wolf-dog, lives with staff
- Says a remarkable amount with just his eyebrows

Nashira

- Wolf-dog
- Lives with Zeab and Ydun
- Sleek and athletic

Oreo

- Pitbull-wolf cross
- Lives with Buku
- Prefers warm weather

Rosie-Valkyrie

- Timber wolf
- Lives with and is protective of her brother, Tiger

Saurya

- Black-phase Gray wolf
- Lives with Flash
- Wild-maned wolf

Soleil

- Wolf-dog
- Oldest M:W resident
- A bit snobby about bones

Tiger

- Timber wolf
- Lives with Rosie
- Quieter than his sister unless food is involved

Ydun

- Black-phase Gray wolf
- Lives with Zeab and Nashira
- Loves to love

Zeab

- Black-phase Gray wolf
- Lives with Nashira and Ydun
- A reluctant grandpa

Zephir

- Arctic wolf
- Lives with Arrow
- Best refuge singer

Zuko

- Wolf-dog
- Every spring, sheds enough fur to make a new Zuko

MISSION: WOLF

Education vs. Extinction

Contact Us

Website: www.missionwolf.org
Email: info@missionwolf.org
Phone: 719-859-2157
Mail: PO Box 1211
 Westcliffe, CO 81252

Follow Us

 facebook.com/missionwolfcolorado
 facebook.com/wolvesofmissionwolf
 @missionwolfsanctuary
 youtube.com/missionwolfsanctuary



Apollo gazes through frosty aspens (J. Lemon)



Rosie-Valkyrie investigates the taste of a branch (C. Potts)



Wolf-dogs Batman, Oreo, and Buku (left to right) are brothers, but only Oreo has grayed with the years. Still, they've all aged gracefully. (L. McGehee, J. Goodman, C. Potts)

At Mission: Wolf, we're always trying to be more sustainable. **If you'd like to save paper and receive your newsletter digitally**, email us at info@missionwolf.org with your name and address and we'd be happy to take you off our paper mailing list.

Caretaker Corner

Mission: Wolf depends on donations from our supporters and members. With roughly thirty hungry canines to feed, we go through nearly 1,000 pounds of raw meat each week. Your contribution goes directly toward the care of the animals, as well as the education of thousands of visitors. Please consider becoming a member of the Mission: Wolf family today, and help keep the wolves happy, healthy, and well-fed! Wolf membership packets make great gifts for birthdays, holidays, and memorials. You get a tax-deductible receipt, and your friend or loved one receives a wolf membership packet as a gift

from you. Visit mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com to order, or use the order form below to sponsor one of the M:W wolves.

What's Included:

- One year membership to the Wolf Caretaker program
- 8"x10" color photo of your chosen wolf
- Your wolf's biography
- Lock of your wolf's naturally shed fur
- Mission: Wolf decal
- Subscription to the *Wolf Visions* newsletter
- Personalized Membership Certificate



Feed a Wolf! Become a Caretaker at Mission: Wolf!

Which wolf would you like to sponsor? (please circle)
 Apollo, Aria, Arrow, Artemis, Batman, Buku, Cephira, Farah, Fenris, Flash, Illiamna, Merlin, Minigan, Nashira, Oreo, Rosie-Valkyrie, Saurya, Soleil, Tiger, Ydun, Zeab, Zephir, Zuko

Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Address: _____

\$25 Student/Senior
 \$40 Individual
 \$100 Family, Group, or School
 \$250 Contributor
 \$500 Patron
 \$1,000 Feed a Wolf for a Year
 \$3,000 Feed a Pack for a Year

Please send this form with cash or check to:
 Mission: Wolf
 PO Box 1211
 Westcliffe, CO 81252
 Visit mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com
 for credit card orders