

Wolf Visions

2022 Winter Update

Mission:Wolf is a solar-powered nature center that provides a sanctuary for unwanted captive-born wolves and horses. We offer experiential education to inspire the public to become stewards of the earth. Since 1988 we have provided lifelong care for over 125 wolves, facilitated experiential wolf education with over 1 million people, and preserved 350 acres of pristine alpine habitat.

Historic Flood Flushes Wolf Ravine



Ydun (left) & Zeab (right) explore their riverswept homes after the storm. Many of the animals had small pools and a creek to play in for weeks--a sight unseen in the Mission: Wolf ravine for more than a decade.

Mission: Wolf
PO Box 1211
Westcliffe, CO 81252

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Email info@missionwolf.org to
receive your newsletter digitally

All animals find safety, staff scramble for weeks to make repairs after deluge rips out 27 fence lines

On July 28, a rain for the ages fell at Mission: Wolf sanctuary. In the chaos of what has been dubbed the "Great Flood", dozens of wooden gates, hundreds of fence posts, and thousands of feet of fence were pulled, ripped, and flattened by debris washed down the canyon. All resident animals found safety away from the damage, although it may take years before their homes can be completely restored.

see pages 4-5 for more



Hay straps—it'll work! For now..



Illiamna—one wet wolf



Looking for buried fence. No need for fire bunkers this year



Sheep Creek at M:W Farm tears fence, flows onto road



Nashira hunts for snakes & salamanders



Sam—one wet staff



Animal Updates

Marty & Saurya Figuring Out Their Boundaries

As chronicled in this summer's *Wolf Visions*, two of the sanctuary's younger animals, Marty and Saurya, were introduced in hopes they could develop companionship. Both have strong personalities and can be a little hot-headed. Saurya especially has proven to be too intense for each of her three previous companions. While they often have arguments over bones, we remain hopeful they will continue to set their boundaries in a healthy way and live in harmony together for many years. When staff have run to check on them after one of these "conversations", they've been found playing "chase" around their enclosure by then, tails wagging in innocence.

Although all Mission: Wolf's animals are spayed & neutered, winter can still spark a lot of hormones, making everything more dynamic and emotional. We're not holding our breath for Marty & Saurya, especially with her history of failed partnerships. If they get through their first winter together amicably, a successful life together might prove possible.

-M. Gaarde



-S. Renk

Wolf hug! Saurya (left) shows signs of liking her new partner, Marty (right). He does his best to keep up with her constant antics and offers to play

Zephir Memorial

On September 9th, Zephir, a stunning Arctic wolf who lived at the sanctuary for 13 years, quietly passed away during her sleep. She left behind her lifelong partner, Arrow.

The beginning of her life was challenging as she and her litter mates came down with parvovirus at a very young age. She did not show symptoms and beat the virus with gusto, finding comfort with a handsome male pup with pale green eyes named Arrow. He would be her life long partner. If you were lucky enough to spot them, you might see them together, snoozing or taking in the day from their perch.

Zephir has been an amazing teacher of patience and trust to the staff and visitors of Mission: Wolf. Though she will be missed, we are happy she is no longer in pain and can run free across the Rainbow Bridge. While death can be a time of sadness, it should also be a time of celebration and reflection of an amazing life fully lived—something surely true for Zephir.

-M. White



-L. McGehee

Throughout her life in captivity, Zephir held onto her values of space & privacy. She was a valuable reminder of most wolves' independent nature.

Obsidian Moves, Neighbor Artemis Doesn't Seem Bothered

In January, Mission: Wolf took in a young male wolf-dog who came to be named Obsidian. He spent a few months in an enclosure close to staff, gaining confidence and bonding with some of his caretakers, as highlighted in this summer's *Wolf Visions*. In early summer, he was moved to a larger multi-acre enclosure close to the top of the hill where he can observe most of the sanctuary from above. He seems to be adjusting well to his new space and can often be seen bounding across the hillside to chase birds off his bones or letting out one of his deep, bellowing howls.

Meanwhile, 7-year-old Artemis moved to a new enclosure to make room for Obsidian. She has shown to be quite shy, so we were nervous to put her in a space closer to visitors and staff. To our pleasant surprise, we have enjoyed seeing her adjust seemingly with no fear or anxiety. Her striking color and mysterious missing leg have turned Artemis into somewhat of a visitor favorite. We are happy to see both of them active, gaining confidence, and seeming content in their new spaces.

-M. Gaarde



-S. Renk



-E.R.

High above most everyone else and with a prime view of daily happenings at the sanctuary, Obsidian (above) has settled into his new home. Nextdoor, it has been a joy for staff to see a happy Artemis (bellow) up close in her new space near the visitor path.

Wild Wolf Update

Researchers Combine Conflict Risk vs. Ecological Suitability for Wolves in Colorado

excerpt from Colorado Public Radio News

In an update on the wolf reintroduction planning process, Eric Odell, the species conservation program manager with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, cited a recent study assisting their efforts to select reintroduction locations.

To suggest suitable places for wolves, [the study] not only examines biological factors, like where the predators would find ample deer and elk populations. It also analyzes which local communities would tolerate wolves(...) The results, published in the journal "Global Ecology and Conservation," found wolves could have the easiest time regaining a foothold in a portion of southwest Colorado.

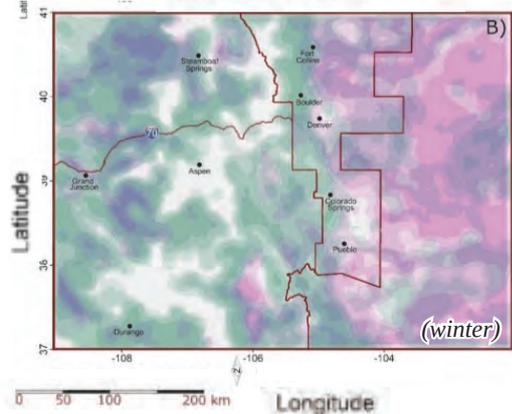
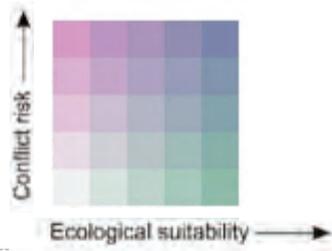
Odell showed a map overlaying the results of the study with an area he called the "donut hole" for wolf reintroduction. Its boundaries are 60 miles from Colorado's borders with Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, minimizing the risk of the animal immediately migrating into other states. The Continental Divide forms the eastern limit. Odell said wildlife officials will release wolves into the region which stretches roughly between U.S. Route 24 and Montrose and runs between Glenwood Springs and Vail in the north and Ridgway in the south.

Odell told commissioners the zone included many strong wolf habitats with a lower risk of livestock conflicts. He expects Colorado Parks and Wildlife managers will now start talking to communities in the area — like Aspen, Gunnison and Glenwood Springs — about the potential impacts. "We want to have the highest likelihood of success so that we're not dealing with depredations more than we would want to," Odell said. Odell clarified the region is not the only place the state will tolerate wolves. After reintroduction, wildlife managers expect the predators to exit its boundaries and travel to other parts of the state.

Since wolves are legendary travelers, Mark Ditmer, lead author of the study, said his maps should be seen as a guide to maintaining a viable wolf population. "I hope they're are useful as a tool for thinking through where to release wolves, and where they might be problems as the population expands," Ditmer said.

Brasch, Sam. "Here's the general region where Colorado plans to reintroduce wolves." CPR News, 9 Sept. 2022

Ditmer et al. 2022, "Defining ecological and socially suitable habitat for the reintroduction of an apex predator" Global Ecology & Conservation, vol. 38, e02199



WOLVES OF MISSION: WOLF

· as described by staff ·



Apollo

*shy, sensible,
ever-resistant to new things,
never afraid to hit the brakes*



Cephira

*warmhearted, curious, testy,
a touch of light on those she meets,
the spirit of a sprite*



Ydun

*flamboyant, sweet, flirtatious,
a flower blooming bright for all to cherish*



Zeab

*proud, sturdy, a booming howl,
the reluctant celebrity*



Arrow

*stunning, calm, big,
a majestic presence who
lights up our hillside*



Illiamna

*lanky, persistent, goofy,
needs to breathe more when eating,
a primitive mind, a wandering soul*



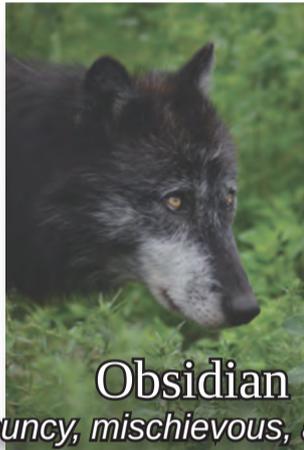
Flash

*silly, exuberant, happy, dopey,
one big ball of love*



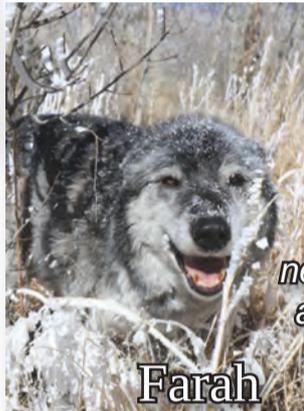
Saurya

*intense, strong-willed, vigilant,
the ultimate queen*



Obsidian

*bouncy, mischievous, athletic,
big man on campus,
a tremendous teacher, likes to dig*



Farah

*giver of overwhelming love,
playful, full of spunk, drama queen,
just a LOT*



Zuko

*sensitive, gregarious, jovial,
sly, fluffy, lover of carrots,
would love to follow Kent around 24/7*



Aria

*the curious watcher, soft-spoken,
patient, content*



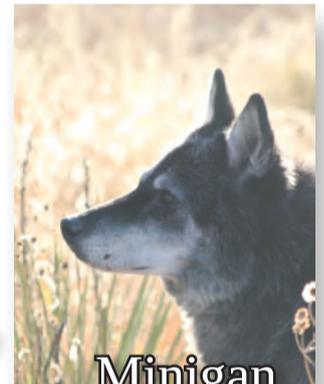
Oreo

*outgoing, bratty, independent,
a survivor who looks after his sibling*



Nashira

*pushy, amiable, bold, charming,
an attention-seeking love,
makes everyone she meets smile*



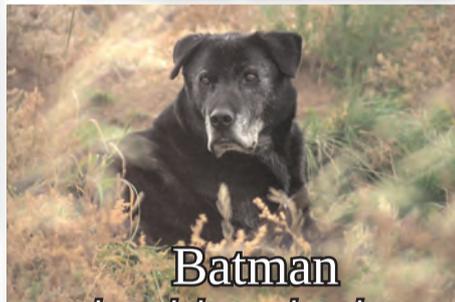
Minigan

*a food shark, doggy, stoic,
clumsy, the goodest boi of all*



Buku

*stealthy, protective, talkative,
moves with intention*



Batman

*relaxed, imposing, brave,
a gentle companion to canine friends*



Fenris

*modest, cautious, stoic,
happy to just be*



Rosie Valkyrie

*dramatic, vocal, sensitive, alert,
she's up then she's down,
the neighborhood alarm bell*



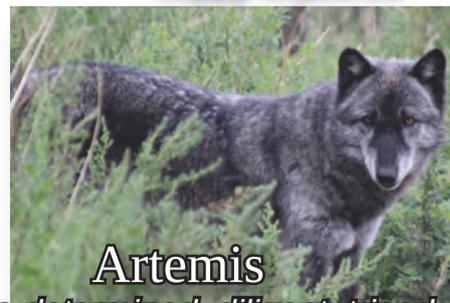
Soleil

*gentle, regal, spry, steady,
enjoying life with no expectation*



Marty

*an explorer, cheerful, strong,
socially insecure, goofy,
a bit of a space cadet*



Artemis

*clever, determined, diligent, tripod,
an unstoppable lady despite just 3 legs*

Photos: K. Weber, S. Renk,
A. Bally, C. Pietzsch, A.S. Vera

- Receive Wolf Visions to the wrong address?
- Receive more than one Wolf Visions?
- Wrong name on the address label?



Mission: Wolf migrated its donor database this year.
We want to make sure all our supporters' information is correct.

Visit missionwolf.org/contact-form or scan QR code here →

to let us know any changes we need to make



“THE GREAT FLOOD”

• JULY 28, 2022 •

On the afternoon of July 28th, the skies opened up over Mission: Wolf. Almost four inches of rain fell in the span of just two hours, causing a 3-4 ft. deep river to run straight through the middle of the sanctuary. The water flowed into and flooded the ravine that crosses most of the wolf enclosures, taking rocks, trees, and other debris with it, which resulted in catastrophic damage to the wolves’ homes. Lucky enough, staff immediately noticed what was happening, ran into the middle of the storm, and ensured all animals were out of danger and secure.

All in all, 27 fence lines were severely damaged or destroyed. For weeks, staff and volunteers moved debris, pulled posts straight, stretched new fences, tied new wire, laid down new debris to secure ground mesh, and reinstalled adjacent wood gates. New “break” points have been engineered where the fences cross the water. This way, if another storm tries to wipe the wolves’ fences out, it will only take a little portion of the fence with it and nothing more.

Within the following month of the flood, two significant rain events came along to test our nerves (and temporary fixes).

Both times, anxious as ever, staff ran out into the downpour, relieved to find the chain-link holding strong. Additionally, the seemingly never-ending amount of rain being dumped on the sanctuary meant a steady hum of water through the wolf enclosures for weeks, giving consistent enrichment to the wolves in a way seldom seen nowadays. It was a special treat for staff to hear the babbling creek throughout the background of their day.

After bringing the Mission: Wolf network of supporters up to speed, an overwhelming amount of love from all across the world poured in. Offers to come out and give time; fundraisers started on the sanctuary’s behalf; discounts on building materials from local businesses; tens of thousands of monetary donations online—we are still in awe and feeling very humbled from it all.

Thanks to the generosity of several local organizations and individual donors, we now have an abundance of fencing tools and materials, enabling more staff and volunteers to work at one time, allowing for more repairs overall. Our local friends at Valley ACE Hardware donated several thousand dollars’ worth of rebar and lumber right off the bat to get us through initial repairs. The good people at Steelock Fencing delivered a semi-load of fence material to the refuge at around half the normal cost. A former staff member working for Living Design Studios in Erie has organized a deal for the wolves that will provide for 50+ prefabricated steel gates at a similar, significantly reduced price.

We send howl after howl of gratitude to these organizations and the hundreds of you who donated generously to the rebuilding effort. The wolves are forever grateful. It gives us so much joy to see this abundant outpour of love from all supporters, donating their time, working hands, materials and dollars. In a world mired by negativity and division, we are swimming in unity and hope!

We anticipate this being “life” for us until at least next fall, perhaps into 2024. One by one, as weather allows, all 27 damaged fence lines and the surrounding infrastructure will be made structurally sound again. We are confident the animals will have new homes that are safer and more secure than they were before.

-S. Renk

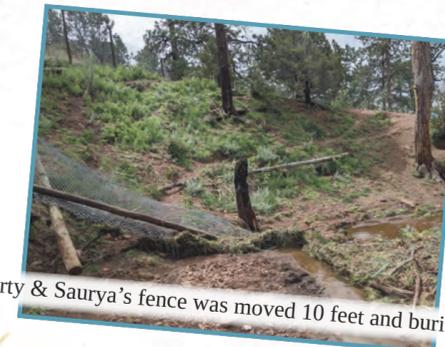
Want to Help?

We’ve compiled a special “Flood Recovery” Amazon wish list
Find it at missionwolf.org/wish-list or scan here



Art: A. Bally

Photos: K. Weber, TAB, S. Renk, A. Bally, H. Lockhart, S. Stiffler, E.R.



Marty & Saurya’s fence was moved 10 feet and buried



Tons of debris cover fences by Wolf Bridge



Where did it go..?



Horse pasture fence = gone

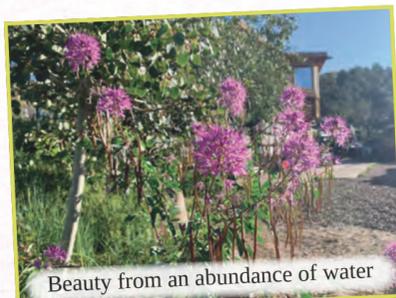


M:W driveway nearly washed away



Ready, set, pull!

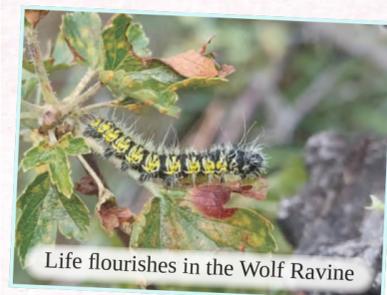
Summer groups help stand up fallen fences



Beauty from an abundance of water



Obie--sneaking a peek



Life flourishes in the Wolf Ravine



Ms. Vigilant—Zephir—hiding in the tall vegetation

With so much moisture, one thing’s for sure: the Mission: Wolf flora did not suffer throughout the summer. The sanctuary was greener than most have ever seen it with grass more than two-feet tall, potato crops thriving, wild flowers in abundance, and daily sightings of new and interesting insects. The tall vegetation really enhanced their natural ability to blend in. To the gentle dismay of staff and visitors to the sanctuary, spotting wolves from afar became quite the challenge!

Join the Team

At Mission: Wolf, we operate on solar power, grow food in geodesic domes, and build with recycled materials. We value education, sustainability, and improving relationships between people, animals, and the world around us. Around 5-10 on-site staff give their time to the sanctuary and in turn are provided with a roof over their head, food to eat, and a multinational community to be part of. We live together in a 3-acre eco-village designed to be an inspiring example of sustainable living practices.

The sanctuary is in particular need of skilled, competent individuals to join our dedicated team of Sanctuary Caretakers. The wolves don't need a lot other than food, water, and a clean space to live. Maintaining the facility & vehicles, operating the office, and educating the public are full-time jobs.



E.R.
Each year, volunteers give over 30,000 hours of work to the wolves. A multinational family of volunteer staff live on-site 24/7

*Visit missionwolf.org/staff or email us at info@missionwolf.org for more information & to apply for a staff position



STRETCH YOUR DONATION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Mission: Wolf is proud of its world-wide community of supporters built over three decades of work.

To honor every cent, we have built a sustainable, solar-powered facility to serve our mission with as minimum overhead as possible.

Through the following campaigns, your dollar goes even further.

Please consider donating this holiday season to one of the giving opportunities listed below:



GivingTuesday is a global day of giving. To help raise awareness of charitable causes and encourage donors' generosity, Meta/Facebook will match \$8 million in qualifying donations made on **Facebook** during **GivingTuesday**.

Matching on a first-come, first-serve basis begins on **Tuesday, November 30, at 8am ET**.

Follow Mission: Wolf on Facebook & look for its fundraising post on November 30 to participate in Giving Tuesday:



Since its inception in 2010, Colorado Gives Day has raised \$307 million for Colorado nonprofits including Mission: Wolf, making it among the most successful giving days in the nation. In 2020, more than \$50 million was raised during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 82,988 donors surpassed all expectations by giving 230,504 individual donations and helping 2,874 Colorado nonprofits continue the good work they do.

Those who give on **Tuesday, December 6** will find their donations boosted by a \$1.6 million Incentive Fund--only possible thanks to the Community First Foundation, FirstBank, and support from many Colorado businesses stepping up to finance the Fund.

Scan here:



or visit www.coloradogives.org/organization/MissionWolf to schedule your donation ahead of time

Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation Spirit Campaign - Ends December 31

Mission: Wolf has participated in the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation Spirit Campaign for over 10 years. As before, the WMVCF will partially match all individual donations to a Custer County non-profit of your choice **between November 15 and December 31**. In 2021, Mission: Wolf supporters were responsible for over \$15,000 in total donations--a record for the sanctuary!

To participate: · mail the form below to the address listed · visit wmvcf.org · or scan the QR code here →

Don't forget to name "Mission: Wolf" as your non-profit of choice!



Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation **DONATION FORM**

You can also donate to the Spirit Campaign online by visiting WMVCF.ORG

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please distribute my donation to the following Custer County nonprofit organizations in the amounts shown (use separate sheet if necessary):

Donation to Matching Fund (BENEFITS ALL NONPROFITS)

Amount: \$ _____

Specific Nonprofit Organization: Mission: Wolf Amount: \$ _____

Specific Nonprofit Organization: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Specific Nonprofit Organization: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SPIRIT CAMPAIGN 2022

IMPORTANT:
Please make **ONE CHECK** for your total donation payable to: **WMVCF** (or **WMV Community Foundation**)

Mail your completed form and check to:
Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation
P.O. Box 718
Westcliffe, CO 81252



-S. Renk

Marty (above) & Rosie Valkyrie (below) send howls of gratitude for your donation!



-A. Bally

of Mission: Wolf



*Although wolves don't
make good pets..*



*..they do look stunning
on the family room wall*



Shop Metal Prints + More at the *Mission: Wolf Store*

Give **TWICE** This Winter

*All earnings from merchandise sales go directly
toward the care & wellbeing of the sanctuary's animals.*



As well as metal prints, the Mission: Wolf Store features:

- "Become a Wolf Caretaker" Packets
- A Walk in Connection - book by Tracy Ane Brooks
- (limited supply) 2022 Mission: Wolf apparel
- Mission: Wolf stickers
- Fine Art produced by Mission: Wolf staff

Scan the QR code above or click "Shop" at missionwolf.org to shop the Mission: Wolf Store

Keep Mission: Wolf Rolling

In-kind donations are a huge help in keeping our daily operations going. Here are our three biggest wishes and a list with other items we can use. Please call us if you have questions or if you would like to ask about our current needs. (719-859-2157) Thank you for your help!

Fuel-Efficient Town Car



*Two times per week we drive **50 miles for wolf meat & supplies**. We need an efficient town-run car to save the wolves money on gas, but one that's also durable enough for the roads. We have found something like a **Rav-4, Highlander, CRV, or Forrester** fits the mold.*

Winter Survival Rig



*Winters at the refuge have the potential to be harsh. **Snow can close the roads to cars and trucks for days or weeks at a time**. Transportation is paramount for survival in case of emergency or the need to get food in for the wolves and staff. We need to utilize **vehicles with tracks to travel over the snow like an atv or utv with 4 tracks, or snowmobile**.*

Electric Vehicle (Truck, ATV, 4x4, etc.)



*With the solar-powered capability of Jane's Studio, it's time to upgrade our fleet to electric. An **electric-powered 4x4 truck or all-terrain vehicle** will put us in the position to respond to emergencies and maintain daily operations at the refuge for many years to come.*



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
To view Mission: Wolf's **expanded wish list**, please visit missionwolf.org/wish-list

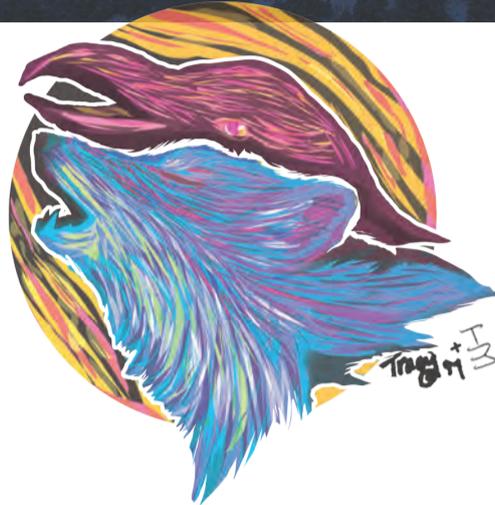


MISSION: WOLF

EDUCATION VS. EXTINCTION

Contact Us:

Website: www.missionwolf.org
Email: info@missionwolf.org
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Mail: PO Box 1211
Westcliffe, CO 81252



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facebook.com/wolvesofmissionwolf
 [@missionwolfsanctuary](https://instagram.com/@missionwolfsanctuary)
 youtube.com/missionwolfsanctuary



Marty



Nashira



Farah & Apollo



Ydun



Saurya

*Mission: Wolf operates on contributions from Wolf Caretaker members
With roughly 25 hungry canines to feed,
we go through around 500 pounds of raw meat each week*

Please consider becoming a member of the Mission: Wolf family today and help keep the wolves happy, healthy, and well-fed!
Your contribution goes directly toward the care of the animals as well as the education of thousands of visitors.

Wolf membership packets make
GREAT GIFTS
for birthdays, holidays and memorials.

We send you a tax-deductible receipt and your friend or loved one receives a wolf membership packet as a gift from you in the mail.



included in a Mission: Wolf membership packet:

- Personalized certificate honoring your annual membership
- Sample of naturally shed wolf fur
- 8x10 color photo of your wolf
- Subscription to Wolf Visions
- Mission: Wolf decal/sticker
- Biography of your wolf

Visit mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com to order, or use the form below to sponsor a canine of Mission: Wolf

Take a Wolf to Dinner! 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, Marty, Merlin, Minigan, Nashira, Obsidian, Oreo, Rosie-Valkyrie, Saurya, Soleil, Ydun, Zeab, Zuko

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Annual Membership

- \$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

or **Sustaining Membership*** at \$ ____ per month (\$5 minimum)

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

*We believe Sustaining Members will ensure Mission: Wolf is set for the future through consistent, monthly support. If you would like to become a Sustaining Member, visit missionwolf.org/donate-now and choose "monthly"