

# Wolf Visions

## 2023 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 continue to provide lifelong care for wolves, facilitate experiential wolf education with over 1 million people, and preserve hundreds of acres of pristine alpine habitat.



Email [info@missionwolf.org](mailto:info@missionwolf.org) to receive your newsletter digitally

We are here! Mission: Wolf's newest residents, Faelen & Maeve, take a walk in the playpen and share a sunset howl to the valley below.

## New Arrivals: Faelen & Maeve

### New Animal Caretaker Moves from California, Brings Her Own Canine Teachers

Introducing Mission: Wolf's newest residents: Faelen, Maeve, and Moira!

Faelen and Maeve are rare and unlike many of Mission: Wolf's resident animals—they come from a very happy home; so much so that they brought their home with them. Their human caretaker, Moira, is Mission: Wolf's new Animal Caretaker. She assumes the role as we say a fond farewell to staff member Madelyn White (for now..). Moira has worked in wolf and wolfdog care and education for years and is excited to be a part of the team at Mission: Wolf.

Faelen is a four-year-old black-phase wolfdog; a naturally shy but curious boy. Like most wolfdogs, he takes time to warm up to new people but deeply loves his chosen family. Once you get to know him it's clear how goofy and sensitive he truly is. Some of Faelen's favorite things are playing with Maeve, going on wilderness walks, and napping in the sun.

Maeve is a two-year-old gray wolfdog; a playful, outgoing, and energetic girl. Maeve is quickly accepting of new people and loves giving affection. She adores her adoptive brother Faelen and is always by his side. Some of Maeve's favorite things are running in the playpen, meeting new human friends, and wrestling with her brother.

All three new residents have settled into life at the refuge nicely and everyone seems happy to be part of the Mission: Wolf family. We look forward to a future of devoted animal care and education together. Join us in a welcoming howl to Faelen, Maeve, and Moira!

*read more of Faelen, Maeve, & Moira's story on Page 3..*

## We Celebrate a Successful Summer of Education, Wildlife Sightings & Land Conservation Growth

We wish to share the experiences and achievements from summer that are helping us secure a bright future with the amazing reality that wild wolves will soon roam the Colorado Wilderness again. One of the best parts of life at Mission: Wolf includes the many comments stimulated by wildlife sightings. Moira and her pack during morning exploration in the playpen included sightings of one of three resident **bears**, and everyone will remember one of them strolling past the kitchen window during staff meeting. Daily sightings of **deer, elk, pronghorn** and **coyotes** above the wolf enclosures have made us all smile. Several **bobcat** sightings occurred on the drive in or out from the refuge, along with several **badgers** and the ever-present neighborhood **porcupine**. A rare sighting of **yellow bellied weasels** and a **mountain lion** got eyes to open wide. **Eagles, hawks, falcons, vultures, songbirds, woodpeckers, owls** and every corvid (**raven, crows, jays...**) you can imagine fly over daily. Staff have had lots of fun saying "look!" to each other and visitors all summer.



# Animal Updates

## Another Successful Trip to Vet for Zeab

Last year, Zeab developed a growth on one of his back toes. It was soon removed and we were hopeful that was that. Unfortunately, the growth came back and turned into an open sore. The M:W team agreed it was best at this point to remove the whole toe to prevent future recurrence and ensure any cancer in the area might be removed.

In early August, Zeab rode to North Powers Animal Hospital (NPAH) in Colorado Springs, where the sanctuary's new USDA veterinarian, Rachel Gaarde, has long volunteered. Zeab successfully underwent procedures to remove his abscessed toe as well as several bad teeth found during his examination. After a very long day, Zeab returned home and had a happy reunion with Rosie.

Over the past months, we're thrilled to say Zeab has fully recovered. He's happily eating, running around his space with Rosie, and greeting visitors like the old pro he is. The two of them are growing together into a dynamic Ambassador Wolf duo, meeting new human friends every week but still very much on their own terms.

*Zeab gets some relief from USDA vet Dr. Rachel Gaarde & the team at NPAH. It took 6.5 hours of anesthesia and lost him a toe and a few teeth – including a very large but dead canine (above).*



*"Where are we going?!" Zeab ready for a ride in the wolves' Sprinter van (left). A groggy Zeab looks up from his bed on the way home. Howls of gratitude to all the doctors and staff who helped make his life better.*



*-M. White / M. Schein*

## Batman Reunited with Brothers Oreo and Buku

We are happy to share that Batman, one of the "pit-wolves," is now living happily with his two littermate brothers, Buku and Oreo.

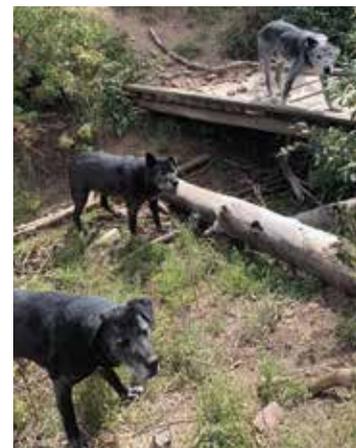
For the past 4 years, Batman had lived with Fenris, another senior wolfdog. After Fenris passed away this summer, Batman was clearly lonely. He could be heard calling to his brothers, Buku and Oreo, across the ravine. Naturally, we decided to see if the three boys wished to share a home again.

Although Batman had not lived with his brothers since they were young puppies, their reunion was happy and undramatic. Mission: Wolf's animal care team slowly made the introduction, first allowing Batman nose-to-nose through the fence with Buku and Oreo in a neutral space under careful supervision. Over a couple weeks of slowly moving them closer and carefully monitoring their body

language, it was clear they were all happy to be reintroduced.

All three boys are living peacefully together now, enjoying one of the quieter parts of the sanctuary at the bottom of the ravine. Here's to hoping they enjoy each other's company for a long time!

*-M. White / M. Schein*



*The boys are back. Batman, Buku, and Oreo have all seemed happy & peaceful living back together*

## Ydun Gains Confidence With New Home, Shows a Wolf's High Sensitivity to Surroundings

Here's a stumper: how to keep a wolf happy in captivity? A wolf's range in the wild might stretch from the sanctuary's driveway to the horizon of Sangre de Cristo Mountains, two dozen miles away. From the start at Mission: Wolf, the ethic has been "if you have to have a wolf in a cage, might as well make it a big one." By now, more than 125 animals have had such a space here at the sanctuary. Still, sometimes their "big" enclosure isn't enough to keep them happy and staff have to get creative.

This summer, staff were saddened to see four-year-old Ydun become more shy and less willing to greet visitors. By now, it's safe to assume Ydun has reached maturity. In the wild at this stage, wolves become more concerned with their surroundings while they begin raising their own families and patrolling their territory. In captivity, these instincts can result in anxious behavior or animals becoming more wary of previously familiar things. While we're unsure of exactly why Ydun felt less confident, staff saw the opportunity to switch things up for her and introduce her into a new space in hopes it would help.

Dubbed the "Driveway 5" for the original M:W pack of 5—Kawh, Beorn, Tierra, Porini, and Skinwalker—Ydun's new home is a long rectangle shape running along the sanctuary driveway. The big space and a large brush oak grove at the bottom give her much more room to explore (and hide if desired) compared to her home before. Over the years, Mission: Wolf has found that the more space and hiding places the wolves are given, the more secure they feel, which often results in confident behavior. Staff have been overjoyed the last few weeks to see the "old Ydun" back greeting new human friends with a smile on her face. She certainly seems happy to us.

*Ydun's smile (below) expresses her satisfaction with her new territory (right), including playful sent rolling (bottom right).*



*-S. Renk / M. Schein*



*Zeab*



*Obsidian*



*Aria*



*Ydun*

# New Caretaker, Moira, Joins Mission: Wolf Brings Her Own Literal Version of “Wolves Don’t Make Good Pets”

...continued from Page 1

While what you are about to read may seem like a nice story with a pretty ending, I hope my journey can function as a cautionary tale. Life as a private wolfdog owner is not a fairytale. Wolves and wolfdogs are not good pets and in order to care for them, my entire life and career became centered around them. My path has been hard and full of uncertainty. However, everything I have learned now allows me to fulfill my passion for caring for these incredible animals and teaching others about why they matter.

In 2019, I was a new and enthusiastic wolfdog owner, caretaker to a young puppy named Faelen. While I certainly did not realize the extent of what I was in for at the time, I was not completely unprepared; I had done a lot of research and worked with wolfdogs before. Over the months, I watched a tiny black puppy grow into a happy 130+ lb adolescent. We built an extremely close bond and I learned to navigate his needs, quirks, and triggers. I shared our experiences online, and as public interest in Faelen & my adventures grew, I realized how much misinformation there is about wolfdogs. Inspired, I continued sharing my knowledge and our challenges together online and through in-person events.

Then Faelen hit maturity just before two years of age. This is the time when wolfdog owners commonly run into their first serious problems and when sanctuaries like Mission: Wolf tend to be called. While Faelen remained loving with his family, he became intensely anxious about other people. He needed a different life. I struggled with uncertainty yet was determined to keep him safe and happy. My family and I moved to a less crowded area in the mountains, which helped ease some stress. As he matured, I knew that Faelen

needed a lifelong canine companion that would share his intensity and behaviors. In 2021, I brought home a female wolfdog puppy named Maeve. Over the next two years, they deeply bonded and flourished together. I continued pursuing my career in wolf conservation by graduating college, working multiple jobs to make ends meet, and building my own educational platform about wolves & wolfdogs. Simultaneously, I spent hours every day caring for Faelen and Maeve. While I was making things work, I was exhausted. I knew we all three needed a change.

This past spring, I saw a post online from Mission: Wolf expressing their need for more staff. I reached out and was pleasantly surprised to find them receptive to my situation. After visiting, I saw it was an incredible and unique place. In one, M:W was the community, the career, and the home for us all that I had been seeking. After extensive planning on both ends, the wolfdogs and I left California and arrived in Colorado three days later. Throughout the summer, the combination of Faelen and Maeve's sheer joy at their new surroundings, the beautiful facility, and the devoted people that make Mission: Wolf what it is have filled me with gratitude for being here.

From the first moment I looked into Faelen's puppy eyes, I promised him I would do whatever it took to give him a safe and happy life. I never imagined the journey it would begin—the joy but also the heartache and fear and doubt I would experience in desperate determination to keep that promise. Many people ask



Who's happier? Wolfdogs Faelen and Maeve, or caregiver Moira? – Mission Wolf's new Animal Caretaker



Three key caretakers enjoy a moment on a busy summer Saturday— Siena, Moira, and Sam (left to right).

me if I regret bringing Faelen & Maeve home in the first place. Knowing what I do now, I'm unsure if I would have made the same decision. However, I can say I don't regret them. They are safe and happy, and the reason I am now a part of the Mission: Wolf family working for all the animals here every single day. I hope our situation can not only contribute to the well-being of the animals at Mission: Wolf now, but also that sharing my story might help prevent a few wolfdogs from needing rescue in the future.

-M. Schein

## Wild Wolf News

### Oregon Officials Agree to Transfer 10 Gray Wolves to Colorado

from The Oregon Capital Chronicle, Alex Baumhardt; 10 October, 2023

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will allow Colorado's Parks and Wildlife Department to trap and transfer up to 10 gray wolves from northeastern Oregon to Colorado. Oregon officials agreed to the plan after their counterparts in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming declined to help Colorado over concerns that a growing wolf population could migrate to their states...

[...] In 2020, Colorado voters approved a ballot measure to restore the population by a narrow margin. [The] reintroduction plan was finalized in May, and includes the release of 10 to 15 wolves each year for up to five years. When 50 or more wolves are in the state, the population could go from being “endangered” to “threatened” under the state and federal Endangered Species Act, according to the plan. Animals listed under the acts receive special protections meant to preserve their habitat and prevent unlawful killing. The wolves could be delisted and lose protections when there are 150 or more of them in Colorado for two years, or 200 wolves at any point, according to the plan. Oregon has agreed to let Colorado officials capture and transport the wolves between December and March. Colorado will pay any associated expenses. Oregon Fish and Wildlife will share wolf location information and methods for best capturing the animals. Once trapped, the wolves will gradually be introduced to Colorado's Western Slope, encompassing Vail and Aspen.

[...] Michelle Dennehy, a spokesperson for Oregon Fish and Wildlife, [said] in an email. “The intent is for Colorado to take wolves 1- to 5-years old from a mix of larger established packs. This is the age that wolves normally disperse anyway, striking out on their own to find new territory and a mate.” Oregon Fish and Wildlife will not allow the transfer of known breeding males and females from any pack, which should keep Oregon packs stable, according to Dennehy.



“Rocky Mountain Passion”  
- Tracy Ane Brooks



Wolves of Mission: Wolf



Best Buds. Zuko's grin is as big as it gets trying to keep up with Kent, riding around Blue Lakes in the Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness.

Zuko

Zuko came out of the Boise Idaho dog shelter, rescued by Moon Song Malamutes and adopted by Tracy for Kent's birthday. Zuko was mostly Alaskan Malamute but also suspected of having some wolf in him. He lived with Kent, Tracy, and their pack of dogs and aging wolfdogs.

Zuko arrived with anxiety, independence, and mischievousness. When left alone in the

house, he would get into anything and everything, so was rarely left unsupervised. Mischief aside, Zuko was an excellent and friendly companion to the aging animals and a goofy playmate to the younger dogs. However, his best friend was Kent and he would follow him everywhere he could. A camping trip to Greenhorn Mountain last fall was a real treat for both.

In the fall of 2022, Zuko started limping on his left front leg. It took several months and multiple vet visits to discover the cause. A slight bump on his leg quickly grew into a cancerous tumor that deteriorated the bone. He was too big for a front leg amputation, and it was likely that the cancer would spread even with an amputation. After several months of managing his pain, it became too much. He was humanely euthanized surrounded by his family, both human and canine. He will always be remembered for his big smile and bigger heart.

-M. White

Fenris

Fenris had a pretty rough start in life. While his mother was pregnant with him and his siblings, she was confiscated from her owner in a violent drug and gun raid. The puppies ended up spending a few months in a humane society in Michigan with their mother until Mission: Wolf was able to take in two of the puppies, Fenris and Amulet.

In their early years, both animals were very timid due to the trauma of the start of their life. Fenris was the most apprehensive and spent almost all of his time hiding in a den. The only time he was visible was around feeding time, when he would poke his head out to grab a piece of meat tossed right outside his front door.

He was soon paired with a female wolf-dog named Daisy who gave him companionship and helped boost his confidence. They lived together happily for 10 years until she passed away.

In his later years, he found companionship with a female wolf-dog named McKinley, and then a male wolf-dog named Batman. He and Batman would often be seen walking across the hillside, laying in the shade, or even walking over to observe visitors doing a behavior session with his neighboring enclosure. We are happy and honored that Fenris found confidence and courage throughout his life at Mission: Wolf. He will be forever missed and remembered for his soft, gentle spirit.

-M. White



Young Fenris. Shy, curious and watchful for most of his life; he was always hard to spot. Once he joined Batman as an elder, his fear lessened and was often seen sunning himself as he watched people from a safe distance.



The wolves' trusty Tractor of 10 years heads to a new home just in time to be replaced with a new warranted one - winter plowing soon to come.

Out With the Old, In With the New (Tractor!)

In 2013, the wolves got their first tractor and boy did it make a world of difference. Projects that would break backs of staff were taken care of in no time. The power of the backhoe saved labor and time to a point previously unattainable. Starting with a five-year warranty, staff managed to push the tractor for 10 years and 2,000 hours fixing roads, pulling out vehicles, digging construction lines, irrigating drainages, plowing snow, auguring fence-post holes, and hauling materials up and down the sanctuary's steep terrain.

Thanks to solid maintenance and care by a decade of staff, it was sold used at a good value this summer. A replacement tractor was purchased with another five-year warranty to serve the wolves for another decade plus.

-K. Weber

Solar Upgrade for Staff Village

1986 saw the sanctuary buy the first solar panels commercially available. They managed to power a lightbulb and a 12V car stereo. Man, we were styling! As solar technology continued to grow in leaps and bounds, we piece-meal added to the system for 30 years to the point where most of the gear was outdated and needed to be replaced.

In the last year, we were able to upgrade three staff homes to include a lithium-ion storage system and high output solar panels. The first panel three decades ago was 25 watts. The new ones? 400. Solar equipment has dropped in price by 90% since then, making it more readily available. Thanks to a few friends (Countryside Solar and Heating, Solar Solutions, and NAZ Solar Electric), the staff village was upgraded to the newest technology this summer.

Now one building remains: Jane's Studio. Installed in 2018 with a five-year lifespan, the lead-acid battery system is awaiting an upgrade soon.

-K. Weber



Derek & Mike (above) survey a big task: removing and demolishing our old mechanical room and creating a new area to shelter a host of new state of the art energy storage equipment and distribution systems.



Celebration photo. The horse barn walls (above) are complete! Installing the last gate for the happy horse barn corrals (right).

(Almost) Ready for Horses at Education Horse Barn

Now that we've adjusted to the changes from covid and with the Studio complete, we have been able to finally focus on the interior of the Education Horse Barn. Setting the interior wood was a season-long project with a lot of visiting volunteers putting in valuable hours of help. Thanks to the extra shop space provided by Jane's Studio, stalls are about 90% built now and ready to be installed in the next month. If we have our drothers, Mission: Wolf might welcome the Education herd of horses into their new home at Two Ravens Ranch before winter.

-K. Weber



Other Noteworthy Achievements for 2023:



Vehicle maintenance is at a high thanks to 4-H intern Keller Johnson & caretakers Derek Braddock and Parker Rehmus

Gates, fence and tools are ready to launch a massive rebuild of flood damaged wolf enclosures this spring

Fire and invasive weed mitigation occurred across 30 acres of wolf playgrounds by a heard of 38 goats.

Cords of Firewood are cut, stacked and ready for long cold days ahead



ADA handicap ramp for Jane's Studio complete



The "Bluff" at Mission: Wolf. With an additional 37 acres—and live water!—secured this summer, the sanctuary now encompasses more than 450 acres of preserved land in the Wet Mountains of Colorado. The new property (seen above) provides a home for Executive Director Mike Gaarde & USDA Veterinarian Rachel Gaarde, an opportunity for a future expanded horse pasture, and continues the sanctuary's goal to preserve as much natural habitat as possible. Read more on Page 7 about Mission: Wolf's conservation efforts...

New Executive Director, Mike Gaarde, "Living the Dream"

I have had a huge fascination with wolves and wanted to have a wolf sanctuary of my own ever since I was five years old. Everything in my life, either directly or indirectly, moved me toward having one. I worked 10 years toward an acting career not to become famous, but to be able to fund a sanctuary. That didn't really pan out so I decided to pursue a major in college to help. The only problem was I had no idea what major. I decided the only way to figure that out was to visit a handful of sanctuaries and see how they operate. I planned a road trip to visit a few.

Two days before I was supposed to leave, I broke my ankle and had to cancel the trip. I stayed in contact with one of the sanctuaries I intended to visit, Mission: Wolf. Once the doctors said my ankle was healed, I got in my car and drove to Colorado the next day. I arrived in July 2013 and planned to stay for two weeks as a short-term volunteer. I tried to soak up as much information as I could and was amazed at how much there really was to learn out here (and not just about wolves). Mission: Wolf definitely felt like a place where I belonged.

During my two weeks, I heard a staff member for the upcoming winter wasn't going to be able to make it so I quickly volunteered. I figured if I had learned this much in two weeks, just think how much I could learn in six months. I drove back to California, moved out of my house, sold my car, bought a camper van to live in with Misha

(my dog), said my quick goodbyes to friends and family, and got back on the road to Colorado. I had the song "I Can Go the Distance" from the Disney movie Hercules practically on repeat.

We arrived back at Mission: Wolf on October 5th, 2013, to spend six months. I learned even more that winter and really bonded with some of the animals. Soon I learned the Animal Caretaker was getting ready to leave in the spring and looking for a replacement. I volunteered for the role and began working closer with her, focusing on that side of things, and committed to another two years at the sanctuary.

It became very clear to me I was getting way more experience and education through my time at Mission: Wolf than I would from a lecture hall in college. Once



Ten years and counting. New Executive Director, Mike Gaarde, has spent the last decade caring for the wolves of Mission: Wolf, from Tiger (above) to Ydun (below).



I became Animal Caretaker, I began looking at a bigger picture of the sanctuary and really tried to understand all aspects of it. I started to (semi)jokingly say "Well, Kent has to retire some day".

Over the course of more than 10 years now, I have experienced just about every nook and cranny of Mission: Wolf. At one point, I was all four "core staff" roles at the same time (Animal, Education, Operations, and Refuge Care). I have been a part of raising and rescuing many wolves as well as burying more than I wish to count. I have learned business management, volunteer coordination, welding, mechanics, construction, and of course animal care and behavior. I even met my amazing wife, Rachel, out here who luckily fell in love with the wolves and I. She changed her whole life path and became a veterinarian to help animals in need, including the Mission: Wolf animals. This spring, Kent proposed that he step over to a Development Director role and I step up to the Executive Director role. The Board voted and unanimously approved!

I would like to throw out a huge thank you to everyone who has supported me through this journey. My parents, family, friends, Kent, Tracy, the M:W Board and staff, my wife Rachel, and of course Tiger (the first wolf I bonded with). I wouldn't be where I am without all of you and I am excited to help M:W grow for another 35+ years through education, animal care and rescue. I think five-year-old me would be pretty proud. I can honestly say I am living my dream!

-M. Gaarde





# Shop the Mission: Wolf Store

mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com/

- “Become a Wolf Caretaker” packets
- Metal wolf photo prints
- (limited supply) 2023 custom t-shirts & sweatshirts
- A Walk in Connection book by Trace Ane Brooks
- Fine art produced by M:W Staff



New in the store: Wolves of Mission: Wolf 2024 Calendar by Mission: Wolf staff Sam Renk

# Fine Art by Tracy Ane Brooks



tracyanebrooks.store



Hey everyone! I have created a web store on Shopify with a lot of original art work.

It includes originals, prints, stickers, cards, hand wrought jewelry and more! Inspired by my wolf and horse friends! I will donate part of my sales to Mission: Wolf.

20% OFF everything through December 15

Thank you SO much!!

-Tracy



## Stretch Your Donation this Holiday Season

Mission: Wolf was created as way to assure the wolves would always have a home regardless of “human errors”. The idea was to establish large habitats and create a feast/famine environment to allows resident wolves a life as close to wild as feasible. This was best achieved by creating a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

We judge our success by working to grow and achieve goals with minimal funding. The motto is: wolves first, education second, and business needs last. For 35 years, we continue to generate our own energy from solar technology, grow as much food as we can, build with re-claimed material, and avoid wasting resources of any type. Although we build large habitats, provide the highest quality animal care, and have set a high bar for “experiential education” to develop compassion and empathy for all that is wild - we still need funds. Our insurance policy alone eats up over \$40k a year.

Join us along with these amazing organizations and know your support will be well utilized.



Faelen, seen here, is one of 21 wolves or wolfdogs who directly benefits from your donation this giving season

## Colorado Gives Day: “Easily the Best Day to Give”

In 13 years, Colorado Gives Day has raised \$415 million for Colorado nonprofits.

Last year alone, \$53 million was raised for 3,340 registered organizations, including Mission: Wolf.

The average donation was \$103.

Give on **Tuesday, December 5** & find your donation boosted by a

\$1.4 million Incentive Fund—possible thanks to the Community First Foundation, FirstBank, and support from many other Colorado businesses stepping up to finance the Fund.



find out more & visit [coloradogives.org/organization/MissionWolf](https://coloradogives.org/organization/MissionWolf) to schedule your donation ahead of time:

## Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation Spirit Campaign - Ends December 31

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

**Donation to Make-It-More Fund (BENEFITS ALL NONPROFITS)** Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Specific Nonprofit Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Nonprofit Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

SPIRIT CAMPAIGN 2023

Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation DONATION FORM

You can also donate to the Spirit Campaign online by visiting [WMVCF.ORG](https://wmvcf.org) or scanning the QR code below:



**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

In 2022, 61 nonprofit organizations received donations totaling over \$434,000 during the 18th annual Spirit Campaign. Since the Campaign's inception, over \$5.3 million has been donated and shared by virtually every nonprofit headquartered in Custer County. Over 700 donors from Custer County, throughout Colorado, several other states and a number of foreign countries contributed to the future success of our county's charitable organizations.

To participate:

- mail the form below to the address listed
- visit [wmvcf.org](https://wmvcf.org)
- scan the QR code



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



Illiamna

Minigan

Flash

Artemis

Arrow

## Wolves of Mission: Wolf



Mission: Wolf's Land Conservation Project now includes over 450 acres of protected wildlife habitat in the remote Wet Mountains of Colorado

## Wildlife Land Conservation Efforts *On a Roll*. Several Adjacent Lots For Sale

The wolves have nearly doubled their land holdings in just a few years. This season, we find ourselves with the potential to tie many isolated lots together. A big step forward was the acquisition of the M:W "Bluff" (page 5) including a flowing spring, pond and creek which expands the potential for horse pasture adjacent to the original M:W Farm. This parcel was too important to pass up. Thanks to Kirkpatrick Bank, the wolves secured it with a major loan (\$3k/month). Additional available lots along Sheep Creek provide an opportunity to make major gains in water conservation and provide miles of stream improvements. In only two years and with minimal work, a test patch has managed to "grow" over 200 feet of surface water, taking a tiny channel of water and turning it into habitat for many amphibians, ungulates and other mammals & wildlife. Five lots are available as we go to print.

***If you would like to participate, please contact us at [info@missionwolf.org](mailto:info@missionwolf.org) or call Kent at 720-320-7410***

## Mission: Wolf Wish List

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 (719-859-2157) 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**

### Truck

The ever-present need to transport meat, hay, and materials on miles of rough dirt road requires a reliable truck. With one truck gone, our heavy hauler is seeing twice the use. We are seeking to acquire a newer 3/4 or 1 ton truck.



### Sanctuary Operation Vehicle

Our '05 4x4 ATV and trusty side-by-side UTV are aging quickly. Both are used daily to feed & water wolves. Any running ATV/UTV will help. An electric powered one is ideal to achieve our sustainability goals.

### Horse Panels

Our round pen panels of 20 years are finally falling apart. A new 40' round pen is needed & any horse fence panels are helpful.



To view the complete Mission: Wolf Wish List, visit [missionwolf.org/wish-list](http://missionwolf.org/wish-list)



## JOIN THE MISSION: WOLF TEAM

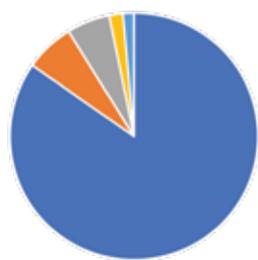
At Mission: Wolf, we operate on solar power, grow food in geodesic domes, and build with recycled materials. We value education, sustainability, and improving relationships between people, animals, and the world around us.

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.

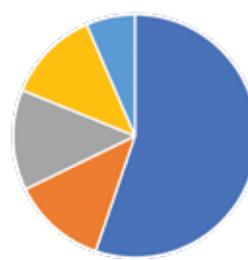
The sanctuary is in particular need of skilled, competent individuals to join our dedicated team of Sanctuary Caretakers. The wolves don't need a lot other than food, water, and a clean space to live. Maintaining the facility & vehicles, operating the office, and educating the public are full-time jobs.

**visit [missionwolf.org/staff](http://missionwolf.org/staff) or email [info@missionwolf.org](mailto:info@missionwolf.org) for more information & to apply for a staff position**

## 2023 Financial Report



<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	\$656,693 - Grants/Donations
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	\$49,725 - Memberships
<span style="color: grey;">■</span>	\$43,458 - Investment
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	\$13,989 - Sales
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	\$11,118 - Education/Programming
<b>Income - \$774,983</b>	



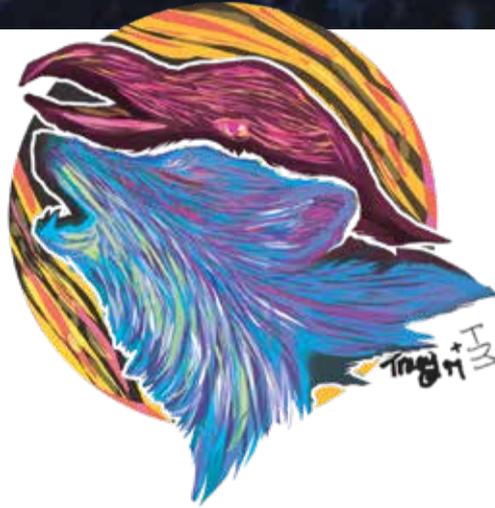
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	\$351,236 - Operations
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	\$79,815 - Animal Care
<span style="color: grey;">■</span>	\$84,860 - Depreciation
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	\$78,539 - Staf/Volunteer
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	\$41,374 - Transportation
<b>Expenses - \$635,824</b>	

# MISSION:WOLF

EDUCATION VS. EXTINCTION

## Contact Us:

Website: [www.missionwolf.org](http://www.missionwolf.org)  
Email: [info@missionwolf.org](mailto:info@missionwolf.org)  
Phone: 719-859-2157  
Mail: PO Box 1211  
Westcliffe, CO 81252



## Follow Us

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Zeab



Obsidian



Aria



Apollo



Rosie Valkyrie

*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](http://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, Faelen, Farah, Flash, Illiamna, Maeve, Marty, Minigan, Nashira, Obsidian, Oreo, Rosie-Valkyrie, Saurya, Ydun, Zeab

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 Sustainable 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](http://mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com)  
for credit card orders

\*If you would like to become a Sustainable Member,  
visit [missionwolf.org/donate-now](http://missionwolf.org/donate-now) or call/email us  
and we can help process your credit card