

Wolf Visions



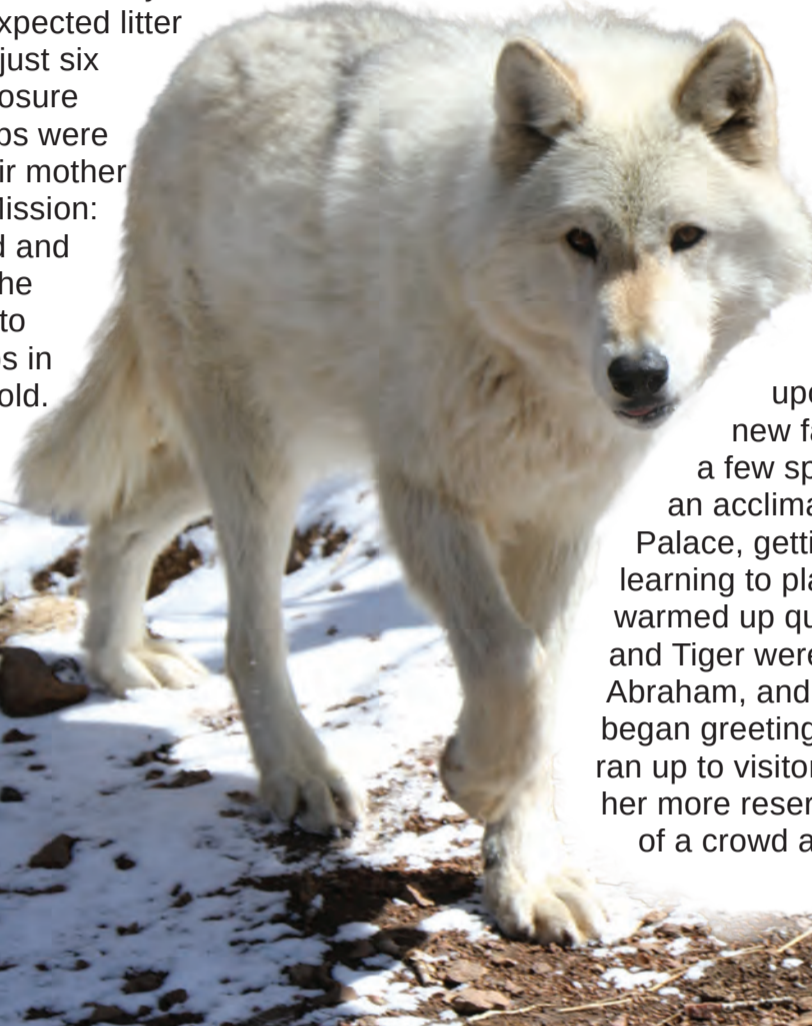
VOLUME 32

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER FROM MISSION: WOLF

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 400 acres of pristine alpine habitat.

FEATURED WOLF: ROSIE VALKYRIE

In 2013, a wildlife facility in Florida had an unexpected litter of wolf puppies. At just six days old, their enclosure flooded and the pups were separated from their mother and not reunited. Mission:Wolf was contacted and luckily we were in the position to be able to take the young pups in at only four weeks old. Two staff made the 1,800 mile drive in



just five days, bottle feeding the puppies the whole way. One of the three, Kenai, found sanctuary at Colorado Wolf and Wildlife while the other two, Tiger and Rosie, found their home at Mission:Wolf.

The two youngsters were timid upon arrival but adjusted well to the new facility and mountain weather with a few spring snowstorms. They started in an acclimation enclosure called the Puppy Palace, getting used to their surroundings and learning to play in snow. Rosie would cautiously greet staff at first but warmed up quick to a few consistent caretakers. After a few months, Rosie and Tiger were introduced to the Ambassador enclosure with Magpie, Abraham, and Zeab. Through the summer they gained confidence and began greeting sanctuary visitors. While Tiger was far more outgoing as he ran up to visitors with powerful face licks, Rosie's natural wolf instincts made her more reserved and selective. She would pick one or two on the outskirts of a crowd and lick their hand while cautiously watching everyone else.

However, if she decided she was comfortable, she would be in your lap giving an exuberant greeting.

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Mission: Wolf
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1988-2023. M:W Celebrates 35 Years of Sanctuary

" Today, the one outcome I am certain of is this: allow people an opportunity to be accepted and greeted by a wolf and they leave with a greater capacity to develop compassion and empathy for life. "

Bewilderment. Inspiration. Fear. These are just the tip of sensations people experience when they lock eyes with a wolf. There is no other creature that can split the human brain into opposite and opposing emotions as a wolf can. An eye-to-eye interaction with a wolf leaves a mark that can be life changing.

Wolves are known as teachers in many cultures. As I exercised three wolves at the Hualapai Mountain State Park nearly four decades ago, little did I know how much I had to learn. Providing captive wolves sanctuary has resulted in so much more than I would have ever believed if you told me then. Today, the one outcome I am certain of is this: allow people an opportunity to be accepted and greeted by a wolf and they leave with a greater capacity to develop compassion and empathy for life. A photo says a thousand words but it will never provide the lesson an experience offers. The need to provide people an opportunity to interact with nature is what fuels Mission: Wolf.



KENT & WOLVES AT HIGH MTN RENDEZVOUS

In 35 years, one truth has emerged: the best way to preserve nature is to change human behavior. Of all the skills humans can learn to help protect our natural world, the study of Psychology can help us most. I find myself more inspired as time passes to simply allow people who arrive at the sanctuary to interact with nature, learn new skill sets, and make a difference for themselves. An unusual phenomena occurs when you allow people to set their own goals, evaluate their own achievements and overcome personal failures while they work for a purpose greater than their own needs. I have watched numerous groups combine their own varying assets of knowledge and strength and perform tasks in a manner just as precise, complete, and as high quality as a paid professional.

Mission: Wolf demonstrates how diverse people can cooperate to make a difference beneficial to all. To try and teach the world to do the same is my goal for the next 35 years.

-K. Weber

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EYE TO EYE MAKES A DIFFERENCE



SANCTUARY SONG



MR ROGERS MEETS SHAMAN



SPRING GREETINGS



ABOUT MISSION: WOLF

WHO WE ARE

Mission: Wolf is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational wolf sanctuary located in the remote Colorado mountains. We connect people with nature using hands-on experiential education. 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 natural world. Full-time 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. In an average year, Mission: Wolf operates on more than 30,000 hours of donated labor. Our volunteer staff live together in a 3-acre eco-village designed to be an inspiring example of sustainable living practices.

WHAT WE DO

Mission: Wolf provides a home for captive wolves and horses while creating opportunities for people to grow through community service and personal interactions with animals. Through volunteer internships and educational programs, we inspire individuals to become stewards of the earth. Since 1988, the sanctuary has provided care for over 125 wolves, facilitated experiential wolf education with over 1 million people, and preserved more than 400 acres of pristine alpine habitat. Wolves don't thrive as pets. We focus our education efforts on why they are essential in the wild and not a backyard. The day we are successful is the day there are no longer captive wolves in need of a home. Then, we can take down the fences, simply become a nature center, and observe wolves in the wild.

WHY WE DO IT

An estimated 2-3 million wild wolves lived throughout North America until the 19th century. Today, there are fewer than 6,000 wild wolves in the Lower 48. An estimated 250,000 wolves and 3 million wolf-dog crosses live in captivity, often traded as pets. Wild wolves are instinctively more independent than domesticated dogs and don't make good pets. Sadly, many don't live to see their 2nd birthday due to irresponsible owners. If they make it to adulthood, most captive canines don't learn skills to live in the wild and are forced to spend their lives in a cage. If a sanctuary is unavailable for one in need, the only choice is often to euthanize. We receive weekly requests of wolves and wolf-dogs in need of a home.

HOW WE DO IT

Mission: Wolf operates on in-kind donations, sustaining memberships and volunteer labor. Nearly the entire sanctuary was built using recycled materials. Each year, staff and visiting volunteers give over 30,000 hours of time to the animals of Mission: Wolf. The wolves eat a raw diet for optimum nutrition and enrichment. Daily vitamins and supplements are provided by staff. The wolves eat in large amounts twice a week, mimicking the feast and famine cycle they would experience in the wild. Many ranchers from near and far donate their deceased livestock for the wolves. We do our best to provide each wolf with companionship, connection, and play. Most animals end up with one or more partners during their time at the sanctuary along with opportunities to interact with their human caretakers.



Yellowstone Peaches howls with a view



The "Yahoo Crew"—sled pullers



Ambassador Wolf Circle

continued from Page 1..

Rosie Adjusts to Life Without Brother Tiger

The two pups finally had the chance again to learn life as a wolf from an adult wolf. Magpie only needed to give a stern look or growl for the two yearlings to submit, while Abraham had to work a bit harder. He was a smaller male and Rosie and Tiger were almost twice his size at only one year old. But Abe would hold his own and take control if things got too out of hand for his liking. In their downtime, Rosie and Tiger enjoyed picking on Uncle Zeab, rolling and chewing on each other in the dirt. Rosie played a vital role as peacekeeper. When things got too heated, she could be seen whimpering and submitting to the wolves in disagreement, distracting them, thereby preventing larger fights from breaking out. When no one was looking, Rosie could be seen cuddling up to Zeab.



Rosie and her brother, Tiger, lived nine years together at M:W until he passed away last year. Staff have watched her slowly figure out life without him since.

In the fall of 2014, the adult Ambassadors took off in the wolf bus for what would prove to be the last six-week educational tour across the East Coast. This left Rosie and Tiger alone in the enclosure. Imagine leaving two teenagers alone at home to fend for themselves for six weeks. In that time, they found even more confidence and independence without the adults. Upon the return of Magpie, Abe and Zeab, Rosie and Tiger stood their ground and did not submit anymore. This told the staff the pups were ready for their own home "away from Mom and Dad". The siblings moved to a different enclosure up the hill where they could romp and play across the hillside.

Over the years, their individual personalities blossomed. Rosie was hyper-aware of the world around her and would investigate every noise and movement, while Tiger was more laid-back, content to relax and observe the hustle and bustle of the refuge. His attitude helped calm Rosie's interactions around people. Once she saw Tiger engage, Rosie often became more confident and willing to do the same. He was a security blanket for her. In 2016, Tiger was diagnosed with Discoid Lupus, an autoimmune disease that caused his body to attack the skin on his nose. As time passed, his body weakened with the disease and other health issues. Sadly, Tiger passed in January of 2022. Wolves mourn loss similar to humans and the loss of Rosie's security blanket was heard throughout the sanctuary.



Wolves mourn for lost ones the same way we do. Rosie became very vocal after Tiger died, often the only howl to be heard.

This last year for Rosie was hard as she learned to navigate life without her brother but she is coming out on the other side with a newfound confidence. She is still very vocal at times and makes her presence known to the rest of the refuge, and since Zeab found himself alone after a disagreement with Nashira, Zeab and Rosie could often be heard howling back and forth across the hillside. Rosie has become more playful this winter in the snow, exuberant with greetings, and rambunctious during feed.

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Rosie and Zeab Carry On the Legacy of Ambassadors Together

continued from Page 2.

What once was a pack of three—Zeab, Nashira, & Ydun—became just two in 2021 after a disagreement between Nashira and Ydun went too far. Since that incident, Zeab and Nashira lead Mission: Wolf's on-site Ambassador Education Program, but over the course of the last year, staff noticed a slight tension build between the two. Nashira would push Zeab out of the way to take visitors' attention and she got increasingly pushy over food. We started to think her energy might be more than Zeab wanted to handle.

In late fall of 2022, the tension finally came to a head when Zeab got too close to a bone Nashira was saving. What started as a minor spat escalated into a full-blown fight which caused minor injuries to both. They were separated and Nashira moved out to an empty enclosure, leaving Zeab in the Ambassador enclosure alone. Both seemed to lose a bit of confidence from the interaction.

Even before Nashira moved out, Zeab and Rosie would often howl across the ravine to each other. They continued the trend and staff figured after nine years, they might want to be reunited. In March 2023, we began to move animals to different enclosures and one of the goals was to get Zeab and Rosie fence to fence. It was slow going (probably moreso than Zeab and Rosie wanted), but after a week of fence-to-fence interaction, the gates were opened and the two were together again. Staff anxiously waited for the new pair's exuberant hello or even for them to romp around



After about a year of both being alone, Rosie and Zeab have found comfort with each other.

their new home together. On the contrary, they acted like nothing had changed; like they had lived together the whole time.

Zeab and Rosie's energy fit together quite well. We already see them helping build each other's confidence as Ambassadors. Rosie has happily greeted more visitors recently by

following Zeab's lead. We are hopeful they can offer confidence and companionship to each other for years to come.

In addition to Zeab and Rosie, the other Ambassadors have had a successful year educating visitors. Flash and Cephira continue to be very social and exuberant when they meet new friends. In very *non* wolf-like fashion, they seem up for meeting new "dignitaries" any hour of any day. After some time alone, Nashira has rebuilt some confidence with plenty of love from staff. We hope moving to a new enclosure soon will continue to bring her out of her shell. Ydun has been making new friends weekly and often gets the "zoomies" from all the excitement during visits. She is a great educator of a wolf's timid instinct and of how much space they really need.

-M. Gaarde

Wolf As Teacher



Teacher and student share the morning sunshine together.

It was May 2022 when I first met Rosie Valkyrie. Now, all wolves are beautiful but Rosie is a stunning example of a powerful and gorgeous wolf. Her beautiful white coat, striking yellow eyes, piercing stare, and strong legs have got to be one of the most amazing things I have ever seen. As for her power, I can describe a recent interaction in which I was enjoying a daily hello and she decided to howl as I was petting her. The strength I could physically feel was such an experience, I could feel my body almost vibrating from her booming

vocals. Her howls continued for a brief second longer, then she looked at me and pranced off to her beautiful, open enclosure.

Volunteering and living here at Mission: Wolf for the past six months has allowed my relationship with Rosie to grow. Through that time and growth there are some great learning points she has taught me, and any one wolf could teach any one person.

First is learning how to be patient. In her presence you must always be patient and not rush anything. Gaining the ability to be patient and not forcing things allows me to make better decisions in any given situation. Allowing her to make the decision to greet me and practicing patience only strengthens the safety she feels with me, which strengthens the relationship.

Second would be learning better situational awareness. When living and working with wolves on a daily basis you must become aware of all that's going on in your environment and surroundings. Learning this skill allows me to once again make better decisions and just be more in tune with the present.

These few learning points weren't something I was planning on grasping when I first came to Mission: Wolf but being here and my relationship with Rosie has really inspired growth in these areas. It's amazing to me how a wolf like Rosie can be such a good teacher. Mission: Wolf has allowed me to have this opportunity and it is one that I will continue to further this coming fall. I hope only to strengthen this relationship with her and learn so much more from her in the future.

-D. Braddock



*In last year's Wolf Visions, you read how the "Ambassador Pack" has grown to include several different animals living in different spaces. Instead of traveling coast-to-coast in the wolf bus, the Ambassadors have made friends from all over the world right here at home. **Ydun** (top left) smiles with Maddie's friendship. **Cephira** (top right) enjoys a good scratch from Nick. **Zeab** (bottom left) greets two new friends. **Flash** (bottom right) and his buddy Parker enjoy a moment.*

" It's amazing to me how a wolf like Rosie can be such a good teacher.. I hope only to strengthen this relationship with her and learn so much more from her in the future. "



T.A. Brooks

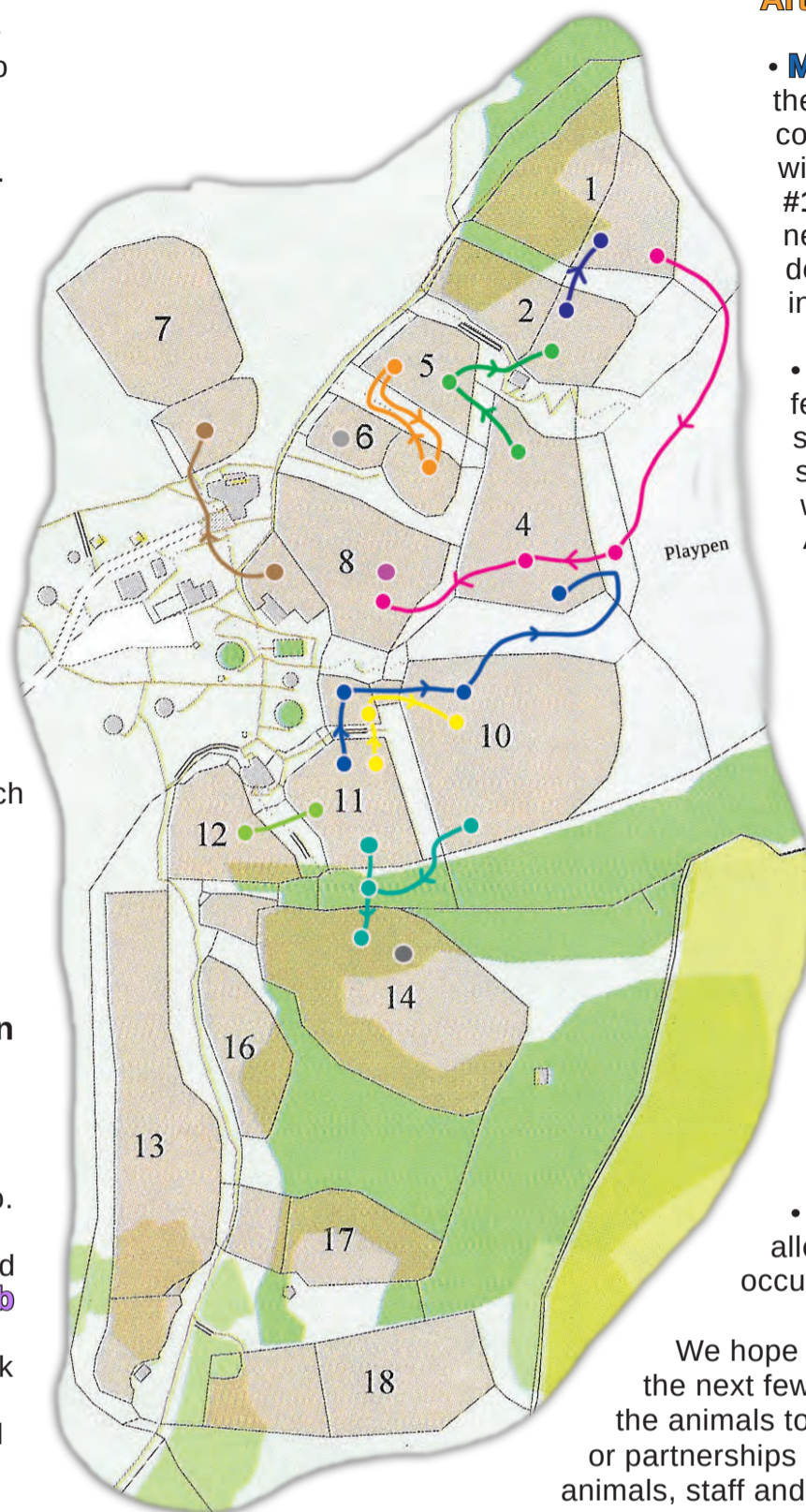
Over the past few years, Mission: Wolf has had a fair share of animals pass away and also introduced some new ones. Without much intention, the sanctuary has come to have more solo wolves than pairs.

In March of this past year, the process of rearranging animals began. Playing “wolf matchmaker” can be a big challenge. It’s an intensive process to get animals near each other and take the time to see how they interact.

Like humans, the energy can be off and it doesn’t always work out as well as staff had hoped.

Here’s how it all went down:

- **Nashira** got things started by moving up to #7 after her tussle with **Zeab**
- **Artemis** moved into the back part of #6 to see if her and **Illianna** would like to coexist. They did not show much interest in each other..
- This opened #5, allowing **Obsidian** down from #4 and eventually into #2.
- Moving **Obsidian** from #4 meant **Rosie** could run through the **Playpen** and drop her down into #4 after some fun up there. While she did that, **Farah and Apollo** moved back to their long-time home in #1. This opened #2 for **Obsidian** to settle into.
- **Rosie** hanging in #4 meant we could safely open gates to get her and **Zeab** (living in #8) on either side of a fence between both #4 and #8. After a week of living fence to fence and showing positive signs, the gates were opened and **Zeab** and **Rosie** moved into #8 together.



- With **Artemis** and **Illianna** still not seeming interested in each other, **Artemis** moved back into #5.

- **Marty** and **Saurya** moved from #11 to the front part of #10. This meant **Aria** could make it safely to #11. We left him with access to the buffer zone next to #14 in hopes he might get comfortable next to **Arrow**. Once **Aria** moved down, **Marty** and **Saurya** found home in #10.

- **Aria** and **Arrow** stayed fence to fence for a few weeks and the staff shifted them around to different areas so they could each get comfortable with the new surroundings and smells. After a few weeks, the old men were allowed the chance to share the same space and content to coexist in #14.

- Since the introduction of **Saurya** and **Marty** a year ago, the staff have kept a skeptical optimism on their ability to keep each other company happily and safely. Multiple spats over the year kept the staff on edge, and unfortunately a large fight this spring meant they needed to be separated. Luckily, with all of the animal movement, there was a vacant enclosure at the time so **Marty** moved to #4 and **Saurya** stayed in #10.

- Since #11 was open, we have allowed **Ydun** to have the chance to occupy both #11 and #12.

We hope to make even more moves over the next few weeks or even months. Allowing the animals to explore new enclosures and/or partnerships can be enriching for the animals, staff and visitors. It is an ever-changing and ongoing endeavor.

-M. Gaarde

In Memory

Soleil 2005-2022

Soleil was raised in a private home until six months old when she needed to be rehomed and came to Mission: Wolf. She bonded quick with another new arrival, Orion, and the two became inseparable. They happily lived together for nine years until Orion was diagnosed with cancer and moved to the M:W vet area for a short time while Soleil stayed in their enclosure. Often times the refuge would be quiet except for the two soft howls of Soleil and Orion “talking” back and forth. Orion lived with Soleil another three years before passing away in 2017. Soleil persisted with a quiet regal demeanor. Eventually, her body began to fail, and we had to say goodbye to her in January 2023. She was one of the oldest canines to ever live at Mission: Wolf, passing away just shy of 18. She is dearly missed but we are all grateful to have known her at all.



T.A. Brooks

Merlin 2008-2022

Merlin was born and raised at the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Foundation sanctuary where she was never approachable by humans. When the sanctuary closed, we were contacted and were able to take her in. Merlin came to Mission: Wolf at the age of 11 and was paired with an older arctic wolf, Illianna, who had recently lost his partner. Merlin hadn’t lived with another animal since she was a pup and Illianna helped her gain confidence and feel comfortable. So much so that the once elusive wolf could regularly be found sunbathing near the visitor path and joining in on group howls. In October 2022, Merlin began to slow and show her age. She passed quietly during the night of October 29th. It was a pleasure to watch her grow confidence in her golden years and in the end find companionship in a partner.



-M. White



ARIA



OREO



BUKU



NASHIRA



ROSIE



ZUKO



BATMAN



MINIGAN

WOLVES OF
MISSION: WOLF



ZEAB



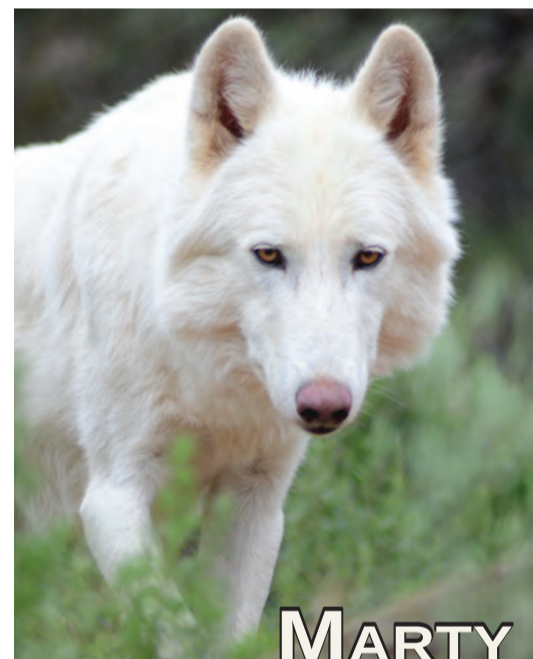
OBSIDIAN



CEPHIRA



ARROW



MARTY



ARTEMIS



ILLIAMNA



FARAH



APOLLO



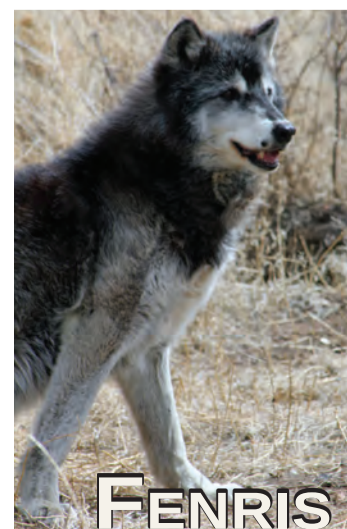
YDUN



FLASH



SAURYA



FENRIS

M:W Horse Education

Merlin - Mission: Wolf's "Mustang Mascot"

Merlin is a remarkable black horse who was taken from his herd in the McCullough Peaks area of Wyoming in 2005. At the time, he was just five years old and had been living free in the wild until he was rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and sent to a Colorado adoption program. Despite being taken from his natural habitat and wild family, Merlin's fortune changed when he was adopted by compassionate individuals.

Merlin arrived at Mission Wolf in December 2011 and initially presented a challenge due to his stubborn personality and reluctance to be near people. However, his difficult behavior made him an excellent teaching horse. He became an expert at teaching humans how to mirror horse behavior to gain trust and overcome fear. Through this process, Merlin was able to receive the necessary care, such as dental work and farrier visits.

Today, Merlin is Mission Wolf's "Mustang Mascot" for his remarkable spirit and resilience. He has thrived at Mission Wolf and is now a



Merlin, taken from his herd in the wild in 2005, has proven an excellent teacher of mirroring to M:W staff and visitors.

beloved member of the community. At 23 years old, we are putting out the intention for Merlin to reach the age of the famous wild stallion Picasso of the Sand Wash Basin herd in Colorado, who lived wild and free into his thirties.

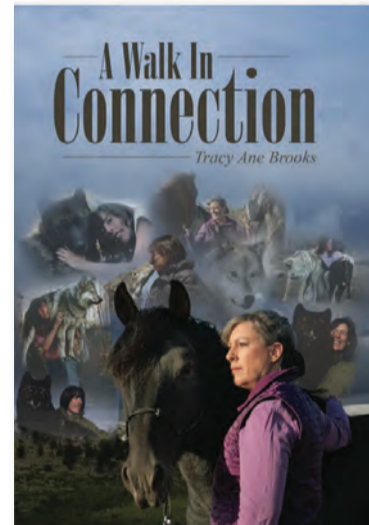
It's important to note that wild horses in the Western United States face many challenges, including the perception that they are nuisances that steal resources from livestock. However, wild horses like Merlin play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. Their grazing and browsing behaviors promote the growth of diverse plant species, which in turn supports a wide range of wildlife. By controlling vegetation growth and reducing fuel loads, they also help mitigate the risk of wildfires.

To ensure the sustainability of our natural resources and the welfare and longevity of these magnificent animals, it's crucial to appreciate and care for wild horses like Merlin. This includes protecting their habitats and humanely managing their populations through responsible herd management practices that consider the well-being of the animals, the ecosystem, and the people who live in the area.

-T.A. Brooks

M:W Co-Founder Tracy Ane Brooks' Award Winning Book: *A Walk In Connection*

A Walk in Connection is based on Tracy's life of learning to connect with animals. Her personal stories are intended to inspire, empower, and contribute to the greater global understanding of communication with other species.



[mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com]



Living with wolves has provided Tracy with countless experiences that have changed her life in unimaginable ways. As a co-founder of Mission: Wolf, Tracy has spent half her life studying wolf behavior and body language. Tracy has learned to leash train and walk wolves, often with painful consequences. Join Tracy as she develops a special bond with an intense British Colombian gray wolf named Shaman.

Soft & hard copies available.

Visit mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com (or scan code) to order yours today

Equus Film Festival Coming to Westcliffe

A short drive from the sanctuary..

Join Mission: Wolf & Tracy Ane Brooks: September 29 - October 1

Every horse has a story. The mission of the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest is to share those stories through film, art, and literature.

Founded in 2013 by Lisa Diersen, who has spent her life in the company of horses, the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest highlights and rewards the diverse and creative efforts of those who pay artistic homage to the horse. It aims to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities or disabilities.

• **visit equusfilmfestival.net for more info** •



Help North America's Mustangs

The Cloud Foundation is dedicated to preventing the extinction of wild mustang herds through education, media events and programming, and public involvement



Wild Wolf Recovery



OFFICIAL: PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION APPROVES PLAN TO RESTORE WOLVES TO COLORADO'S WESTERN SLOPE

Colorado finalizes plan to reintroduce gray wolves by end of 2023

from Colorado Public Radio News, Sam Brasch; 3 May, 2023

After more than two years of public meetings and revisions, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission voted unanimously on Wednesday to approve a final plan to reintroduce gray wolves.

The decision keeps Colorado on track to release wolves on the Western Slope by the end of the year, meeting requirements laid out in a ballot initiative narrowly approved in 2020. Conservation groups say it marks the first time voters — in any state — have ordered the reintroduction of an endangered species.

In a statement following the vote, Gov. Jared Polis said the commission had approved a “responsible plan to implement the will of voters” improved by “thoughtful input” from thousands of Coloradans.

The attention to public input and consensus is no accident. In putting together their wolf reintroduction plan, state wildlife managers have tried to navigate the deeply polarized politics around the predator following federal reintroduction efforts in Yellowstone National Park and Idaho almost 30 years ago.

Many Colorado hunters and ranchers now worry the predators could kill their livestock and devastate game species. To address those concerns, Colorado’s plan calls for a phased approach to wolf reintroduction with generous compensation for livestock killed by the predators.

Here’s what’s in the plan, and how it’s changed

Under the plan, Colorado would release 10 to 15 wolves on state or private land each winter over the next three to five years.

Wildlife officials would then ratchet down state-level protections as the animal’s population grows. The species would be downgraded from “endangered” to “threatened” once there are 50 wolves recorded in the state for four consecutive years. Wolves would be delisted once there are 150 wolves recorded for two years or 200 wolves at any point.

An early draft of the plan included a final phase in which wildlife officials could reclassify wolves as a game species, opening the door to an organized hunting program. Colorado Parks and Wildlife eliminated the stage following objections from conservation groups.

Another major revision raised the cap on compensation for livestock lost to wolves. Under the final plan, a rancher could receive seven times the market value — up to \$15,000 — for lost cattle, sheep, working dogs or other domesticated animals. The same cap applies to related veterinary expenses, which means a rancher could receive a maximum of \$30,000 per animal.

Ranchers have argued the additional compensation will help cover the indirect effects of reintroducing wolves, such as lower birth rates and

slower weight gain. The higher payout ratios, however, are only available if a rancher takes active steps to minimize wolf conflicts.

WildEarth Guardians, a conservation group, wanted the state to go further and require coexistence techniques like quickly removing livestock carcasses. Lindsay Larris, the group’s wildlife program director, added the plan gives wild managers too much leeway to decide when a wolf threatens people or livestock — and should be killed.

“If caution and coexistence are emphasized in those determinations, wolves stand a chance to thrive. If not, there will likely be more conflict than there needs to be.” Larris said.

The plan doesn’t say exactly where wolves will be reintroduced or where they’ll come from

The state’s finalized plan names Idaho, Montana and Wyoming as the best sources for wolves. It lists Oregon and Washington as other places with suitable wolf populations.

There’s just one big problem: It’s unclear if wildlife managers in any of those states would provide wolves to Colorado. The governor of Wyoming is opposed to the idea. A report from 9news found state wildlife officials in other western states also don’t appear to be close to approving any wolf transfers.

As for an eventual release location, the plan confirms a “donut hole” region more than 60 miles from any state border. By releasing wolves there, wildlife managers hope to reduce the odds of the predators immediately bolting into Wyoming, Utah or New Mexico.

The finalized plan also clarifies the first batch of reintroductions will occur in the zone’s northern section, which runs along the Interstate 70 corridor between Glenwood Springs and Vail. It notes more specific release locations won’t be made public to protect private landowners and future wolf populations.

State wildlife managers will conduct “targeted outreach” to notify nearby ranchers, residents and others prior to local wolf releases, according to the plan.

Pending legislation could delay wolf reintroduction

While Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials remain committed to reintroducing wolves by the Dec. 31 deadline, lawmakers are considering a bill that could foil the timeline by requiring the state to win special designation from the federal government first.

Colorado has already applied for the permit, which would allow state wildlife managers to legally trap or kill wolves under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Dan Gibbs, the executive director of Colorado’s Department of Natural Resources, has told lawmakers he expects it will be approved before the December reintroduction deadline.

But rural lawmakers aren’t taking any chances. The bipartisan group of bill sponsors wants to be sure reintroduction doesn’t proceed unless the state wins the permit.

The bill is now in the final stages of consideration before it’s sent to Gov. Jared Polis.

Brasch, Sam. “Colorado has finalized a plan to reintroduce gray wolves by the end of the year” Colorado Public Radio News, 3 May 2023



-T.A. Brooks



Obie on the Rocks. T.A. Brooks, 2005.

When Mission: Wolf started in 1988, we never dreamed we would see the day wild wolves returned to Colorado...

View FULL
Press
Release from
CO Parks &
Wildlife:



35 YEARS : A SIMPLE NEED FOR SANCTUARY GROWS TO A WORLDWIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM



1982 : Need for Sanctuary. In the early 80s, we took in a few wolf dogs before eventually receiving a full wolf from a roadside zoo. To properly care for these animals, we became licensed with federal and state agencies but soon found more wolves and wolf dogs in need of sanctuary than we could possibly provide.

1986-1988 : Relocate to Primitive Area. Put Land in Wolves' Name. With nearly a dozen captive-born wild canines, the need to create a sanctuary that gave the wolves a large space to call home and adequate distance from human neighbors was obvious. Thanks to help from Holland and Hart attorneys, we created the 501c(3) non-profit Mission: Wolf, thus ensuring the sanctuary would outlive its human caretakers.

1989 : Reclaimed Materials Create Shelter. Materials to build a single, sustainable home were re-allocated and soon we had a wolf visitor building, tiny cabins to shelter ourselves, and huge enclosures for the wolves.



Mission Impossible. How do you keep a wolf in captivity happy while simultaneously seeking to restore wild wolves? With sanctuary secured, human interaction became source of enrichment as some wolves were excited to be the center of attention. The animals and visitors alike mutually benefitted from these interactions which in turn helped break down perceptions of the "big bad wolf," and enabled us to take this enrichment on the road. Our outreach program operated on a body of knowledge built by Jim Fowler, Carol Perkins, and Paul Watson. "I forget what I hear, I might remember what I see, but I only understand what I touch."

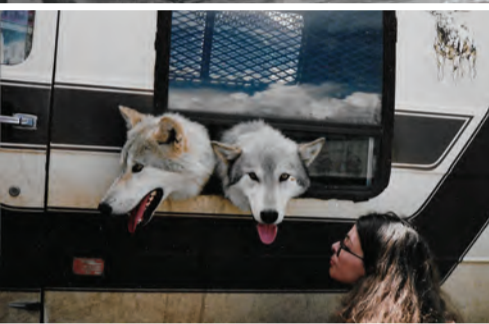
Wolf program requests abound. During a school visit, a teacher said the students learned more in 20 minutes meeting a real wolf than she could ever convey through books, videos and stories. She asked us to return for another class the next day, and then the next day. Then, after walking a wolf into the US Fish & Wildlife Service Offices, sharing our knowledge, and expressing our frustration towards the 15 years of political gridlock surrounding Rocky Mountain wolf reintroduction, the director came out to our vehicle and said his biologist learned more in that one interaction with a wolf than they did in two years behind binoculars. He asked for us to return the next week so his whole team could learn more. Soon requests for educational experiences with the wolves poured in, from schools to government agencies, Mr. Rogers to Hells Angels. Next thing we knew we were featured in magazines like the Smithsonian, New Yorker, and Outside and network personalities reached out from across the nation to get the wolves on live TV.

1990s : The sanctuary everyone knew of but no one could find. Our roads were washed out, rutted, not mapped and marginally passable in a 4x4 vehicle. We invited anyone who could find us to camp and help build fences. Soon a small village formed of some very intelligent and hardworking people who called themselves volunteers while a team of educators created a highly dynamic educational program.

Mid 1990's : Metropolitan Expeditions. Save What is Left Now. Our traveling program brought us to urban areas across the country and allowed adults who had never seen a deer to meet the wolves. Yet, we were amazed even those deprived from wildlife experiences valued nature and desired to protect wolves. This spurred our own land conservation efforts to save what is left now.

Focusing on Yellowstone. The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park & Frank Church Wilderness Idaho became a national focus. Our work in the West with mexican wolf recovery was sidelined as we raised awareness with visits to D.C. politicians and Ivy League colleges. The ensuing trophic cascade and body of scientific knowlede generated from the reintroduction provided a deeper understanding of the wolf's essential role in its natural ecosystem.

Eye to Eye makes a difference. Through the wolf education program we saw how a wolf greeting can help people overcome fears, build confidence and re-set trauma, particularly with PTSD veterans, prison inmates, police, & people with special needs. The psychologists and treatment programs we worked with experienced more effective treatment in the presence of the wolves. We learned a face-to-face interaction, on the wolves terms, is key and baiting with food does not provoke the same response.



Tracy in YNP assists release of wild wolves



The Wolfhound bus is complete



How to keep a wolf happy on the road?
The animals got stimulus overload as they explored lakes, streams, oceans, tall grass prairies, redwood forests, deserts. In the city? Tennis courts made great (and popular) wolf exercise arenas.



The original staff house



2005 : Community House opens. Finally! A community building with year-round running water was created to shelter staff, and it became much easier to live comfortably at the sanctuary. Suddenly the wolves had the unplanned burden of too many staff caretakers.

Shop Teachers Needed! Many new volunteers had never used a shovel much less a hammer or tape measure, as they had not had an opportunity to do so. Staff turned wolf caretakers into shop teachers overnight and had the privilege of watching hundreds grow as they learned new skills while gaining confidence and an understanding for basic life needs.

2010 : Public Rejuvenates Program. The traveling wolf program wore out its fifth vehicles, but attempt to retire the program resulted in a national cry of support, a rebuilt wolf bus, and five more years of nationwide travel.

2015 : Discovered and overrun. With the presence of the web and GPS, the world found Mission: Wolf. Cars lined the driveway and group requests for experience-based learning overwhelmed the inboxes, all while the demand to provide shelter for homeless wolves and wolf-dogs remained high. What was once in desperate need came to us in abundance and we were forced to turn away unwanted volunteers, groups, and visitors.

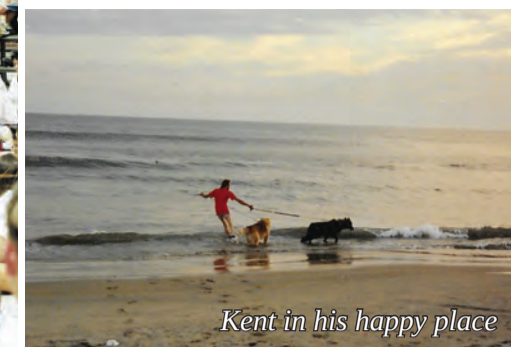
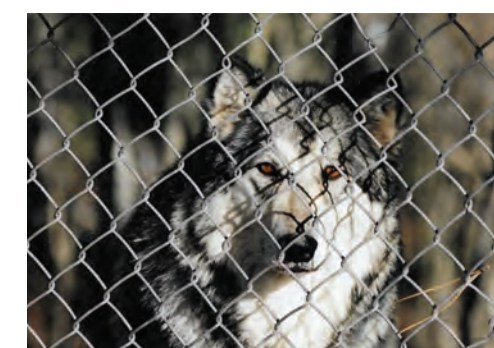
2018 : Design for the future. To handle the growing public demands and expectations, plans began to build a studio workshop. Mother Nature had another idea however: a wildfire shut down all projects as we created evacuation plans and worked to reduce wildfire risk to the sanctuary.

2019 : Lets build! Funding is secured and Jane's Studio officially breaks ground. Additionally, staff and volunteers complete a new fire evacuation barn at the M:W Farm, re-build the aging farmhouse, and start a 1,000 acre fence to manage livestock grazing. The Ranch property acquisition adds a 78-acre expansion to the refuge.

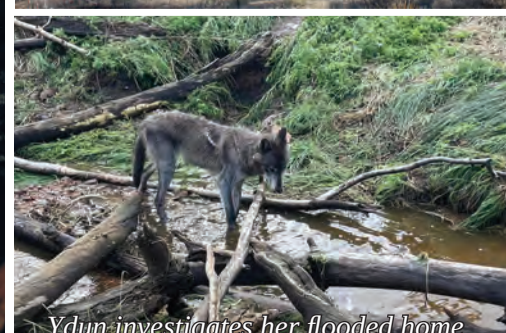
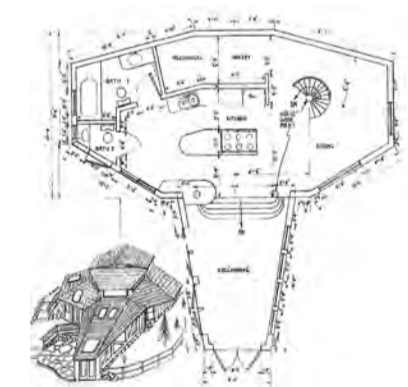
2020 - 2022 : Woldwide hurdles slowed us all. A reset for everyone worldwide. The time and space allowed for a re-organization of operations and staffing needs, and sanctuary returned to Mission: Wolf. The lack of visitors to aid with construction and supply chain challenges led to unexpected delays.

July 2022 : Change of priorities. Mother Nature strikes again! 1,000-year rain event flushed the refuge and destroyed numerous wolf enclosures. Luckily all animals were safe and uninjured but a new task of rebuilding 30-year-old fences began.

2023 : Looking Ahead. With the near completion of Jane's Studio, a newly named Executive Director, an expanded land conservation program, and an influx of new tools and materials the future is bright. We are gearing up for a great summer of experiential learning here at M:W, just in time to welcome the return of wolves to wild lands of Colorado!



Kent in his happy place



Ydun investigates her flooded home



Wolf circles at M:W



Mike in his happy place



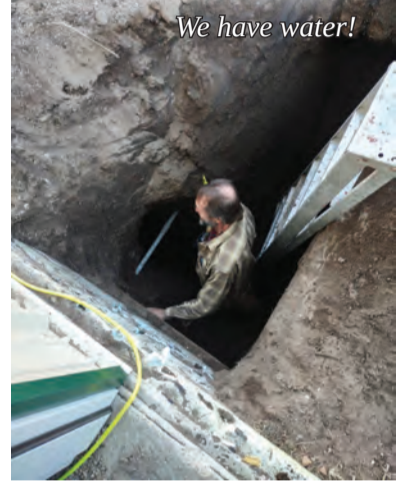
Tracy in her happy place

Two Ravens Ranch Horse Barn

Plumbed, Wired, and (Almost) Ready for Education Horses

The need to handle public demands at Mission: Wolf over-powered our ability to provide unwanted horse sanctuary. After the last rescue horses passed, we replaced our tiny horse barn with a new building known as Jane's Studio. To accommodate the need for unwanted horse shelter, we designed and are building a new horse barn at the M:W Ranch but complications from Covid have delayed our ability to complete it timely. Several companies we depended on closed or retired over the last 2 years, leaving us twiddling our thumbs trying to get simple tasks like electricity and doors completed.

Thankfully and with gratitude for a handful of builders who came to help (special shout out Graham, Steve, Team Russell, Noam and Indy) we have been able to complete the structure and are awaiting our final electric and building inspection now. It will not take long to trim the interior with wood siding, install the horse stalls, and finally bring the Two Ravens Ranch Horse Barn to life.



Jane's Studio

Almost There...We Swear

All good things take time, right? If that is true then Jane's Studio is going to be great. The studio itself has been complete for a couple years but the need to provide handicap access to the second floor has certainly been a hurdle. Complications from Covid led us down a 2+ year journey to get approved engineered drawings. Thanks to Roscoe Engineering we are close to completing the final hurdles to open.

Once the last handrail is welded and the ramp decked, the studio will be ready for public use (thank you to all who donated for the deck!). This will mark the start of a new way to accommodate people around the wolves, provide needed workspace for daily operations, and most excitedly offer participants an opportunity to seek shelter while they learn a variety of skills ranging from mechanics, carpentry and welding to painting, sewing, picture framing and graphic design.

We anticipate obtaining our "Certificate of Occupancy" this summer. Once the project is approved and furnished, we will announce dates for a grand opening. The studio is set to handle refuge needs for a few decades to come—we look forward to sharing our achievement with many.



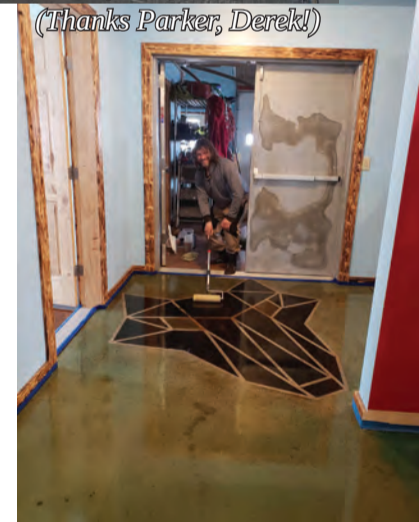
The winter sun sets over a nearly completed Jane's Studio



Studio ramp getting there..



Studio floor freshly sealed (Thanks Parker, Derek!)



Ready for summer sun! New solar arrays at M:W Farm (pictured here) and Ranch

Solar Energy

New PV Arrays at M:W Farm & Ranch

Trying to provide food and care for wolves and horses while working to maintain fences and vehicles has left us running on minimal solar systems for decades. For example, the Mission: Wolf Farm house, home to staff since 1999, needs a 5kw solar system but has managed to limp by for over 20 years on a fraction of that power (generally that means no lights or computer, and often dead water pumps...). Same with the Sanctuary kitchen and Ranch house.

Thanks to the great folks at Northern Arizona Solar and our local installer Jason Weeks, we have successfully upgraded both the M:W Ranch and M:W Farm houses with new arrays, and most importantly new lithium-ion storage batteries. A battery upgrade to the Sanctuary staff house is next.

Looking Ahead

Now that array systems are up-to-date and set up, it is time to think about upgrading batteries. As lead-acid units are dying at both the Sanctuary and Jane's Studio, it's time to go to lithium-ion.

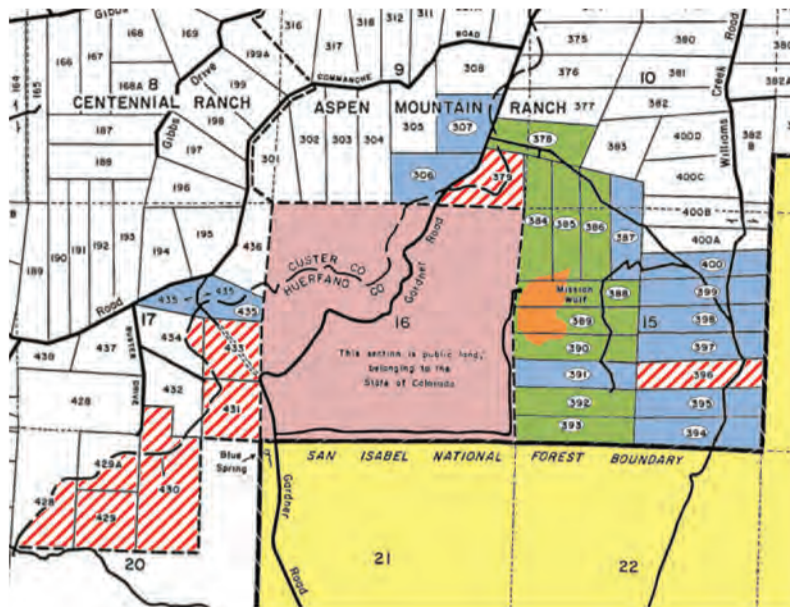
To replace battery systems at both the Sanctuary and Jane's Studio, the cost will be an estimated \$35,000 - \$40,000

Land Conservation Program

Wolves Add to Nature Preserve in 2023, Now Totaling 400+ Acres of Protected Habitat

The refuge originally started with a 36.5 acre lot in 1986. As the wolves took ownership of the property in 1988, we added a second lot. With 73 acres we had room to create what is now known as the Mission: Wolf Sanctuary. Rapid local development motivated us to identify adjacent lots that provide critical habitat for an abundance of native wildlife. To assure longevity we addressed the need to secure buffer areas and created a conservation plan.

Thanks to our longtime neighbor and advisory board member, Stan Stiffler, combined with the support of fire protection specialist, George Newell, and longtime friends Linda and Paul Schutt, the wolves just gained an additional 33+ acres.



-  **Unsecured Land:** Properties that M:W hopes to obtain to preserve habitat.
-  **Friends of Mission: Wolf:** Land that will remain pristine in the care of its current owners.
-  **Mission: Wolf Property:** Land that is already secured as M:W property.
-  **Active Wolf Habitat:** Where current wolf enclosures have been placed.
-  **State Trust Land:** Protected as wildlife habitat by the State of Colorado.
-  **San Isabel National Forest:** A fraction of the adjacent forest land.

If anyone is able, two lots just north of the Ranch are for sale at \$150k, as well as an additional adjacent property for sale at \$75k we only became aware of the day before printing this newsletter.

With the support of many neighbors, friends and caring individuals, we have re-joined several lots to create a 400+ acre nature center—much of which is adjacent to State and National Forest land.

Open spaces provide diversity of life. Without this, we quickly run out of life sustaining vitals including fresh water and clean air. The Sanctuary at Mission: Wolf provides sanctuary for captive wolves in a remote area. The rest provides habitat and open space—both for wildlife and for people to experience nature at its finest.

Birds Are *Humming* at M:W Sanctuary

Spring has brought a flourish of life to bird populations around the Sanctuary. From hummingbirds to eagles, we have had the privilege of capturing a few special moments along the way.

-P. Rehmus



Hummingbird & Swallow



Magpie



Peregrine Falcon



Golden Eagle

Help Us Rebuild from the “Great Flood”

SHOVELS ✓ PICK AXE ✓ ROCK BAR ✓ FENCE ✓ POLES ✓ REBAR ✓ WARM WEATHER ✓
ALL WE NEED ARE VOLUNTEERS!



Last winter's *Wolf Visions* Update covered the fallout from the “Great Flood” in July of last year. A dense cloud hovered over the wolf ravine for almost two hours, dumping several inches of rain and creating a river of debris rushing through the canyon. Luckily, all animals and staff stayed safe during the chaos.

Before the winter freeze set in, volunteers did as much as they could to temporarily repair the 27 flattened fence lines. Dozens of new steel poles, hundreds of feet of fence, and a long list of other building supplies were procured thanks to the generosity of the Mission: Wolf network of supporters and several local organizations.

Here's the blessing in disguise: replacing fence through the wolf ravine has been on the long-term “to-do” list for a while at Mission: Wolf—Mother Nature just expedited the process! We estimate by the time all is said and done, volunteers will have replaced over 150 fence posts and 50 gates with brand new steel and wood replacements. All the new metal, fresh chainlink, and an improved design across the water should keep the animals of Mission: Wolf safe for decades into the future.

Re-Engineering Wolf Fence

Most sections of fence crossing the wolf ravine ran one continuous line of fence from one side to the other. As a consequence, when the gush of water, dirt, and debris ripped through the wolf ravine and flattened the fence, it damaged parts nowhere near the water.

Just in case we are unlucky enough for another once-in-a-lifetime rain event in the future, we've adjusted designs. The lower-most section crossing the ravine will now be its own separate piece to act as a “break away”. This way next time a couple thousand pounds of force come all at once, the rest of the fence will hopefully be left in tact.



Sanctuary Caretakers & short-term volunteers plan to focus on fencing **most 1st and 3rd weekends** of 2023 until winter
 Visit missionwolf.org • call (719-859-2157) • or email (info@missionwolf.org) to schedule a time to volunteer

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Local contractor Curtis Construction & Welding completes post-flood road maintenance along the M:W driveway—with a view!

Blue Spring State Land Trust, Local Contractor Rebuild M:W Driveway After Flood

The Mission: Wolf Sanctuary has secured over 1.5 miles of conserved space adjacent to the Blue Springs State Land Trust. This trust was created to benefit Colorado's Department of Education and is managed by the State Land Board.

Mission: Wolf entered into a road lease many years ago and have worked tirelessly to improve the rough Jeep trail into a road that normal cars can navigate. We experienced one of the heaviest rains ever in July of 2022. The downpouring of rain not only flooded the wolves' ravine but the runoff eroded over a mile and a half of the M:W driveway, nearly eliminating access in a few areas. In partnership with the State Land Board and local contractor Curtis Construction & Welding, the M:W driveway has been officially rebuilt this spring and a new drainage culvert installed. Hopefully your next visit will be a bit smoother.

Wolf Forest

by: Tracy Ane Brooks



Send your design to M:W and we will include it on display in Jane's Studio!
- P.O. Box 1211 Westcliffe, CO 81252 -

Name:

Tell us about your design:

Caretaker(s) of the Year : Deb & Bill Gaarde

Deb and Bill Gaarde first visited Mission: Wolf in 2014 to see their son. Upon realizing he wasn't leaving any time soon, they decided to purchase a cabin in the area so they could see him and the wolves more often. Deb used her embroidery skills for many years to supply Mission: Wolf with hats, beanies and staff shirts.

Over the years, Bill and Deb have jumped in on any project at the refuge from enclosure maintenance and cutting meat to carpentry and mechanics. Recently, they have spent multiple months at a time in Colorado and turned into Mission: Wolf "shop fairies": showing up and jumping on a project (often times before any of the staff even know they are here). Deb and Bill have been amazing help to Mission: Wolf in many ways and always with a smile on their faces.



Deb & Bill Gaarde meet Tiger on one of their first trips to Mission: Wolf in 2014.

Thank You!

Board of Directors & Officers: Mike Gaarde, Dr. Rachel Gaarde, Tracy Ane Brooks, Kent Weber, Julie Kreutzer, Dave Kreutzer, Randy Woods, Sarah Woods, Tara Ash, Matt Ash, Tamas Christman, Madeleine Woods, Bruce Kreutzer, Nick Shrewsbury, Danika Oriol-Morway

Mission: Wolf Staff: Madelyn White, Sam Renk, Christian Pietszch, Ari Abrams, Tom Light, Nick Shrewsbury, Adaryll Taylor, Juan Pablo-Diaz, Aila Bally, Heidi Lockhart, Kale, Anna Sofia Vera, Derek Braddock, Parker Rehmus, Misha Brindlepup, Namira

In Memory: Mary Siefert, Carol Elaine Cook, James Sperry, Arlene Gogatz-Samuels, Karen Goodyear

Assistants & Volunteers: Deb & Bill Gaarde, Carol Kennedy, Suzanne Jones, Virginia Emoltz, Jenny Pepiton, Shay Hudson, Kristie Parham, Whitney Waterbury, Abhik Chowdhury, Estella Dieli, Nora Mays, James Doyle, Karla Fuller, Aubry Allen, Stephanie Skidmore, Colton Busse, Sophiane Nacer, Wes Hogen, Sarah & Nita Sandoval, Lynn Taylor & Boris Bally, Graham White, Bryann Lynder, Annette & Jennifer Elbert, Elizabeth Nunez, Pat Willis, Sophie Welber, Obie Taswell, Chelsea Miller, Aaron & Justin Grgurich, Elatia Hathaway, Andrew Bost, Miami Litton-Palmer, Lauren Petrie, Laura & Noland Cole, Austin Hoffman, Maria Abrams, Sophia Hennessy, Ellen Renk & Andrew Eischens, Carter Desouza, Connor Oman, Deborah Kadin, Kristi Buttles, Maya & Josh Beck, Emma MacLaird, Eric Alvarado, Jeff Schwartz, Quau, Tessa McKillop, Wil Hunt, Jai'keem Evans, Aelin Mayer, Connor Cohrt, Christina Campbell, Regan Rosburg, Steve & CJ Yourth, Mark Langanke, Hayden Langanke, Curtis & Laura Moore, Steve Livingston, Madison Wolf, Alexis Sparks, Wes Hagen, Jessica Hayes, Max & Leo McKee, Emma Moore, Zach Shashok, Lori Slade, Larry & Cheri Horkman, Steve Livingston, Kelsey Gaffney, Shayna Frankenfield, Whitman Family, Nicole & Chris Eubanks, Theresa Mlatoski, Giovanni Camastra, Norm Hanne, Tracy Curstesson, Richard Whorton, Martha Ohlson, Joel & Rebecca Krison, Don Mount, Alec Cleverly, Jason Niemeier, Jesse, Patrick, Rochielle Goulette, Talmage Trujillo, Janiece Hanning, Rob Fowler, Christina Bell & Fowler Family, Pele Cannon & Joe Reinhard, Laura Karden & Family, Neils Cotter & Family, Sheila Bean, Eric Messerli, Michael Le Desma, Melissa Reed-Eckert, Tara Russell, Karen East, Erin Laessle, Terra Rey, Betsy Banks

Volunteer Groups: World Leadership School, Road Less Traveled, ARCC, Cottonwood Institute, Telluride Academy, Western Colorado University, Freshman Academy, Rice Wildlife Conservation Club, Lauren Bissonnette & Lake County High School, Crestone Charter School, Bobbi Kennedy Hiking Group, Third Way Center/Joan Farley Academy, Cottonwood Institute, Roaming Colorado, Nature & Wildlife Discovery Center, Boulder Valley ICO, GALS, Women Rising Wild, Team Russell, Global Routes, Walk Across America, JCC Ranch Camp, Mile High 360, Scouts Troop 70720, AHE Adventures, Scouts Troop 989, Scouts Troop 361, Scouts Troop 63103, Country Strong Youth

Big Supporters: Maria Abrams, Dave Barclay, Jessica Becker, John and Kathy Bernhardt, Lee Black, Brian and Susana Blackman, Ray and Sue Bodis, Barry Boehme, Jean Brooks & Caryl Petty, Dell and Dixon Brooke, Nelson Brooke, Juli Brooks, Jaqueline Bullette, Carolyn Buongiorno, Karen Byington, Lynn Cain, Lorrان Carlston, Harry (Dee) Carmack, Albert Carocci, Rory Case, Larry Ciolfi, Richard and Linda Clark, Lindsay Craig, Jeff Clayton, Rhonda Cleland, Peggi Collins, Peggy Cook, Neils Cotter, Andy Denenberg, Estella Dieci, Cali Dietrich, Bob Dudik, Cheryl Duhaime, Lisa Eaton-Adams, Lauryn and Curt Eisenhower, Ellis Foundation Inc, Connie Emmerson, Ezulwini Foundation, Blake Facente, David and Jean Farnelo, Sherrie Finn, Wilson Flick, Alexander Gramm, Claudia Granville and Gregory Knight, Bethany Hagan, Layne Halliday, Jay Harbaugh, Dianna Harris, Kent & Kathy Hay, Judith Helm, Colleen Henry, Joan Hensler, Linda Hocking, Mandana Hormozi, Jackson Immuno Research Labs, Paul and Darcee Jacob, Mike Jacobson, Terri and David Jacobson, Kim Johns, Joshua Johnson, Diana Johnson, Dave Nora and Peggy Kavookjian, John Kearns, Anita Keefe, Richard and Debbi Keefe, Linda Keverline, Scott King, Tosha Knight, Darlene Kobel, Ed Kraynak, Miroslay Krennek, Jason Kuo, Kayla Kurtz, Jane Lambert, Charles Landrum, David Lilly, Susan Lin, Randy and Melanie Lindsay-Brisbin, Steve Livingston, Jack Longo, Mary-Ann and Tom Looby, Israel Lowy, Tom and Susan Luchka, Nora Maloney, Allison Matelski, Amy McCarthy, Marie Medenbach, Jennifer McLean, Susan Menz, Hans Miesler, Emma Moore, Don Mount, George Newell, Kenneth Oliver and Angela Nomellini, Jon and Gina Olsson, Sander and Deb Orent, Carma Osborn, Orla O'Callaghan, Chuck Palmer, Rocco Pellerin, Nicholas Poese, Donald and Sheri Price, Helen Quintana, Tom and Joan Rauch, Susan Raymer and Jack Naff, Buddy & Sheri Rich, Mark & Carol Rickman, Ann Riddle, Chrost- opher Ross, Patricia Russell, Sunita Satyapal, Rita D Savage, Linda Schutt, Kirk Scott, Barry and Erin Sharaf, Judy Sheridan, Kris Shurr, Bea Slingsby, Eva Smith, Bill & Karen Snyder, Hannah Snyder, Brandon Soble, Mo Sparks, Deborah Spring, Sandy Stanley, Rebecca Stephens, Stan Stiffler, Livia Stone, Sallie and Bill Stout, Christine Swank, Gary Taylor, Linda and Stephen Taylor, Dianne Thiel, Joan Thompton, Sally Troyer, RBC Trust, Troy Family Trust, Peter Underhill, Alice Victor, Archbold Van Beuren, Els Van Woudenberg, Nicholas and Joann Wargo, Cynthia Wayburn, Grace Weir, Donna Whetzel, Norman Williams, Heather Winzent, Tina Winzent, Betsy and Newell Woodbury, Cliff and Pam Wren, Grace Yan, Melissa Zentz

Generous Local Support: Allen & Lisa Avery, Allison & Chris Sable, Elevation Meat Market, Kirkpatrick Bank, Dr. Julie Sperry & Cliffee Veterinary Clinic, De Kam Auto, Susan Smiley, Westcliffe Meats, 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, Lowe's 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 Huajatolla 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 & Dr. Amanda Blasingame & Uintah Emergency Hospital, Paul Biron, Terre & Dr. Tom Davis, 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, Medina, Pat Neverdahl, Wendy Mike & Lisa Herring, Enos Waugh, Bob & Carol Allison, Gates, Lexus of Colora- Equine, the Wilson Fam-

Audrey & Dick Stermer, Paul & Linda Schutt, Jason Stewart, Alicia & Jake Shy, Joshua & Erika Wofford, Erin Farrow & Lake County Joe Solano, Gil Vasquez, Hannah Crawford, Willie Britt & family, Eric King, Heather Whitlock, John Johnson, Luke George, Bruce Rusk, Rebecca Harnish, Jim & Claudia Cole, Mark & Doris Dembosky, Phoenix Rising, Bonnie Rose, Nancy Joroff, Kathy Reese, Yoder & family, Bill Tezak, Mike Shields & family, Jennifer & Steve Macoskey, David & Amy Shepard, Bill & Sallie Stout, Alicia Mitch Campbell, Nequette Drilling, Greg Curtis & family, the Sanders Family, Birgit Burglechner, Kay Ingram, Kris & Michael do Springs, Royal Gorge RV, Big O Tires of Canon City, Neil Peachy, Southern Colorado Cold Storage, Bob Fulton, Cross Creek ily, Bob and Kay Parker, the Tenacious Unicorn Ranch, Friends & Neighbors of Centennial Ranch & Aspen Mountain Ranch., Central Building Supplies Inc.

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

Looking to the Future

The Wolves Get a New Executive Director

This year marks a significant change; one that will help assure Mission: Wolf lives on for years to come.

When we started Mission: Wolf, many anticipated challenges arose but—wow—it was the unanticipated ones that made me strong. I often found myself negotiating a way forward in the face of uncertainty and making split-second decisions that affected many. After decades, I am ready to hand the reins over to someone very deserving of the role: Mike Gaarde.

Mike has spent the last decade at Mission: Wolf caring for wolves. He has been instrumental to negotiating a future of doing business in the face of constant changes in technology and regulations. He physically built much of Jane's Studio while overseeing day-to-day refuge operations.

He also met and married his life mate, Rachel. After coming to Mission: Wolf for a summer, Rachel fell in love with wolves (and Mike) and changed her life path from Shark Biology to become a veterinarian. She is now Dr. Rachel—the wolves' USDA vet—and lives with Mike at the M:W Farm.

With some weight off the shoulders, I plan to spend the future guiding the completion of committed projects and developing the wolves' Land Conservation Program. I am excited at the opportunity to spend more time with the animals who continue to keep me grounded and focused. I am so grateful for all the heartfelt friends and supporters that make it a reality.



Happy! Newly named Executive Director, Mike Gaarde, gives Obsidian some well-received scratches





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.

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

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 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 and materials on 13 miles of dirt road means the need for a reliable truck. Staff are currently running on two older GMC trucks that have done well, but they will need to be replaced soon.

5 KW Generator

With the dry climate, we are preparing for fire danger with a network of sprinkler systems. We need to have a reliable generator and sprinkler pump at each of our water storage tanks.

Electric Bike

Building the Studio at the bottom the hill has shown the need to get up and down the hill quickly for animal and human needs. We have updated from an ATV to an electric bike (like a Sur-Ron) and have seen a great improvement in efficiency, reduction of cost, and are running off the sun.

Wolf Care:

- Vet supplies (needles, gauze, syringes, fluids, fluid lines)
- 5 gallon buckets
- Galvanized water tubs (sizes 10-15, 30-80, or 100-200 gallons)
- Supplements and medications: Fish oil; Flax oil; Cosequin; 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, Gabapentin
- High quality butcher knives (non-serrated)
- 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
- Lathe
- Pipe bender
- Duct tape

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
- Horse brushes, shampoo, hoof pick

Sustainability:

- Potting soil or seed-starting mix
- Vegetable and native plant seeds
- Solar panels and batteries (contact us first)
- Solar-powered lights
- Reusable produce bags

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)

Office:

- 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

Volunteers:

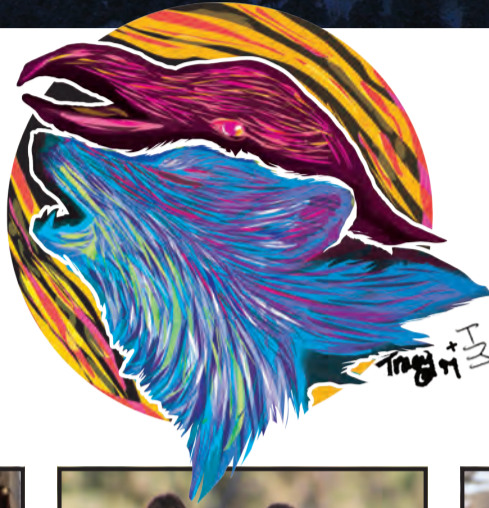
- Sustainable toiletries (septic-safe liquid hand soap, body wash, and shampoo; deodorant; toothbrushes; toothpaste; feminine products, etc.)
- Mattresses, blankets, futons, foam pads, pillows
- Dr. Bronner's products
- Blue Dawn dish soap
- Simple Green all-purpose cleaner
- Environmentally-friendly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

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



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Zeab



Farah & Apollo



Arrow



Obsidian



Illiamna

SCHEDULE A VISIT

Mission:Wolf is open to *visitors & members* on **Tuesdays and Saturdays.**

Sign up online to schedule your tour of the facility & (if time allows) participate in a wolf 'behavior session'

Find more info about a day visit to Mission: Wolf, including driving directions at missionwolf.org/day-visits or scan here:



Mission: Wolf operates on generous support from Wolf Caretakers

*With roughly 25 hungry canines to feed,
we go through about 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.

included in a Mission: Wolf membership packet:

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

- 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, Minigan, Nashira, Obsidian, Oreo, Rosie-Valkyrie, Saurya, 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 Pack
- \$3,000 Feed a Wolf 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
for credit card orders

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