

Wolf Visions

VOLUME 31

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 350 acres of pristine alpine habitat.

FEATURED WOLF: SAURYA



Five-year-old Saurya has had few successful partners while at Mission: Wolf, though recently may have finally found someone to match her intensity.

staff saw Saurya now take it upon herself to become the lead female. She was young and naive but exuded confidence, beating up on Nashira to claim her place. It didn't feel fair to her or Nashira, so we decided to try Saurya with some other adult wolves in hopes she could learn from them.

Imagine you take two strangers off the street, put them in a room together and ask them to get along for the rest of their lives. What are the odds it would be successful? At Mission: Wolf, we try to find at least one companion for all the resident wolves and wolf-dogs. Saurya's story is an example of how difficult the process can be.

Born on April 1st 2017, Saurya has been referred to as the sanctuary's "April Fools" baby ever since her arrival. I (Mike) was carrying one-year-old wolf-dog, Nashira, out of the vet's office after her spay and my phone rang. I scrambled to get Nashira in the van so I could answer. It was Kent. All he said was, "Can we handle another?" I started laughing, thinking he was joking. He was not. Saurya needed a home.

Saurya was part of an unexpected litter of puppies born at a zoo in Indiana. We agreed to take her in while her sister found a home at another sanctuary in Colorado. Two M:W staff drove 10 hours to Lincoln, Nebraska to meet the zoo's staff half way. We noticed right away the puppies were very unsocial and scared; they hid in the back of their airline kennel the whole drive back to Colorado.

When Saurya arrived, she spent her first few months in the sanctuary's "Puppy Palace", our acclimation enclosure and vet room. Staff slept with her every night in hopes she might socialize and bond a bit with humans. Not much sleep was had. True to a wolf's crepuscular nature, she came alive in the evening. She zoomed circles around the enclosure and inside the vet room, climbing on the window sills and cabinets. Nothing was out of reach. If anyone did sleep, we learned to sleep with our boots on—she became just confident enough to come up and nibble on your toes if you weren't paying attention. While she did bond with a few staff, still it was clear she was not going to stay in the Puppy Palace for long. She needed to learn how to be a wolf from adult wolves.

We introduced her to Nashira and the rest of the Ambassador Pack: Magpie, Abraham, and Zeab. Magpie and Saurya bonded quickly and strongly. She finally had a mom! Unfortunately, Magpie's health was declining steadily at the same time. She passed away after only a few weeks with the pup. At less than a year old,

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"It has taken most my life to realize that by helping care for wolves, we have also cared for people and a healthy future."

Hello friends. It's been a daunting 35 years living on Aspen Mountain.

When I moved the wolves to the most remote spot I could find in Colorado, I had a simple dream: to live simply. That has happened but I did not know how much that decision would change my purpose and needs. Experiences with wolves allowed me to learn that they are some of the most passionate creatures—so full of unconditional love it was unbelievable. I quickly learned the wolves could be trusted far more than people.

By providing the wolves a large, natural area away from people and diet similar to what they would experience in the wild, I had no idea happy wolves would attract so many happy people. I have been blessed and honored to be a part of a worldwide recovery effort of one of the world's most keystone species.

Survival on our mountain was simple. We got our water from a spring, our electricity from the Sun, and grew as much of our own food as we could manage in this challenging mountain environment. We didn't ask anything from the wolves but friendship and worked hard to gain their trust. What still motivates me is the wide eyed and dramatic reactions that a 30-second, eye-to-eye moment with an intelligent creature like a wolf produces. It never stops.

It has taken most of my life to realize that by helping care for wolves, we have also cared for people and a healthy future. I am excited to see our current dreams realized and believe I have helped to create a facility where people can carry on our legacy for the next 35 years. Jane's Studio will provide volunteers years of hands-on learning experiences while they maintain the sanctuary. Our eco-village is set to support staff caretakers with shelter, greenhouses, and a healthy living area. The Teaching Horse Barn is close to opening and will allow space to handle a growing need for unwanted horse care at our farm. Our land preserve will soon be completely fenced and provide people a place they can come and enjoy nature for years to come.

The final touch will be a few new dedicated individuals able to step into the role of facilitating a mountain-family of cooperative people who share a passion for nature, all the while caring for the animals that live here. -Kent Weber



Email info@missionwolf.org to receive your newsletter digitally



Director Kent Weber shares what he has learned after 35 years of caring for captive wolves and wolf-dogs



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 world around them. Around a dozen 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 350 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 thrive as pets. Sadly, many don't make it past their 2nd birthday. 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 animal 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.

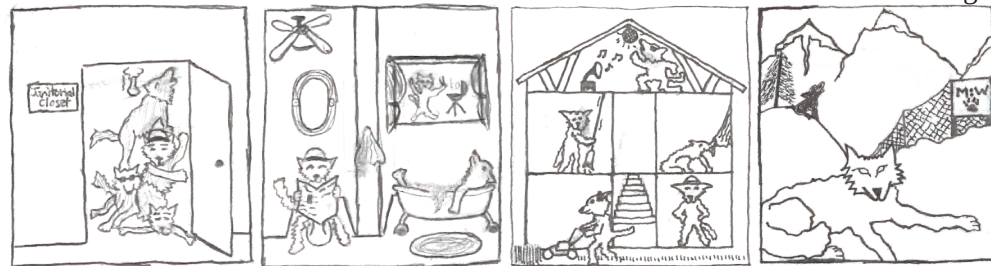
At Mission: Wolf, the motto is:

"If a wild animal has to be in a cage, it better be a big one"

*The truth is **no cage is big enough for an animal whose natural range can be hundreds of square miles.** Like humans, it's hard for wolves to live together in small spaces. Plus, **captive wolves can't resolve conflict on their own** by leaving the pack. Mission: Wolf staff have to intervene and separate wolves when necessary.*

Captive Wolves & Their Space: Never Enough

-T. Light



Ambassador Update

"Ambassador Wolf": an Evolving Idea at Mission: Wolf

The word "ambassador" has come to describe animals in captivity who represent their species on behalf of those in the wild. At Mission: Wolf, it's no different. The sanctuary's ambassador wolves give visitors a chance to meet a wolf. Words and sights can only convey so much; we learn much more from what we touch. With an opportunity to look directly into their eyes, we can learn to have as much compassion and empathy for the wolf as we do our human neighbor. Interacting with people gives ambassador wolves a chance to honor their social instincts and hopefully enrich their lives.

For more than two decades, Kent and Tracy spent their

year in a Greyhound bus traveling around the country with the Ambassador Wolves. The traveling Ambassador program has given over 1 million people the opportunity to meet a wolf.

The past couple years have seen the bus odometer slow down for a variety of reasons. Instead, the Ambassadors' work is happening more and more here at the sanctuary, not on the road. Mission: Wolf's "Ambassador Wolves" have grown as a result to include several new animals. They may not ever walk into a Senator's office or greet hundreds of elementary school kids, but are happy and willing to teach visitors the nature of a wolf here at home.

-M. White



-T. Lepore

Friendly, gentle, engaging: Zeab and Nashira are the official Ambassador Pack, ready to meet visitors day after day



-K. Weber

Youthful, intense, exuberant: With eyes that look straight into your soul, Ydun has a charm hard to put into words



-K. Weber

Sensitive, loving, intuitive: Perhaps the most photogenic at the sanctuary, Rosie Valkyrie often stuns visitors with her beauty



-A. Abrams

Carefree, outgoing, engaging: Flash and Cephira have become more eager to greet visitors in each others' presence

She soon joined siblings Tiger and Rosie. The introduction went well, and Saurya seemed to especially like Tiger. The three were playful and the staff grew excited to see Saurya with some stability in her life. After a couple of months, Rosie didn't come up for her daily feed one morning. Meanwhile, Saurya was trotting around with an extra pep in her step. Rosie poked her head out of a den. Saurya raced over to force her back in. It seemed Saurya had taken over this enclosure too; beat up Rosie and "locked" her in a den. Again, unfair to the animals she lived with, Saurya was moved to a different enclosure.

For a while, Saurya lived by herself. We were unsure who could handle her wild nature. She seemed fairly content having her own enclosure, although bored at the same time. She did interact with her two-legged friends, but it wasn't the same as playing with another wolf. After a couple years, the sanctuary took in a young male wolf-dog named Flash. We thought he and Saurya might get along and the introduction went well overall. They were playful but still—we saw signs Saurya might end up being too much for him.

In a happy turn of events, Flash and Saurya brought each other out of their shells. The two nervous kids became social. They seemed exactly what each other needed, growing confidence from each other for almost two years. Sadly, Saurya's hot headedness eventually got the best of her. We saw more and more

little tiffs during feed time, possessiveness over human friends, and other spats here and there. A boiling point was eventually reached when one day it turned into a full-blown fight and they were immediately separated. Saurya was again on her own.

She lived alone until the sanctuary took in a young, confident wolf-dog named Marty over this past winter. After a few weeks, Saurya found herself with a new neighbor and the two were soon seen talking through the fence, acting hormonal. It was mating season, after



Saurya, unsuccessful in her first three tries at companionship, is a good example of why a wolf shouldn't be in a cage.

all. The two were given separate time to spend in the "buffer" zone between them, which they spent play bowing and dancing along the fence line together. From these signs, staff felt good about their chances of finding companionship and in May, the barrier separating them was lifted. The two of them have been doing great together so far. Confident Saurya seems to be enjoying socializing naive Marty. More importantly, given her past introductions that didn't work out, he seems to match her intensity well. Staff saw Saurya present her stomach to him right away, a direct display of submission and respect.

Meanwhile, Nashira—who joined Mission: Wolf around the same time—has grown into the sanctuary's most popular ambassador wolf, excited to greet new visitors day after day. Having come from a caring family and not a zoo, you could understand why she wouldn't have any fear of people. Saurya, on the other hand, had a hard start to life. It was clear early on she was a strong and independent wolf. She can be very sweet and loving, but she definitely has a wild spark in her eye. She is a great example of why a wolf does not belong in a cage. Her new partnership with Marty has staff excited that she may have finally found someone to live out her life with. We hope they can be teachers to visitors for many years to come.

-M. Gaarde

see Page 5 "New Pairing" to read more about Saurya & Marty's introduction

Zeab takes April visit to the vet, Nashira tags along

Last December, staff noticed Zeab limping and after investigating, found a growth on his left hind paw. Veterinary trips can be stressful for wolves so at first we tried a few home remedies. While he seemed to improve, he still had a bit of a limp and needed to see the doctor.

It had been years without leaving the refuge for Zeab, so we spent several days getting him used to a leash again. We wanted Nashira there to help his confidence and keep him company, which meant acquainting her with the leash as well. After a couple short walks, they were ready.

While Zeab is an old pro, it was Nashira's first car ride since she was a pup. She got a little car sick but toughed it out. She was soon smelling the fresh air passing through the windows.

Once there, Dr Blasingame at Uintah Pet Emergency sedated Zeab, removed the lump, then sent it to a lab for tests. Already sedated, it was a good opportunity to do a full examination—X-rays, blood work, and a dental exam. She saw minor arthritis that you'd expect of a wolf his age and his bloodwork came back clear. His teeth could have used minor surgery, but they weren't able to without special equipment.

The ride back was smooth with a short pitstop at a riverbed to let Nashira get her paws wet and Zeab sniff about in the grass. Our anxiety was lifted a few days later when good news came: the lump was a benign tumor. In the time since, he has looked much more comfortable walking, still ambling over to greet new visitors with Nashira when he's in the mood. *-M. White*



-M. White

Staff at Uintah Pet Emergency did a wonderful job treating Zeab's ailing paw. Nashira came along for the ride and was great company for Zeab

Tiger was born at a wildlife facility in Florida along with his sister, Rosie, and brother, Kenai, who lives at another sanctuary. At only six days old, their enclosure flooded and he, Rosie, and Kenai were separated from their mother for safety. Mission: Wolf staff drove there to rescue them, bottle feeding them the entire drive home.

Tiger was more timid around people than his sister at a young age. As the pups matured, though, that behavior switched and Tiger became the cool, calm and confident one. He grew into a security blanket for his now nervous sister, Rosie.

At only 2 years old, Tiger developed an autoimmune disease called Discoid Lupus. The system supposed to keep him healthy instead attacked the skin on his nose. Though we're not sure, it could have been caused by less than perfect genetics or lack of time with his mother (and her milk) during a vital developmental period. Luckily, staff here caught it early and kept it at bay with medications and homeopathic remedies for 6 good years.

Over the years, Tiger never let his disease slow him down and would happily greet his friends with an exuberant howl and flick of his tail. Unfortunately, just before his 9th birthday, his body began to fail. We worked with many vets to keep him comfortable and although he kept his mental toughness until the end, his body wasn't strong enough.

We said goodbye to him in January. We appreciate Tiger for all the lessons he taught us and for the confidence he gave Rosie. His howl will forever be heard each time we walk up the hill.

-M. Gaarde

see Page 13 "Tiger's Moon", this year's M:W Coloring Page

In Memory Tiger 2013-2022

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-C. Hoyt

Tiger will be remembered for his happy "woo-woo" howls when he was excited about staff coming up the hill.



Gray Wolf Returns to Protection Under Endangered Species Act After More Than a Year of Delisting

This February, a US court ruling officially put the gray wolf back under federal protection through the Endangered Species Act of 1973(ESA). According to court documents, it was ruled the US Fish & Wildlife Department in 2020 used “arbitrary and capricious” reasoning in their decision to de-list the species and ultimately “failed to adequately conduct a threats assessment” for the gray wolf in the lower 48 states. As was true prior to 2020, the “Northern Rocky Mountain” gray wolves remain delisted from the ESA (and managed at the state-level) in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and parts of Oregon, Washington, and Utah.

Falling under ESA protections or not can have varying consequences for gray wolves in the US. Individual states responded to the delisting in different ways. Colorado created its own protection plan called Proposition 114, passed in November of 2020. In contrast, Wisconsin opened land to wolf hunters immediately. A judge ended the hunt early after an estimated 214 wolves were killed in two days, almost double the limit of 119 originally imposed by the state. The court system later cancelled its 2021 fall hunt due to improper management by the state’s Department of Natural Resources.

Wild Wolf Puppies in Colorado for the First Time Since 1940’s

Since wolves were introduced into Yellowstone National Park in the 1990’s, surrounding states have anticipated the day wild wolves might migrate from the park into their state. The wait in Colorado officially ended last June when the state’s Parks and Wildlife Department(CPW) confirmed a litter of gray wolf puppies born near Walden. The parents have since been confirmed to be wolves F1084 and M2101, tracked from Wyoming by wildlife agencies for several years. It’s currently unknown if a new litter was born this spring.

In 2022, the pack has made headlines for different reasons. Throughout the winter, the wolves preyed on several cattle from ranchers in Colorado. Much effort has gone into providing techniques to keep the wolves away from the families’ livestock, though two more calves were reported killed in April. CPW officials will continue working to confirm and compensate the families for their loss.

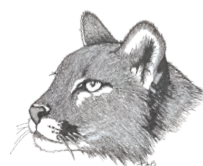
Wild Red Wolf Puppies Born in North Carolina

This May, for the first time in seven years, the Red Wolf Recovery Program was able to release captive-born pups into a wild wolf den. Officials were aware the wild female had mated with a coyote, but she still accepted the pups and fostered them. A year later, after four years without wild offspring, U.S. Fish and Wildlife officially confirmed six red wolf puppies had been born in North Carolina. Red wolves are still on the brink of extinction—in much worse shape than their gray counterparts. Conflict with humans living nearby and traffic accidents are their biggest threats. However, signage on roads near migration routes and programs that promote coexistence are showing positive effects on mortality rates of the red wolf population.

Colorado Proposition 114 Still Set For End of 2023 Despite Uncertainty

After gray wolves found themselves back on the Endangered Species Act in February, Colorado’s plan to reintroduce them into the state, Proposition 114, faces new challenges. The change brings new federal requirements, including an Environmental Impact Statement, as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970. Due to the amount of time it generally takes to clear that hurdle, there is concern the state may miss its voter-imposed deadline of December 31, 2023 to submit its plan. Several groups have called upon the governor to step-up coordination between agencies to ensure honoring Colorado voters’ decision. Parks and Wildlife officials have stated they are on track to still meet the deadline.

-A. Abrams & C. Pietzsch



Art: T. A. Brooks



MW Staff Reflects After Volunteer “Cattle Watch”

In February, I volunteered to “cattle watch” (overnight vigil to keep wolves away) at a ranch who experienced three losses to a nearby wolf pack in just a few weeks. I remember the volunteer coordinator saying on the phone, “They only request two things for the day you arrive: get there before sunset to learn the lay of the land and be willing to spend time talking about what they’re going through.” “I’m in!” I said, excited to be heading to the frontlines of wolf reintroduction and part of such an important conversation.

Out next to the pasture, we spent a good hour talking through what wolves nearby meant to their way of life. It was funny to see, one-by-one, a half-dozen family members (and all the dogs) come out to join the conversation. The ordeal was obviously taking its toll. I remember them talking about the morning one of their cattle went down. It took every family member an entire day to deal with the fallout, exhausting them entirely. I

jibed something like, “Good thing there’s not any other work you’re all busy with around here” to which someone laughed and said, “Exactly!”

What I left with was a deeper appreciation for how devastating it can be to lose livestock unexpectedly. I’ve always seen reimbursement to a rancher as zero-sum, even-steven. You lose a cow? You get cash to make up for it. Boom. But here’s what I learned: sure, the cash reimbursement is well-received, but can you reimburse lost time and energy?

As well, I came away confident most wolf advocates and ranchers agree on more than they want to admit. We’re all “animal lovers”—maybe just a different type. We all want the land we know to be healthy and here for us to be a part of. We want it to be here for our kids and our kids’ kids.

If only we could share the understanding the land is healthier with all its

predators and prey who existed for ages before we got here. At Mission: Wolf, we teach the importance of the wolf as an “apex” predator, or, the one atop the food chain. All parts of an ecosystem have their own role to offer balance, big or small. Stability can be lost if the ecological teeter-totter gets pushed too far in one direction. Like ripples through a pond after a stone is thrown, even distant and unrelated species can be affected when the system is altered. Food may disappear or suddenly be in abundance. Species may balloon in population or go extinct. In this way, everyone in the system is affected by a change in predator/prey relationships. This is sometimes called a “trophic cascade”. A wolf—on top of all other creatures in the food web—has maybe the most relative influence of any. Knowing this, the importance of the wolf to the land is out in the open to see. How can we all come to understand it in this way?

-S. Ren

New Arrivals



-S. Renk

Quiet and shy at first, we have watched Obsidian slowly come out of his shell--he's quite the goof. Every day he seems more comfortable in his new home.

OBSIDIAN

The story of a new wolf-dog at Mission: Wolf is not often unique. A well-meaning family from New Mexico bought a wolf-dog and raised him with four other German Shepherds in their suburban backyard. Their six-foot fence soon proved too small for a growing wolf-dog. He was getting out into the surrounding neighborhood, chasing cats and rummaging through trash. Soon the family realized the unfortunate situation they were in: wolves don't make good pets. Knowing we provide sanctuary to canines like him, they reached out hoping we might have space—luckily we did.

At first, the hustle and bustle of life at M:W seemed a lot for the new arrival. He paced around the enclosure, tail tucked tight against his body. The stress showed—he didn't eat for several days. The staff worked to make him comfortable, giving him space and practicing pressure/release techniques to help

him adjust. Initially, the young wolf-dog was nicknamed "Pogo" because he'd jump over 10 feet in the air to watch Mike's truck drive in each morning. That meant breakfast was coming.

Over time through daily work from staff, he started to understand that his new home was a safe place where he could relax. One of the best nights for staff was hearing his first howls, ringing out with a deep bass that seemed to shake the building next to him. Soon the sanctuary chose the name Obsidian (or "Obi") for the jet black wolf-dog who seemed to absorb the energy of those around him, as the stone is meant to do.

We are very glad Obsidian has made his home at Mission: Wolf. It seems every week his comfort grows. He has now gotten close enough to greet several staff and can be found relaxing on his shade structure most of the day, watching the day-to-day of the refuge. We are looking forward to watching him continue to grow into his name.

-A. Abrams

seemed unsure of himself at first (more evidence he likely grew up alone) but in time he grew confident enough to hang close when we visited.

Months passed and spring came; a season when wolves are hormonal and interested in pairing with other wolves. Several staff noticed subtle play between Marty and his neighbor, Saurya, a 4-year-old who had been alone for some time. Each were given time in a "buffer zone" between them over the next few weeks, staff observing their interactions closely. Their first time interacting nose-to-nose was precious. They chased each other up and down the fence line, wagging tails and touching snouts. *continued below*

New Pairing

Saurya & Marty Playful During First Day Together

(continued from above) In May, the gates between the two were finally opened and they rushed to greet each other for the first time without a barrier. It astounded staff to

see Saurya, who had shown a strong will for dominance in the past, roll over and give her belly to Marty—a display of submission.

We are now busy watching them grow into each other with overconfident Saurya teaching unsocialized Marty how to interact and play for perhaps the first time in his life. Marty seems to be relaxing Saurya at the same time. We're grateful for the energy they have brought to the sanctuary. We hope they've found happy companionship in each other for many years to come.

-A. Abrams



S. Renk

After several failed attempts, we're excited Saurya seems to have finally found a partner to keep up with her. Marty just seems happy to be Marty



MARTY

Imagine spending two years of your life alone in a dark 12'x12' room. That was reality for Marty, a striking white wolf-dog with a pink nose who joined the sanctuary last fall. We learned he had been living in a horse stall for over two years when a rescue organization convinced the owners to relinquish him. The folks who saved him couldn't keep Marty themselves and sought out a permanent home. Lucky for Marty, Mission:Wolf was able to take him in.

After adjusting to sanctuary life in a few weeks, he moved to a larger enclosure beside the sanctuary's Visitor Center. He seemed happy and at peace. At first, he ran through the tall grass and branches a bit awkwardly like he wasn't used to so much freedom and space. His favorite spot quickly became his wooden shade structure. Even in winter, he could be seen on top of it every morning, sunbathing away waiting for food. As Marty continued to show a



-K. Weber

Marty spent a majority of his first two years in a horse stall, though it didn't take him long to adjust to sanctuary life.



-A. Bally

visit [youtube.com/user/missionwolfsanctuary](https://www.youtube.com/user/missionwolfsanctuary) or scan here to watch Saurya & Marty's first few moments together:



Communicating With Animals Through Pressure/Release

Mission: Wolf Staff Seek Mutual Respect, Not Dominance to Gain Trust

It is a common misconception that we as people are supposed to play the dominant role when it comes to our animal counterparts. This can be seen in the need to “break” a horse or to place oneself as the “alpha” to our canine friends. Unfortunately, dominance is a constant power struggle that is continually questioned and challenged. We at Mission: Wolf have learned it is much more productive to go about human and animal relationships through mutual respect.

We work with the animals at Mission: Wolf through a process called pressure/release. The idea is to not force anything on the animal but rather put just enough pressure to put them right at the edge of their comfort zone, then release pressure in a moment of calm. In this way, you can build toward a goal. The process can take longer and requires patience and consistency but pays off ten-fold in the end.

When Obsidian first arrived at Mission: Wolf, he was very nervous and scared. He would hide in the corner and sprint in circles any time someone would come near his enclosure. It is not

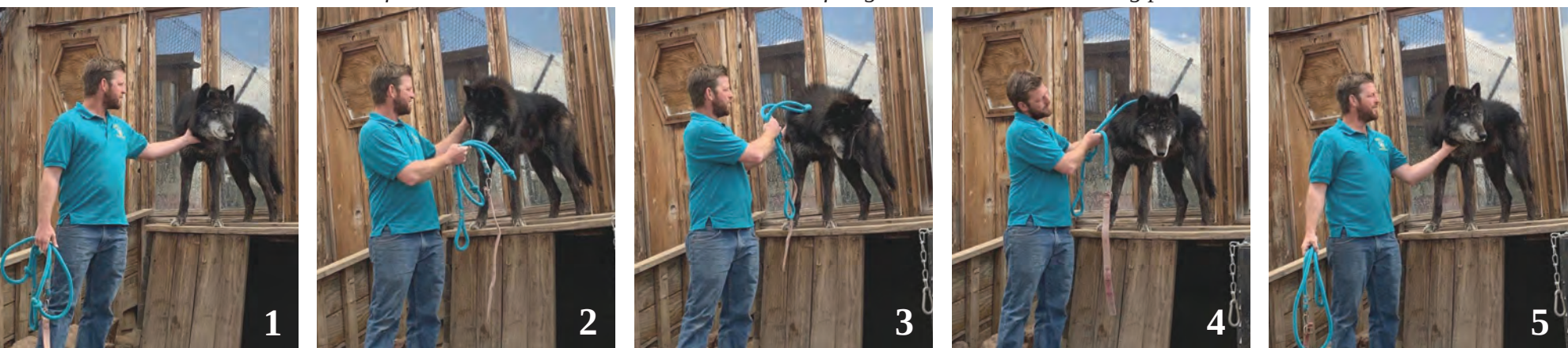
a happy life to be afraid of the thing that feeds you, so I worked to try to calm him by building a bond. First, I would walk near his enclosure facing away from him but being present in his area—*pressure*. He would nervously pace in circles but the moment he stopped for a second, I would walk away—*release*.

Once he was calmer with me being present outside his enclosure, I began going inside his enclosure and sitting down. Again, the moment he stopped I would leave. I did this every morning. His running pace slowed to a walk and eventually we reached a point where he didn't really care I was in his enclosure. Then one day, he walked up to me on his own and gave me a sniff.

We are now friends and every time I walk in, he will walk over and let me pet him. So, I decided to begin a new step with him: leash acclimation. It is important he gets comfortable with a leash in case of a veterinary visit, emergency evacuation, or just to move him to a different enclosure. The images below show our progress.

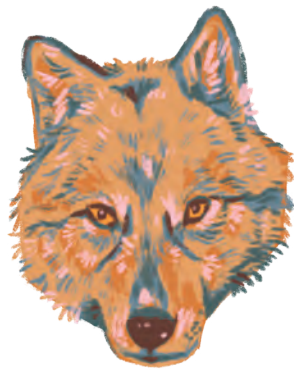
-M. Gaarde

Mission: Wolf director Mike Gaarde acclimates new wolf-dog Obsidian to a leash using pressure/release.



I first approach Obsidian with the leash just in my hand. He is cautious but lets me interact with him while I keep the leash by my side (photo 1). Once he becomes calm with this, I put pressure on again by holding the leash out in front of him. Eventually, he sniffs it (photo 2) and realizes it is not scary. Again, I increase pressure by touching him with the leash (photo 3). He is cautious of this at first but becomes calm again. I then pet him all over (photo 4) with the leash—especially over his neck, the area a collar could go one day.

Once he is calm with the leash petting him, I fully release pressure by removing the leash and return to holding it by my side again. I will continue this process again and again until he is not reactive to the leash at all and will wear a collar calmly. In the end, Obsidian will be safer during transportation to the vet, emergency evacuation, or move to a different enclosure.



Art: A. Bally

“Every day I walk to the barn with a big smile of gratitude and joy that this horse exists as my partner”

Let's Get Started: Doeschka's Maiden Voyage

Early in my evolution of developing relationships with horses, I decided I did not know better than the horse when training. I chose to see the horse as my teacher. Over the years, there has been a burning question in my head: “Is it possible the work with a horse from foal to riding?” The goal is to bond in such a way that would forgo bucking or other potential outbursts of dangerous, defensive behaviors in the future.

In 2019, a two-year-old foal came into my life. She is from an excellent family farm that raised her with gentle and kind methods; they had halter trained her and other basics when she arrived, so she was not wholly unhandled. Doeschka and I bonded quickly when she arrived at the Mission: Wolf Horse Barn. After many years of problem horses, she would become my retirement dream horse—a horse I could enjoy my time growing old and building trust with.

Doeschka and I have now spent years together doing groundwork, creating the bond between horse and owner that can elude some people and only come once in a lifetime for others. Every day I walk to the barn with a big smile of gratitude and joy that this horse exists as my partner. We quickly progressed with many groundwork exercises. I learned early on that Doeschka has an intelligent mind and a willingness to learn. She very much desired to understand my cues and be with me.

As Doeschka turned five years old this year, I sat on her for the first time with the help of MW staff, Madelyn White. Bareback! Twice, in fact, with no drama.

Cheers, we have many trails to ride!

-T.A. Brooks



-M. White

After years of bonding, Tracy has finally reached her goal of riding Doeschka.



Cephira



Arrow



Rosie Valkyrie



Nashira



Saurya

Wolves

OF



Marty



Soleil

MISSION: WOLF



Aria



Apollo



Minigan



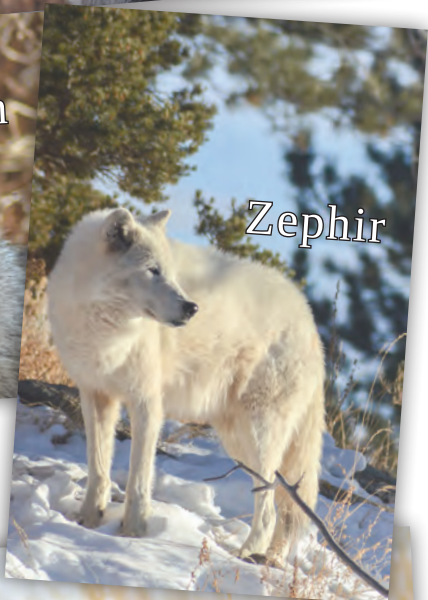
Oreo



Merlin



Farah



Zephir



Flash



Batman



Artemis



Buku



Ydun



Illiamna



Zeab



Fenris

What is a Wolf Telling You?

Like humans, wolves talk in more ways than just their voice. Small cues from their body posture or movement can communicate a lot. At Mission: Wolf, we strive to learn and listen to what the wolves say through these cues.

Wolves are naturally cautious creatures. Usually, their first response to danger is flight, rather than fight. If they are unable to leave an uncomfortable situation, they grow stressed and will generally pace. If they are cornered and their boundaries are pushed, they tend to display one of the two postures depicted below and will give increasing warnings such as barking, growling, fear biting (biting without full pressure), or true biting.



Wolves sometimes cower when they believe they are in danger. They try to make themselves look as small and unthreatening as possible. A cowering wolf tends to tuck their tail against their stomach and drop their head low, giving their shoulders a hunched look. Their ears lay flat against their skull and their pupils contract. They may also pant and drool from anxiety. In some cases, they pee or poop in small, runny amounts. A wolf displaying these signs is generally feeling stressed, and in most cases it is best to ignore and walk away from the animal to reduce their stress level.

If a wolf cannot flee, another potential reaction may be to become as big and intimidating as possible to keep the threat from approaching. They tend to stand tall with their head up high, facing the stressor. Their ears perk forward, with tail and hackles raised high. They may even bark to try to scare the threat away and warn other wolves. Unlike dogs, wolves typically only bark out of fear, so a barking wolf should be given space.



Wolves are a social species that **depend on one another for survival**. Living in groups helps raise young, establish and maintain territories, and care for the old. This strength in numbers also allows wolves to hunt large prey. To **cooperate and resolve conflict**, they need to **communicate and share information**. Even in captivity, without the need of a large pack to survive, wolves communicate with us and each other **through body language and vocalizations**.

Interacting with captive wolves is a powerful experience which can help build **confidence, empathy, and reduce human/wild animal conflict**. Captive-born wolves have inherently different socialization and thus different communication methods. The following information is based around our experiences at the sanctuary with captive-born wolves and wolf-dogs. It is possible to understand what captive wolves are communicating by recognizing their cues. **If we can understand them, we can ultimately better care for them.**

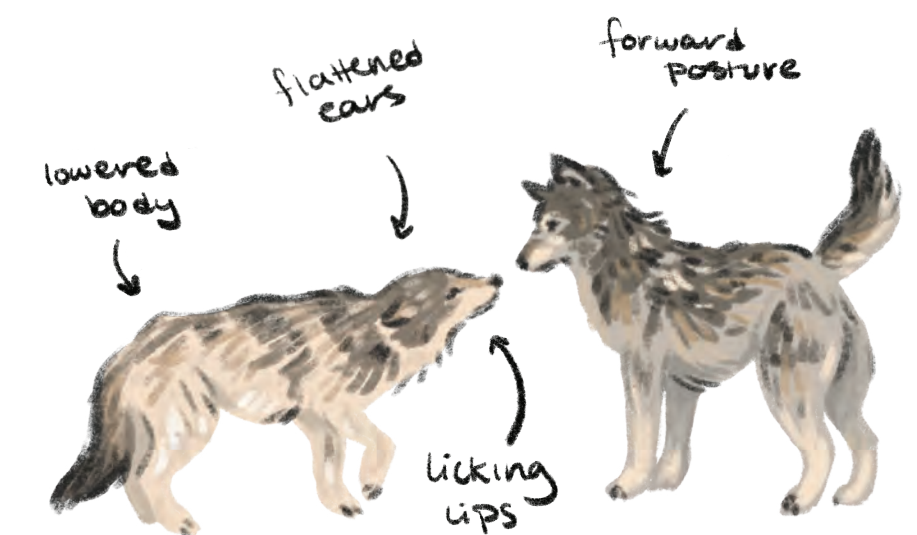
Here is a basic foundation for recognizing the body language of captive-born wolves. We hope to help people better understand and communicate with these incredible animals.



Above is the neutral body position of a wolf. The tail is hanging down, head is level with the shoulders, and ears move independently out of interest and curiosity. This is how wolves are generally postured when they are not feeling a strong emotion or trying to communicate something specific.

We've found that **you can hide your attitude from your family, your friend, or even yourself, but you can't hide it from a wolf**. They have a remarkable sense for changes in tone and body language of other creatures. In the wild, these small changes could indicate a threat or an opportunity. Most people are unaware of these changes or cues which can make them oblivious to the wolves' attempts at communication. Keep in mind **every wolf is different** and the **only way to truly understand is to build a relationship** with that animal and know its unique personality.

The info here is just a small portion of these behaviors. **There is always more to learn.**



Wolves have complex social structures. Typically, relationships between wolves are dynamic and respect-based. Wolves have ritualistic interactions to reinforce their status and use body language and vocalizations to do so. A wolf reinforcing their higher status will try to make themselves as large as possible. They stand tall, raise their tail high in the air, and raise their hackles. They might bare their teeth and growl. A wolf recognizing the higher status of another wolf tries to make themselves small. They curl their tail, lower their body, and often lick their lips or the muzzle of the other animal. Sometimes, a wolf will completely roll on their back, exposing their stomach, and urinate. This communicates that they are not a threat. It is important to note that an animal may initiate this behavior without prompt to get attention. Sometimes, wolves do this to initiate play, which we discuss more below.



Play is the foundation of learning. Animals learn to play and play to learn (even humans). Depicted above is a play bow; an invitation to play. Wolves drop into a bow with their forelegs splayed wide, their tail wagging or tucked to the side, and frequently pant with excitement or exertion. Two wolves playing together is adorable and fun – but be aware. They use their teeth like you use your hands and it's hard to tell them you're not covered in fur.



Refuge & Land Update



Jane's Studio Ready to Bloom

Jane's studio is a solar powered building that provides its own hot water and electricity from sunshine. It houses a lobby for visitors, an art gallery to inspire, fine art workshop to learn in, mechanic, welding and carpentry workshop to build in, staff showers, laundry, ADA bathrooms, kitchenette and a Veterinary room - all in one tidy and sustainable area.

More than anything, Jane's Studio provides the needed barrier between a growing public demand for wildlife experiences and the needs of sanctuary for the resident wolves and staff. A visitor picnic area with washrooms and toilets will eliminate expensive porta potties. A public parking area is available where children are free to run without disrupting the wolves far above on the hillside.

Jane's Studio started with the need for a basic Workshop and grew in response to public demands to become a permanent fixture of the mission wolf sanctuary. In the first month engineering blunders and late material deliveries imposed delays that pushed roof construction into the harsh winter. Our intent was to have skilled contractors complete the structure and allow the overwhelming numbers of volunteer groups to learn basic construction skills as we finished the

interior. Within a few weeks we abandoned unreliable contractors and a motivated staff said "we got it" as we grabbed spud wrenches and learned many steel building techniques. All was fun as we got walls, roofs (well not so much fun in the winter), doors and windows installed. When it came time to insulate and drywall we found ourselves headed into a dreary and redundant job that challenged the best of us at Mission wolf.

Who knew a bug called COVID would appear?

As life worldwide came to a standstill the M:W family expanded to support over 16 people for nearly two years. Little did we know we would all become the studio construction crew without volunteers to help. Although a lofty goal, the project has taken a toll on many of the staff that came to care for wolves and found themselves sanding drywall relentlessly. As COVID continues to become less threatening we have survived and offer our gratitude to the hundreds of hours of love and labor so many offered - Jane's Studio is ready to Bloom!

Work this last year included the completion of all drywall, applying many colors of paint, trimming the abundant array of doors and windows, installing a permanent wood and steel staircase, creating a roof deck

above the solar panels for snow removal, and the start of a butterfly and hummingbird garden. Now that the rooms are organized, perennials are planted in the butterfly garden, the handrails are complete on the patios all we need to finish is a very complex handicap ramp so the facility is truly ADA accessible.

As soon as our ADA ramp is completed and the county has signed off we will host various open houses and events to celebrate Jane's Studio.

An unintended consequence of building the studio has resulted in many benefits to the wolves' need for sanctuary and the staff's ability to handle the growing public. Unintended consequences of covid have allowed us to learn how to shift an overwhelming number of people wanting to visit and volunteer into a manageable and intimate learning experience for all.

Our new vet room will be ready to meet the needs of our new staff resident veterinarian Dr. Rachel Gaarde! The studio will also provide a defined area for all of our recycling, trash, compost and building materials storage area. Once all of these systems are located away from the staff Village the entire refuge will be much more peaceful and natural.

-K. Weber

13 Acre Wolf "Playpen" Officially Back Open

Since the 90s, the wolves have enjoyed a 12+ acre enclosure above the sanctuary known as the playpen. It acted as a "time share" so the animals could have a chance to increase stimuli through exploration of new terrain. Providing them with enrichment beyond the day-to-day is a hard task. Unfortunately, in 2017 an unusually heavy snowstorm damaged nearly 1,000 feet of fencing around the playpen. To repair the fence was to take a lot of time and energy away from other priorities and the playpen remained unavailable for the wolves for several years. Last summer, volunteers finally made it safe and secure for them once again. Rosie and Tiger bounded through and found it enriching as they tried to catch a couple elusive rabbits. Watching them run play and explore filled staff with joy. We are looking forward to seeing other wolves find enrichment in the playpen for many years to come.

-K. Weber



Tiger (seen here) and Rosie were first to explore the Playpen after several years of being closed off due to broken fence

visit [youtube.com/user/missionwolfsanctuary](https://www.youtube.com/user/missionwolfsanctuary) or scan here to watch Rosie and Tiger explore the wolf playpen last July:





Education vs. Unwanted Horses - an Important Difference



MW's Education Horses teach staff communication & body posture skills that apply to work with the wolves. Here, Madelyn White used these skills to show Guardian he need not fear her cape.



Unwanted Horse Ginger Willow lived over a year at Mission: Wolf after her owner surrendered her.



A new barn at the MW Ranch will be the new home for Education Horses, making room once again for the Unwanted herd at the Farm

Before we can allow horses access **we still have many projects to complete:** Inside we need help with stall construction, electric wiring, wood wall finish, bench installation. Outside the barn we need to complete a mile of wire fencing, corrals, gates, round pen... -K. Weber

Materials needed:

Steel fence pipe and panels, wire fence, t-posts, gates, round pen panels, stall mats, water tubs, garden hoses, rakes and wheelbarrows, side-by-side utv with dump bed.

Education Horses

In 1999, the Mission: Wolf Farm was acquired and we started our first horse education program for students interested in learning about wolf and horse behavior. We quickly learned by teaching staff how to handle unruly horses they quickly learned how to become clear communicators with body posture around the wolves. This instantly improved their bonds with the wolves and allowed all of us to be better caretakers and teachers.

Unwanted Horses

Simultaneously, for over three decades we have offered our vast ranching community an outlet to utilize their deceased livestock without waste and to help reduce conflicts with predators. Soon we found ourselves offered unwanted, healthy animals (primarily horses) for the purpose of feeding the wolves. We have accepted some unwanted horses but refused to euthanize them simply because they were unwanted. Soon we had two horse stables--one for our healthy, teaching herd and one for the unwanted, geriatric herd. In 2008, we built a tiny horse barn at the bottom of the sanctuary that sheltered up to 6 unwanted horses. In 2018, that barn was closed along with our ability to shelter unwanted horses to make room for the studio.

New Barn for Education Horses Near Completion

With the belief that it would only take two years to build a new barn , we were hopeful the project would be finished in 2020. However, due to come unforeseen opportunites the sanctuary couldn't pass on (and a pademic), the project was shelved.

Finally, we are near the completion. With the new Mission: Wolf Ranch horse barn, we look forward to moving the teaching herd away from the farm and into the ranch this summer. This will allow the Farm horse barn to once again provide a home for future geriatric and unwanted horses.

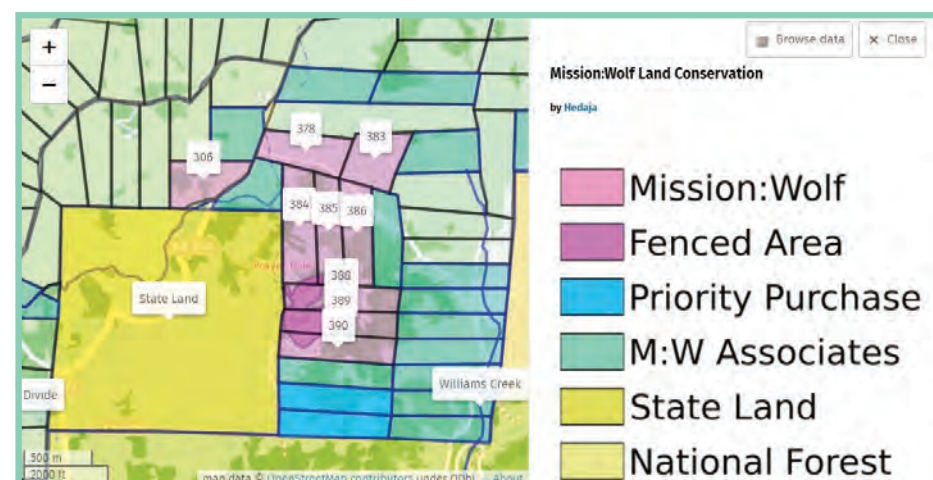
With new handmade barn doors installed, the building is officially sealed in. Pasture fence is partially up and all posts are in the ground.

Interactive Land Map Available Online

Mission: Wolf aims to conserve 1,000 acres of pristine alpine habitat in the surrounding Wet Mountain Valley. This land contains crucial elk migration and wintering grounds, riparian habitat, and stunning mountain views. With over a million extra people coming to our state in the last decade, the Wet Mountains are in danger of losing their wildness and the potential for future generations of wild animals to call them home.

In particular, we are focused on preserving waterways and drainages along Williams Creek and the Promontory Divide. In the arid west, water is our most precious resource and a keystone of life.

Staff member Christian Pietzsch created an interactive map (hosted on our website) that gives satellite views of the sanctuary and surrounding areas with color-codes to designate types of neighboring land.



visit missionwolf.org/landconservation or scan here to view Mission: Wolf's new, interactive land map:





Sustainability at M:W

Art: A. Bally & M. White

Local 4H Student Makes Jane's Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden a Reality

The butterfly garden at Jane's Studio was created as a tribute to the studio's namesake, Jane Cane. She was a very prominent supporter who was passionate about pollinator conservation, especially butterflies and hummingbirds.

The studio was funded by proceeds from Jane's estate. From the beginning, the space for a butterfly garden was set aside as part of the original design for the studio. Many groups have pulled weeds, moved tons of soil and rocks, engineered a "lazy river", created handrails, and officially put plants in the ground this April. Local 4-H students and others have begun to help us plan and implement the next three years of planting. We expect it to take that long before the garden is "complete". In a few years, we look forward to inviting visitors to slow down and enjoy the butterflies and hummingbirds buzzing around some beautiful flowers with a full-horizon view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. We want to extend a huge thank you to the folks at Native Woods Garden Center in Westcliffe for their support of the project.

To see it to its end, **we still need help** with the construction of a wooden archway, protective metal fence, stone path, wooden bench...

Materials needed:

4' welded wire mesh, 3/4" garden hose, sprinklers, garden shears, gardening spades/rakes, hose handles, spade shovels, metal rakes



Gracie Johnson, local 4H student, stands atop a rock in Jane's butterfly garden with her one-of-a-kind artwork (below) and donation jar. She raised \$200 for Mission: Wolf at her mother's local business, Groom With a View



Volunteers pick a sunny day in April to plant perennials for Jane's butterfly garden while Gracie oversees



Butterflies at Mission: Wolf

Volunteers built a lazy river into Jane's Butterfly Garden this May (see map below). We were cleaning up when they noticed a pair of butterflies had already landed by the water. What a great omen! The garden will take three summers of work to come together. We're excited to extend our conservation efforts to such an important species and hopefully enjoy their presence for many years to come.

Some of the butterflies already seen around the sanctuary this year (C. Pietszsch):



Pieris rapae



Polygonia gracilis



Nymphalis antiopa

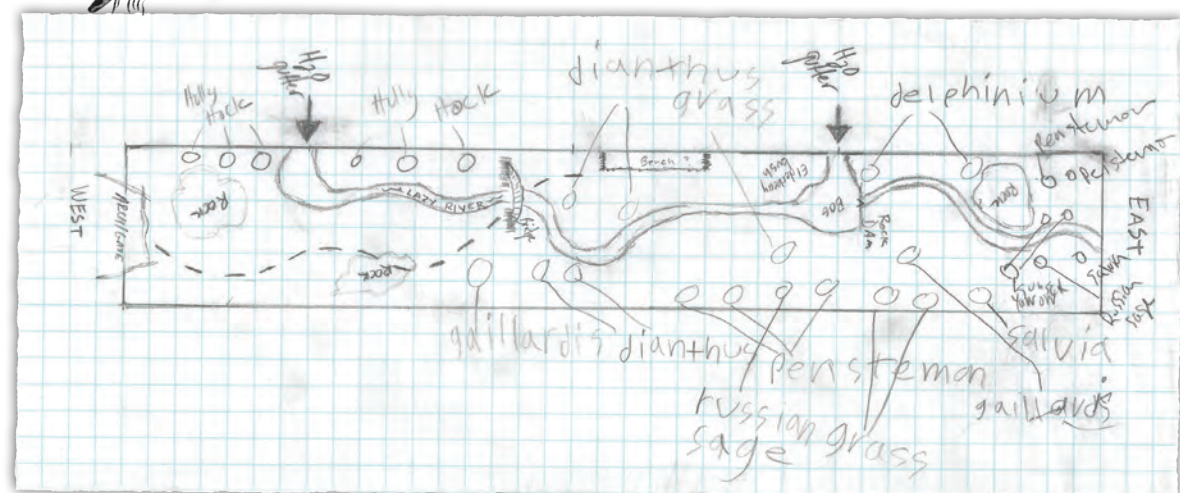


Hyles lineata



Gracie's one-of-a-kind artwork for Mission: Wolf

Jane's Butterfly Garden Map



Jane's butterfly garden will be more than just habitat for butterflies. Its West end will invite visitors to follow a stone path through a wooden archway, leading to an area to sit, relax, and enjoy a breathtaking view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range. Plants, butterflies, and other critters will find a steady supply of water from a lazy river, filled by rain or the sanctuary's own solar-powered system.

Color Me Wild: *Tiger's Moon*



Please join us in celebrating the life of our friend, Tiger.

Take time to think of your favorite memories of him while you color this picture drawn by Tracy Ane Brooks.

If you would like, send it back in the mail so we can hang it in Jane's Studio's Art Gallery!

We will pick our favorite three submissions and send you a free Wolf Caretaker of your choice.

Send to:

Mission: Wolf
P.O. Box 1211
Westcliffe, CO 81252

Address: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____



Artist's Name: _____

Tell us about your design! :



Caretaker of the Year *Parker Rehmus*



Mission: Wolf started without a calendar, schedule, or plan. The achievements made were efficient, not from planning but because experts would show up at the right time and manifest a project. The 2022 caretaker of the year, Parker Rehmus, represents that.

Parker has always come to the sanctuary with enough skills to be of use on his own, but he never stopped there. Several times he has shown up unannounced with a caravan full of friends willing to give themselves to the sanctuary for the weekend like him. As years went on and more experience was gained, when Parker showed up it was never for long enough. He's just a unique guy who has already made his own mark on Mission: Wolf. He's an inspiring example of selflessness. He doesn't plan. He checks in – "Hey, I'm thinking of coming down next weekend", shows up, and says "Yeah, sure, I can help!".

Thanks, Parker, for all you've given to the wolves of Mission: Wolf in a few short years.



-K. Weber

Parker, Cephira, and Flash share a moment



Thank You!

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

Mission: Wolf Staff: Tricia Lepore, Kacey Wilson, Chloe Madison, Eric Alvarado, Jordan Goodman, John Lemon, Colton Busse, Will Fontana, Reed Williams, Michel Haddad, Madi Maughlin, Ridah Amanullah, Danika Oriol-Morway, Austin Hoffman, Juan Pablo-Diaz, Ari Abrams, Madelyn White, Sam Renk, Tom Light, Laura McGehee, Christian Pietzsch, Brittany Kleinschnitz, Adaryll Taylor, Aila Bally, Misha Brindlepup

In Memory: Paul Schutt

Assistants & Volunteers: Isa Crisler, Joseph Pehoski, Mark Goodman, C Stoll, Todd Gardina, the Sauter family, Ryley Henninger, Nathan Hunt, Brian Ronne, Wiley Larson, Kathy Heyl, Susan Murphy, Daniel Thomas, Bill & Deb Gaarde, Kelly & Carolyn Rominger, Kendall and Karly Ingram, Marsha Fontana, Moses Cooper & Bethany, Mary Castone, Jill Sovocool, Kevin Vanamburg, Adelina River, Ashley Braxton, Dave Williamson, Lauren Serpico, Edgard Zuzinga, Tiffany Barnes, Sierra & Dylan Farnsworth, Mark & Hayden Langanke, Ann Maychrzak, Becky Niemiec, Ella Hauck, Colton Garrison, Sarah Stryker, Elizabeth Adamson, Gage Wilson, Wendy & Chloe Cohen, Logan Dobbs, Amelia Tevah, Connor & Michael Sidinger, Carol Hardon, Mary Langdon, Lydia Jones, Edward Lyness, Noam Aviv, David Mirosław, Daniel Wetzel, Jim Longbotham, Luke Chase, Shannon Douglas, Aelin Mayer, Ron & Wolf Scott, Kaylee Hancock, Barndon Harris, Dave Washko, Tracy Tabone, Colleen Geraghty, Jon & Kaia Montgomery, Breanne Adair, Seth Wychulis, Chris Stark, Sarah Parks, Brett & Bruce Bredder, Max Mckee, the Cosby & Morton families, Sam Chambers, Parker & Scott Rehms, Tricia Crabtree, David Paulson, Scott Irwin, Blair Shrewsbury, Wes Shrewsbury, Jesse Eysenbach, Christian Bravnig, Steve Hannon, the Fowler family, Ashley Dans, Caleb Shickler, Dale Ekhart, Kyle Engel, Gahl Pardes, King Luo, Attody Ai, George Newell, Meg Nolta, MQ Borocc, Madison Russell, Tim Bates, Michael Lydon, Aisling Ryan, Zach Abbott, Margaret Burnell, Asher Martin, Corwin Mandel, Lee Shrewsbury, Cathy Keenan, Fisher Lindahl, Max Garver, Jess Smolenski, Alex Liethen, the Dees Family, Alan Karth, Dan Wetzel, China Walker & Friends, Mirsadays Wilson & Cory, Anna Vancil, Lydia Jones, Allie Felty, Lisa Briones, Taylor Tappe & Friends, John Davis & Sherry Paxon, Brody Doren, Holly Redmund, Anna Vancil, Derek Braddock, Sewart Whitsett, Chris Medford, Derek Shapiro, Tamara Atkin & Roaming Colorado, Mel Velez & Monica Earnshaw

Volunteer Groups: Horizons Exploratory Academy, ARCC, J2 Guides, World Leadership School, Road Less Traveled, FUCDS, Nature & Wildlife Discovery Center Wolf Camp, Roaming Colorado, GALS, Jennilyn Evans church group, Telluride Academy, Wildheart Revival/Camp for a Cause, AIM House, Scout Troop 748, Women Rising Wild, Team Russell, Roaming Colorado, Scout Troop 404, Scout Troop 538, Scout Troop 59, Scout Troop 130, Colorado Wolf and Wildlife, Scout Troop 361, Guffey Community Charter School

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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 Curly, Droneworld

Generous Local Support: Allen & Lisa Avery, Allison & Chris Sable, Elevation Meat Market, Kirkpatrick Bank, Dr. Julie Sperry & Cliffes 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 Croskell, Adele Rose, Audrey & Dick Stermer, Paul & Linda Schutt, Jason Stewart, Alicia & Jake Shy, Joshua & Erika Wofford, Erin Farrow & Lake County High School, Shirley Nickerson, Joe Solano, Gil Vasquez, Hannah Crawford, Willie Britt & family, Eric King, Heather Whitlock, John Johnson, Luke George, Bruce Medina, Pat Neverdahl, Wendy Rusk, Rebecca Harnish, Jim & Claudia Cole, Mark & Doris Dembosky, Phoenix Rising, Bonnie Rose, Nancy Joroff, Kathy Reese, Mike & Lisa Herring, Enos Yoder & family, Bill Tezak, Mike Shields & family, Jennifer & Steve Macoskey, David & Amy Shepard, Bill & Sallie Stout, Alicia Waugh, Bob & Carol Allison, Mitch Campbell, Nequette Drilling, Greg Curtis & family, the Sanders Family, Birgit Burglechner, Kay Ingram, Kris & Michael Gates, Lexus of Colorado Springs, Royal Gorge RV, Big O Tires of Canon City, Neil Peachy, Southern Colorado Cold Storage, Bob Fulton, Cross Creek Equine, the Wilson Family, Bob and Kay Parker, the Tenacious Unicorn Ranch, Friends & Neighbors of Centennial Ranch & Aspen Mountain Ranch.



In Memory - Paul Schutt

Paul and Linda Schutt are two people who work in unison for the benefit of others. It was in the early-90s when they first experienced the Ambassador Wolves of Mission: Wolf. Paul and Linda supported many endangered species programs, dedicating their lives to providing a healthy future for wildlife. After their eye-to-eye encounter with a wolf, they actively hosted programs in Chicago and later on in Yellowstone National Park.

Paul worked with both wildlife and sealife. He also loved photography. He told me how he sold his first Nikon camera from his dorm room in college to start a business. In the 1950's his photography and business prowess allowed him to create Helix, Inc. It grew to become one of the largest premier photography centers in the US supporting wildlife and nature conservation. Helix printed membership photos for many facilities including Mission: Wolf and often donated photography equipment and scholarships to support nature conservation. As Mission Wolf grew in the 90's Paul and Linda purchased property adjacent to the Sanctuary to help provide a buffer for the resident wolves. Their land is now part of a larger wildlife preserve. Join us as we celebrate Paul's achievements and inspiration. He will be missed.

-K. Weber

Become a Sustaining Member



sus•tain (v): cause to continue or be prolonged for an extended period or without interruption

Mission: Wolf is adapting to a faster-moving world. Change is all around and within us.

To offer more intimate support and connection to the sanctuary, a new community of donors has been created: Sustaining Members

Unlike annual memberships, Sustaining Members donate monthly

Give any amount (\$5 minimum) and be confident your contribution goes directly toward care of the sanctuary's animals and education of thousands of people each year.

We believe Sustaining Members will bring a new era where Mission: Wolf thrives through consistent monthly support.

Visit missionwolf.org or send in the form on page 16 to become one of Mission: Wolf's first Sustaining Members

Mission: Wolf Wish List

Fuel-Efficient Town Car

2x/week we drive 50 miles for wolf meat & supplies. We need an efficient town-runner to save the wolves money on gas, but one that's also durable enough for the roads. We have found something like a Rav-4, Highlander, CRV, or Forrester fits the mold



Industrial Air Compressor

Jane's studio needs a new 220V industrial air compressor. It will be used for vehicle care and operating a plasma cutter with the intent to improve wolf enclosures and staff buildings



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

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



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

Wolf Care:

- 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: Eggshell Membrane; 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

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

Construction:

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

Sustainability:

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

Volunteers:

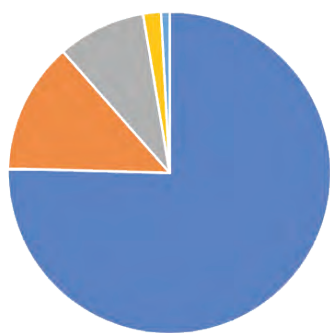
- Sustainable toiletries (septic-safe liquid hand soap, body wash, and shampoo; deodorant; toothbrushes; toothpaste; feminine products, etc.)
- Mattresses, blankets, futons, foam pads, pillows
- Dr. Bronner's products
- Blue Dawn dish soap
- Simple Green all-purpose cleaner
- Environmentally-friendly laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies (sponges, scrub brushes, steel wool)
- Toilet paper (septic-safe; pref. brand Grove Collaborative)
- 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)

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

Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2021

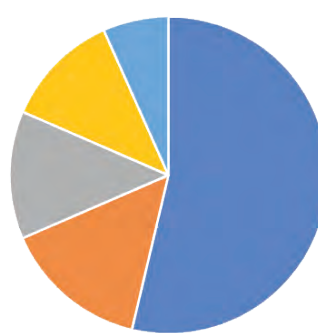
Mission: Wolf has been open to the public free of charge for over three decades. Our goal is to operate in the simplest and most efficient manner and keep overhead costs to an absolute minimum. Still, it takes money to pay for transportation, supplies, land, and insurance. All profit goes toward reducing our land debt. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our bookkeeper, Nancy, at Sangre Solutions in Westcliffe for help with these numbers.



Income:

- Grants/Donations: \$342,757
- Investment: \$59,591
- Memberships: \$10,060
- Net Sales: \$8,141
- Education/Program: \$3,850

Total: \$454,399



Expenses:

- Operations: \$345,376
- Animal Care: \$95,009
- Depreciation: \$83,601
- Staff/Volunteer: \$75,732
- Transportation: \$43,034

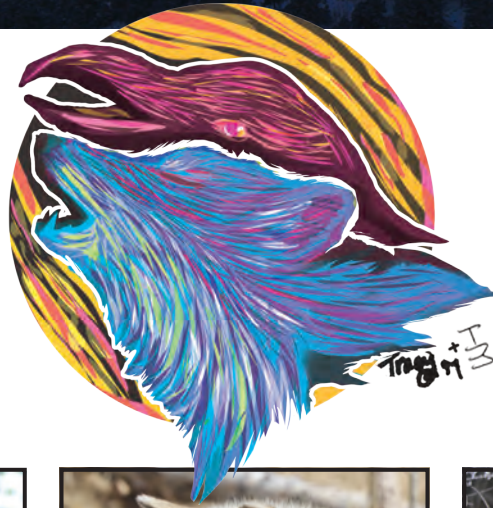
Total: \$642,663

MISSION:WOLF




EDUCATION VS. EXTINCTION

Contact Us

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



Follow Us

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



Cephira



Arrow



Farah & Apollo



Rosie Valkyrie



Iliamna

Schedule a Visit

Mission:Wolf's is open to **visitors/volunteers and members** on **Tuesdays and Saturdays**.

To maximize our volunteers' potential and maintain the wolves' sanctuary, we allow **up to 3 volunteer groups** (max. 10) to visit at a time.

Find more info about Day Visits (including **driving directions**) at missionwolf.org/day-visits or scan here:



Mission: Wolf operates on donations from Wolf Caretaker members.

*With roughly 30 hungry canines to feed,
we go through nearly 1,000 pounds of raw meat each week*

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

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

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

included in a Mission: Wolf membership packet:



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

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

Take a Wolf to Dinner! Become a Caretaker at Mission: Wolf

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

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Annual Membership

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

or 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 our website above or call/email us and one of our staff can help process your credit card