

LOBO LINGO



Conservation through education



Mexican wolves released in the southwest

excerpted from *The Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson, Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Eleven endangered Mexican gray wolves are free in the Apache National Forest of Arizona on the New Mexico border.

The wolves in three family groups were released March 29 in the 7,000-square-mile Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area in the Apache and Gila national forests of Arizona and New Mexico.

All of the wolves have radio collars. Hans Stuart, a spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said radio telemetry indicates most have ranged within a mile of the pens, indicating they are starting to explore.

Biologists said they hope the females will give birth this year to the first wild-born Mexican wolves in the United State in nearly half a century.

The wolves had been in one-third-acre holding pens near Alpine and Clifton since January to let them become used to their new home. They were fed road-killed carcasses of native prey, mostly deer and elk.

“All the wolves are in excellent health, exhibit strong social bonds and are showing a fear of humans,” said David Parsons, Fish and Wildlife’s Mexican-wolf recovery leader. “These attributes will help them survive in the wild.”

The agency hopes to build a population of 100 wolves in the Apache and Gila forests. In the meantime, biologists will monitor the released wolves.

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Pine River WI 54965
pat.arndt@usa.net

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cjano997@student1.
uwsp.edu

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Jason Warzinik
1255 Torun Rd
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webmaster@
timberwolfinformation.org


Marilyn Leffler
Editor
1522 Almo Ave
Madison WI 53704
mleffler@facstaff.wisc.edu

Cathy Hazelbaker
128 Talon Pl
Sun Prairie WI 53590
amidane@aol.com

Chris Giese
2311 Strange St
Stevens Point WI 54481
jgiese@uwsp.edu

Travis Booms
2312 Joyce St
Kaukauna WI 54130
tboom433@student1.
uwsp.edu

Dan Youngbauer
360 Center St
Berlin WI 54923

*The Lobo Lingo is published
in January, May and September* 

Mission Statement: The purpose and objectives of Timber Wolf Information Network shall be to increase public awareness and acceptance of the wolf in its native habitat, and its ecological role in the environment.

The Scent Post...will return in September.

Upper Peninsula's gray wolf population on the increase

DNR Release 4/9/98

LANSING - The Department of Natural Resources has completed the Upper Peninsula 1998 late winter wolf survey, and trackers estimate that 140 wolves occupy the mainland and island chain within the St. Marys River passage. There are a minimum of 20 packs containing five to six wolves apiece distributed across the Upper Peninsula range.

Nine wolves from four wolf packs have been fitted with radio collars. The radio transmitters allow biologists to follow a wolf and its pack to determine range and feeding zones, and perhaps locate den or meeting sites. The radio collars led biologists to two wolves that had died of mange and starvation during the winter of 1996-97.

The wolf population at Isle Royale continues to dwindle, with 14 animals located. Several days were also spent in Cheboygan, Emmet, and Charlevoix counties in the Lower Peninsula checking for signs of wolf occupation. No animals were located during the survey period.

The wolf observation reports completed by people viewing wolves in Michigan are vital to the winter count, according to Jim Hammill, District Wildlife Supervisor in Crystal Falls. "We encourage anyone who has sighted a wolf to let us know. We use this information to decide which areas to survey the following winter," he added.

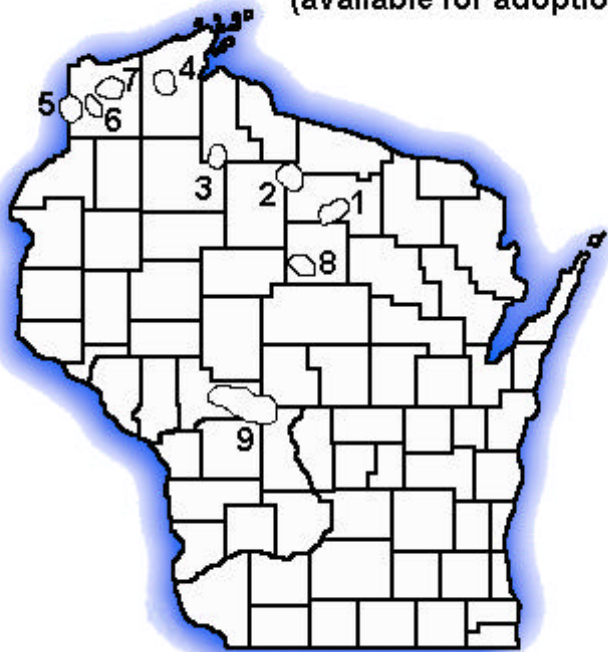
Keeping track of Michigan's wolf population is just one of the many important projects supported by the Nongame Wildlife Fund. The Michigan Wolf Management Plan approved in 1997 identified public education as a vital component. "Look for the Loon" on your state income tax form to support these critical projects.

Additional information on Michigan's endangered and nongame species and their habitats can be received by requesting a copy of The Spotting Scope, a quarterly publication, by contacting: Natural Heritage Program, DNR Wildlife Division, PO Box 30180, Department SC, Lansing, MI 48909-7680. Look for us on the web at: <http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/wildlife/heritage/>

The Original ADOPT - A - WOLF PACK ©1989

- Wisconsin

Wisconsin Wolf Packs (available for adoption)



- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Little Rice River Pack | 2 - Bootjack Lake Pack |
| 3 - Log Creek Pack | 4 - Rainbow Lake Pack |
| 5 - Truck Trail Pack | 6 - Empire Pack |
| 7 - Moose Lake Pack | 8 - Averill Creek Pack |

What Do You Get?

You get a Certificate, a book related to wolves, a wolf poster or photo, a learning resources list, wolf monitoring reports, history of your pack, a VHS wolf video, TWIN newsletters, and much

To enroll in the Adopt-A-Wolf program simply Fill in the needed information mail it along with a check for \$75 payable to Timber Wolf Information Network to:
(Outside the Continental U.S., add \$10.00 for shipping)

T.W.I.N.
E110 Emmons Creek Road
Waupaca, WI 54981

 (Name to be listed on the Certificate)

 (If group or gift, name of Sponsor or Advisor)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State Zip _____
 Phone Number with area code _____

Name of the pack you would like to adopt: _____
 No. in Group: _____ Educational Level: _____
 Grade Level: _____ Elementary (K-6) _____
 Adult (7th grade +) _____

wolves.on.web

<http://www.audubon.org/news/wolf/photo.html>
 Wolf Photos from the Audubon Archives

http://aazk.ind.net/animal_gifs/Wolves
 American Association of Zoo Keepers: Wildlife Photos Donated from the Internet since 1994

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/resources/ngo/education/geoguide/wolves/>
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>
 National Geographic web sites, including online forum on gray wolves

Note: The May, 1998, issue of *National Geographic* magazine (Vol. 193, No. 5) includes an article on wolves, "Return of the Gray Wolf", by Douglas H. Chadwick with beautiful photographs by Joel Sartore.



rendezvous site

What am I? I am beautiful
I am graceful
I am endangered
I am a wolf
So help me, even though I might scare you
For I am not hurting you

by Sinaed - Age 9 🐾

Wolves are beautiful creatures.
Only the Alpha female has pups.
Like the Eskimo,
Very many wolves live in Alaska.
Every wolf is a hunter.
Save the wolf.

by Megan Shea - Age 10 🐾

Wolves were once considered evil
They once covered North America.
But hunters killed them.
Wolves are endangered.

by Ryan Shea - Age 9 🐾



A Wolf

by Laurel Milburn - Age 6 🐾

My “January Thaw”

by Travis Booms

Anyone, who has taken the time to stop and observe when in the field, may come across at an occurrence that will never again be duplicated. One mental picture or happening that was so unique, so special, that the odds of the like happening again are infinitely small. The subjects that serve as templates for these memories vary as do the color of autumn leaves. My subject happened to be a small wood frog, on a warm January day. January 1st to be exact. Like most moments of greatness, the day started with an ordinary routine. It was a beautiful day, hardly a cloud in the sky. Temperatures in the upper 30s and a southeast wind just strong enough to make you appreciate the size of the tree against which you sat and the sun that shined favorably upon your brown coat.

This was my last day of freedom for a spell. I had an appointment to get my wisdom teeth removed the following day, so my urge to “get out” was all that more convincing. I decided that a trip to my grandmother’s woods would be the appropriate thing to do. I had yet to harvest a squirrel with my single-action .22, and it seemed like a perfect day to walk quietly through a small woodlot.

It was a brilliant day to be in the woods. The small parcel of land was alive with animals when I arrived in mid-afternoon. Snow fleas covered the snow, squirrel tracks gave evidence of feeding earlier in the day, a few white moths were floating in the wind, and a pair of fox tracks left sign of an early morning hunt.

I soon found myself following a set of raccoon tracks through the middle of the woods that surely originated from late last night. My interest in the coon tracks quickly faded, though, as I came across a unique mouse track. At every hop, there was an imprint of both hind legs kicking outwards, away from the body. I paused and tried to identify the animal that made these tracks. Surely it wasn’t a white-footed or deer mouse. It also didn’t have the pattern of a vole or any type of shrew I had seen before.

My question was answered as I looked down the animal’s trail, to my left. A wood frog sat motionless atop a melting patch of snow. What I had thought was a mouse track was not made by a mouse. It was the imprint of a wood frog as it leaped across the snow! The frog was beautiful. It rested on the snow with the sun reflecting off of its moist skin; I imagine trying to gather enough warmth to make the next leap. I backtracked its snowy trail (as any trained wolf tracker would), to find it originating from under

a single oak leaf that had been exposed by the sun. I took one last look at him and decided to let him be. After all, an active frog in January must have an important reason to be out and about, at least by frog standards I suppose.

I returned to the spot as the last rays of light reflected off the melting snow to find my friend gone. Again I followed his prints, only to find them disappearing under another exposed oak leaf on the forest floor. He was there, under the leaf litter, preparing to survive the rest of the winter I’m sure. I wonder what caused his arousal. Why would any self-respecting frog be found active on a January day? And why did he crawl from under an oak leaf, only to return that evening to another oak leaf? Are there qualities of an oak leaf in winter, incomprehensible to us, that makes it a better resting place for my frog than the ash or maple leaf next to it? I may try to answer these questions in the coming months, with scientific research and the like, but I have a feeling that only the frog holds the answer. I have a feeling that only the frog should hold the answer; least my wonder of him and his world melt away like the snow during my “January Thaw.” 🐾

TWIN Products

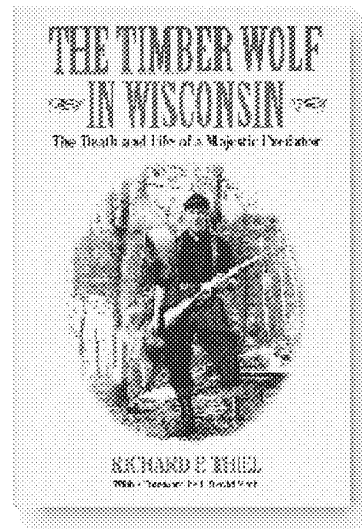
Wolf Web T-Shirt

The newest environmental design by the Timber Wolf Information Network is representative of the Wolf's predator-prey relationship in the ecosystem. The long sleeve shirt comes printed with the golden aspen which is the base of the design and the food chain. The wolf track is pale blue in background and features carefully rendered drawings of the snowshoe hare, the beaver, white-tailed deer and the wolf. Lake Superior becomes the heel of the track which portrays a scene of running wolves. This short sleeved T-Shirt is printed with a green aspen leaf for summer. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL
 PRICE: \$15.00



The Wolf In Wisconsin: The Death and Life of a Majestic Predator

Richard P. Thiel as published many scientific papers on wolves and was chair of Wisconsin's wolf recovery plan team in the late 1980's. This book is the story of people coming to terms with nature, often brutally at first, but with increasing insight and care thereafter. It has all the elements of a good story: drama, crisis, memorable characters, and a satisfying conclusion.
 ADULT LEVEL
 PRICE: \$17.00



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Proceeds go to continuing
wolf research and education.



Thank you for
you support!!

Mark Your Calendar...

Next TWIN Board Meeting:
Sunday, July 12, 1998,
10:00 am, at Marilyn
Leffler's house, 1522 Almo
Ave, Madison, WI.

*Contact Marilyn (address &
phone # on page 2) for
directions and agenda - all
members welcome!*

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Wisconsin", plus many
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0404 or email
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are returned by the post office because
the addressee has moved. Please save
TWIN the expense of re-sending your
newsletter. Keep us informed of
address changes. 🐾 Thanks!

May 1998

Wisconsin's wolf population still growing

excerpted from *Fennimore Times*, April 23, 1998

Wisconsin's population of timber wolves is continuing to grow and wolf packs are occupying more territories in the state, according to results of an annual overwinter population count conducted by state wildlife biologists. The count found between 175 to 180 wolves in 46 packs across northern and central Wisconsin.

This year's count found packs ranging in size from two to eight wolves, with the largest pack, the North Willow Pack, on the north side of the Willow Flowage in Oneida County. Five of the 24 radio-collared wolves died this winter including two from mange, one from a gun shot, one that was likely killed by other wolves, and one that has yet to be autopsied.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in October 1997 started the process of reclassifying wolves in Wisconsin and Michigan from endangered to threatened, which would still protect wolves but provide biologists with greater flexibility in removing problem wolves. That process should be completed later this year or in early 1999. The Wisconsin DNR began work on a new wolf management plan for the state two years ago and will have a plan ready for public review in May. This plan will outline how a

Mexican wolves...

continued from page 1

That will give biologists information on hunting success, food habits and other aspects of behavior and reproduction. Biologists also plan to place road-killed carcasses of native prey in the area until they determine the wolves are hunting successfully.

Fish and Wildlife officials acknowledge wolves are capable of killing livestock but said they take less than 0.1 percent of livestock in other areas where wolves and livestock coexist.

Unlike wolves involved in successful releases elsewhere in the United States - timber wolves into Yellowstone and red wolves into Tennessee and North Carolina - the Mexican gray wolves have two strikes against them:

Although raised with minimal human contact, these are captive-bred wolves that have never hunted for food.

Although many Arizonans and New Mexicans support bringing the wild wolf back, many among the small rural populations near the release areas oppose it.

The Mexican gray wolf has been extinct in the Southwest since the 1950s. Through captive breeding of a handful of survivors, biologists brought the population up to about 175. All but the released wolves are in zoos and wildlife sanctuaries.

To learn more about the history of the Mexican wolf, check out "Halfway Home" in the March-April 1998 issue of "Audubon" magazine. Author Rick Bass also provides an excellent hands-on account of the work involved in releasing the wolves into the holding pens. 🐾

reclassified wolf population will be managed in the state, and will determine criteria for delisting wolves as neither endangered nor threatened.

The DNR will likely ask the state Natural Resources Board to reclassify wolves from endangered to threatened when that plan is finalized, and after federal reclassification has occurred. The DNR will hold hearings on the new plan the first week of June at locations across the state. Exact times and locations will be announced a few weeks before the meetings. 🐾

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Interactive

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Stretching Our Paws Around the World

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E-mail: twin@timberwolfinformation.org

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On every order through our Extended Bookstore from Amazon.com, TWIN receives up to 15% of the purchase price. As a added bonus, TWIN will be putting 75% of the income from our Extended Bookstore directly to supporting ongoing research. T.W.I.N. will donate to Dr. Rolf Peterson's wolf monitoring research on Isle Royale National Park, Lake Superior, and to Adrian Wydeven, Nongame biologist, Wis. Dept. Nat. Resources, Bureau of Endangered Species for Wisconsin Wolf Population Monitoring Program. Both donations will be directly for purchase of radio collars, and not for administration.

What a perfect combination, you get the wolf book you always wanted and through your purchase you support wolf research!!

May 1998

Notice to all membership:

Please note the two numbers on the mailing label of this newsletter. One of them is your password to the members only section of the website. The other is your membership expiration date. If you notice that time is getting short before your membership is to expire, please feel free to send in your membership without getting a renewal form. This saves us time and money. Any cooperation that you can afford us allows us to be more effective toward our mission.

Thank you,
Chris Giese, Membership Chairperson 

“In the end,
we will conserve
only what we love,
we will love only
what we
understand,
and we will
understand only
what we are
taught.”

Baba Dioum
Conservationist



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