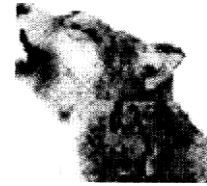


LOBO LINGO



Conservation through education



Important Notice

Attention members of the Timber Wolf Information Network:

As the Wisconsin timber wolf recovery has reached its goal of 100+ wolves in 10 packs in the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is now faced with the task of wolf management. The Wisconsin Wolf Advisory Committee has just released the second draft of the Wolf Management Plan, which is summarized in this issue. Your participation in the review of this management plan is extremely crucial. In developing a sound management plan, the WDNR must consider the viewpoints of all interested parties, including advocates and opponents of wolf recovery. Your comments and concerns about the management of the timber wolf in Wisconsin are needed to successfully address all of the management options that will be included in the final plan. Copies of the plan are available for review from the WDNR and TWIN's web page at

<http://www.timberwolfinformation.org>

Requests for plans and comments can be sent to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Rox 7921, Madison, WI, 53707-7921 or via e-mail at wolfplan@dnr.state.wi.us Comments are accepted through May 5.

In this issue of Lobo Lingo, you will find three articles concerning the wolf management issue. The author, Dick Thiel, has long been a leader in wolf recovery and education. Dick served as the first wolf biologist for the state of Wisconsin, working for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from 1979 to 1990. Dick documented the first breeding wolves in the state since their extirpation in the 1950's and was the major author of the Wisconsin Wolf Recovery Plan of the late 1980's. Through his eleven years of wolf research in Wisconsin, Dick published an informative book

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Important Notice

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titled The **Timber Wolf in Wisconsin**, which gives many historical and biological accounts of the demise and recovery of wolves in Wisconsin. Dick's expertise on wolves is respected internationally, and he recently served as a team member of the Mexican wolf recovery plan. As well as serving as a wolf biologist, Dick's devotion to wildlife education led him to be a founding member of TWIN. He served as chairperson/board member for many years, and today he still serves as a consultant to the board. Dick is still involved with wolves and wolf research in his current position as the Sandhill Outdoor Skill Center Education Coordinator. He continues to keep TWIN and the public updated and informed on wolf issues locally, nationally, and internationally; thus, the writing of these articles for you to review and take action.

The Scent Post

Events of the Board of Directors meeting on January 30, 1999 in Pine River, Wisconsin, bring several items to report:

The 1999 TWIN elections bring several changes to announce. Officers are Pat Arndt and Chad Janowski as Co-Chairs, Don Rogdanske as Secretary, and Rob Welch as Treasurer. The Board members are Lorrie Barber, Tim Sprain, Jason Warzinik, and Cathy Hazelbaker with one year remaining on the board. The new Board members are Debbie Martin, Chris Giese, and Del King, who are starting a two-year term. Congratulations to all and thank you to all who returned their ballots.

TWIN has been working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the development of a Central Forest Wolf Fact Sheet. Due to the expansion and recovery of wolves in the west central portion of Wisconsin (Central Forest), information on wolves was greatly needed to educate the residents and sportsmen in the area about wolf ecology and issues. The TWIN board agreed to pay up to \$600 for printing costs of the fact

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.

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The Scent Post

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sheet, which was developed by the DNR through the efforts of Dick Thiel, DNR employees, and TWIN members. The fact sheet serves as an excellent means of educating the public about wolves, which is the mission of TWIN.

TWIN is happy to announce that we now accept credit cards on our Internet site. This allows people to purchase TWIN merchandise and books at our on-line catalog, The Northern Howl. The addition will also allow members to renew their memberships, participate in our Adopt-A-Pack program, and rent our educational lab boxes quickly and easily. We have had a great response already and try to fill orders in a timely fashion. Please allow several weeks for delivery on all catalog orders. A big thank you goes out to Jason Warsinik for getting us up and running with the credit cards.

TWIN would like to welcome Patty Salem of Madison as our new *Lobo Lingo* editor. Patty has served as editor on other newsletters and has experience with developing brochures and other forms of media. We welcome her to the pack. She will be replacing Marilyn Leffler of Madison, who has **done an outstanding job as** editor since 1996. Marilyn's dedication and self-motivation will be greatly missed, as she disperses to pursue her Master's degree. Good luck and thank you. As always, contributions are accepted from our membership for publication in *Lobo Lingo* and can be sent to Patty via e-mail at pcsalem@chorus.net.

Patrick Arndt and Chad Janowski
TWIN Co-Chairs

Mark Your Calendar...

Next TWIN Board Meeting
Saturday, July 24 10:00 a.m.
at the home of Sandy Kahl in DeForest. All TWIN members are welcome. Please contact Pa Arndl for an agenda and directions.

TWIN Annual Meeting
October 8-10 at the Pigeon Lake Field Station in Drummond, Wisconsin. All TWIN members are invited. More information available **in** **ow** next issue and on our web site.

Workshops at Treehaven in

January 21-23
February 18-20
March 10-12
April 14-16
For more information, please contact June at Treehaven: 715-453-4106

Next Issue of Lobo Lingo
September, 1999
Submissions welcome through August 21st. See page 7 for more information.

Food for Thought . . .

' **in** 1963 (in *The History of Domesticated Animals*), F.E. Zeuner developed the idea of neotony, the persistence of juvenile characteristics into adulthood. We value, reward, and breed for neotonous traits in our dogs. Wolves and dogs are different in this respect. A wolf is the least neotonized of animals.

Dogs enter our world and, to a large extent, can be trained to behave according to our rules. In working with socialized wolves, the human enters the wolves' world and must behave according to the wolf social rules. It is widely accepted that dogs have been neotonized during the course of domestication. Because dogs retain many infantile characteristics, it is relatively easy to impose your will on them. The wolf is a fully adult form of canine. (Klinghammer and Goodmann)"

from *Dogs Never Lie About Love* by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, Three Rivers Press, 1997

For a compelling look at socialized wolves who were then returned to the wild, check out Jim Dutcher's Emmy award-winning film "Wolf: Return of A Legend" and the accompanying book *The Sawtooth Wolves*, lavishly illustrated by Dutcher's photographs with text by Richard Ballantine (Rufus Publications, Inc., Bearsville, NY, 1996).

April 1999

Wisconsin Wolf Recovery Exceeding Expectations by Dick Thiel, TWIN member, DNR biologist

The decade of the 1990's has been an extremely important one in terms of wolf recovery in the upper Great Lakes states. Wisconsin's wolf population has experienced rapid expansion in both the numbers and distribution. The forty or so wolves counted in 1990 has expanded to a population of 180 (1998). In the early years of the 1990's, wolves colonized the Central Forest region between Black River Falls and Wisconsin Rapids. By 1998, this area consisted of 24 wolves in 6 packs. Within this decade, the species has rapidly filled the void between the few founding packs scattered across northwestern and north-central Wisconsin. The only region of suitable habitat that remains devoid of wolf packs is northeastern Wisconsin.

Similar trends have been *noted* in neighboring Minnesota and in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. No resident wolves were known to exist in the UP until 1990. By 1998, around 120 wolves were present.

What has spurred this remarkable turn around? The rebound of wolves witnessed during the decade of the 1990's in the three upper Great Lakes states can be traced back in part to stringent adherence to federal and state endangered species protection and population management programs. These programs' roots extend back to the mid- 1970's. The thrust of established recovery goals: 1) ensure survival of wolves in their forested northern Minnesota habitats; and 2) reestablish modest-sized wolf populations in both Wisconsin and upper Michigan.

Public attitudes towards wolves have steadily improved since the 1970's, helped along by cooperative educational efforts on the part of private organizations (such as TWIN), government agencies, and individuals.

The real recovery work was actually performed by the wolves. After all, the forces that drive increases in a population — reproduction and survival tactics — have been left up to them. So what in particular is it about wolves that has led to this endangered species success story?

Wolves are prolific. Each breeding pair mates annually, and a litter of 5-6 pups is born each spring.

Wolves are also inherently *social* beings, living in families called packs. Both parents tend to the needs of the pups, and when they are away hunting, yearlings (the pups' older sibling generation) take over baby-sitting duties. Sexual maturity is delayed until the second year, affording one-year-olds the opportunity to acquire an extra amount of learning under the tutelage of parents before they strike out on their own.

Thus, *survivorship of* offspring is enhanced. One out of three pups (33 percent) reaches its second birthday, or maturity. This means, on average, two individuals from each litter of six, or an average of two wolves per pack each year become young adults. Those wolves that make it to adulthood have a high life expectancy. Mortality rates drop to 10 or 20 percent for wolves older than two. Survival is very good among adults, and a few Wisconsin wolves manage to make it to the ripe old age of ten or twelve years.

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Exceeding Expectations

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Wolves are territorial, meaning the pack defends its space (in Wisconsin, each pack occupies a discrete territory of 50 to 75 square miles) against others of their own kind. This compels sexually mature wolves to leave their natal pack in order to search for unoccupied space and for a potential mate. In the late 1970's and 1980's (the early phase of recovery in Wisconsin), most suitable habitat in the state was unoccupied. Dispersing Wisconsin wolves move an average of 70 miles away from their source location. One Wisconsin wolf moved 250 miles into Ontario Canada, and the species is known to move as much as 500 miles. Thus the species' practice of territoriality facilitates rapid recolonization of even scattered habitats because young 'uns are nearly all destined to leave, to search for that unoccupied space.

High reproductive rates, delayed maturity, good adult longevity/survival skills, and territoriality enhance the proliferation of this species, which is probably why they are **one** of the most successful carnivores on Earth in recent times.

As we approach the end of the decade and the millennium, most of Wisconsin's suitable wolf habitat will be filling up. Active population management will become necessary as we approach **saturation**, the point at which nearly all suitable habitat is occupied by territorial packs. And that is the topic of another article.

Where Do We Go From Here? by Dick Thiel, TWIN member, DNR biologist

The Wisconsin Wolf Advisory Committee is tasked with developing a wolf management plan that will guide wolf management in Wisconsin into the 21st century.

Wolves are beginning to cause problems by killing livestock and pets in northwestern and central Wisconsin. This is a sign that wolf populations in these areas are approaching saturation — filling the available suitable habitat with resident packs, which forces yearling dispersers to seek less desirable neighborhoods where the potential for conflict with humans is greater. The upside of this is that wolves are obviously demonstrating population vigor. The downside is that they are souring local citizens' attitudes towards them.

Wolves first returned to the state in the 1970's. The population slowly increased through the decade of the 1980's. Prior to 1990, the DNR verified 5 depredation cases caused by timber wolves on farms or at

rural residences. Between 1990 and 1997, when Wisconsin's wolf population really began to expand, the DNR verified 27 depredation cases, 13 incidences involving livestock, and 14 involving dogs. The DNR's compensation program has paid out \$38,340.90 in claims

The Wisconsin DNR's obligation is to maintain a balance between **what is good for wolf population survival**, while ensuring **that woks do not create hardships** for citizens who live, work, or play in the out-of-doors. **That's a very** tall order, especially with the mixed public attitudes towards wolves presently being expressed by Wisconsin citizens. Some prefer the state remain wolfless, while others demand that wolves attain the status of India's famed sacred cows. In reality, neither is acceptable.

At some point in the not to distant future, some type of control activity will become necessary in Wisconsin. Control, in this case, means taking or killing individuals. Control is a tool that can: 1) focus on

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Where Do We Go From Here?
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removing depredating individuals causing repeated or "chronic" problems in local areas; or 2) remove a certain **number of individuals** from the population on a regular basis to reduce population pressures that cause dispersers to seek out places where their presence will cause problems.

How, when, and under what circumstances should depredation actions be initiated, and by whom? How, when, and under what circumstances should population control be undertaken? These are valid questions. Anyone who truly values the long-term

presence of wolves in Wisconsin needs to contemplate these questions.

In the absence of control, wolves will continue to increase in numbers to the point where a major negative reaction will be heard from those experiencing the downside of wolves, and political wheels will be put in motion to curb the problem. Wisconsin experienced this type of reaction once in its history, and the politicians' solution — the bounty — put an end to our wolves. Do we give professional wildlife managers a try, or ignore the signs of a population reaching saturation, and hope that politicians will find a solution more amenable to wolves?

DRAFT Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan by Dick Thiel, TWIN member, DNR biologist

A draft Wolf Management Plan has been released for public comments by the Wisconsin Wolf Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Copies of the plan and comments may be obtained/sent to the DNR, Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53707-7921, attention: Endangered Resources, Wolf Plan. Comments will be accepted through May 5.

In a nutshell, the Draft Plan recommends:

- + downlist the wolf from endangered to threatened immediately
- * **delist** the wolf once the population reaches 250 animals
- * establish a population management goal of 350 animals, which is based on amount of suitable habitat **existing** in the state
- * population management achieved through 4 geographic management zones, including core areas where wolves would receive complete protection
- + intensely monitor population trends while threatened and reduce level of monitoring thereafter
- 6 continue to monitor wolf health
 - support continued public education initiatives
- + control nuisance wolves via government trappers; compensate for losses while **threatened**
- + establish regulations to adequately protect wolves while threatened and after completely **delisted**
- + maintain close relations with other government agencies (neighboring states, tribes, etc.)
 - continued outlets for volunteer work
- 6 regulating wolf-dog hybrids and captive wolves once **delisted**
- + establish protocols for handling and disposition of wolf specimens for education
- + encourage reasonable ecotourism of wolves and their habitats

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The four-zone management system will include Zone 1, the northern forest region. Within this area will be situated approximately a half dozen (totaling 3,200 square miles) core -consisting of mostly publicly owned lands where no taking of wolves will be allowed. Zone 2 will include the Central Forest region. No core areas will exist here, and limited control of nuisance wolves will be allowed. Zone 3 consists of areas south of Zones I and will surround Zone 2. More liberal means of handling nuisance wolves would be allowed in this zone. Zone 4 represents the southeastern third of the state where little or no suitable wolf habitat currently exists. Liberal control activities would be allowed here to handle problem wolves.

Depredation control activity will focus on preventive methods, while providing adequate control of nuisance wolves. Once the US Fish and Wildlife Service has federally downlisted wolves (they are currently working on this) to **threatened**, wolves that are causing chronic damage may be euthanized. Wolf control activity will not be carried out in core areas. Once the wolf is state delisted, landowners may be allowed, under permit, to take wolves depredating on livestock. In addition, government controlled trapping will continue after the animal is state **delisted**.

Keep in mind that this is a **DRAFT** plan. The Wolf Advisory Committee has committed thoughts to paper in an effort to obtain thoughtful responses from concerned citizens. The Committee's objective is to make this plan acceptable to the Wisconsin public. It will seriously review citizen comments and modify the plan before it is submitted to the DNR for approval. This is your opportunity to contribute to the construction of a Wolf Management Plan that will guide wildlife management into the 21st century. I urge you to obtain a copy, critically review it, and submit comments on how the document can better serve the wolf and the people with whom it interacts (both negatively and positively).

Would you like to announce in upcoming event that may be of interest to TWIN members? Do you have wolf artwork (including children's projects), photos, or poems that you would like to share? Lobo Lingo welcomes your contributions. Our next issue will be published in September - Submissions will be accepted through August 21st. Some things I would like to include in future issues:

further coverage of wolf management in WI
book, media reviews
interviews with biologists, parks personnel, and others involved in wolf surveys around the US
responses from students and educators to our wolf lab boxes
new wolf resources, especially on-line
calendar of upcoming events, including public forums, lectures, and TV documentaries

Please e-mail mc with any suggestions, submissions, or questions:

Fatty Salem, Editor
psalem@chorus.net

TWIN would like to thank the following contributors and supporters:

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April 1999

Thanks to contributors and supporters (continued from page 7)		
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Just a reminder...

Please keep TWM informed of address changes to help us avoid re-mailing returned newsletters.

If your TWIN membership is about to expire, feel free to send in your membership without a renewal form.

Thanks!

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- . Keep tabs on the wolf around the world ...
- Order TWIN Products and resources from our catalog, The Northern Howl
- Voice your opinion on wolf-related topics through our Scent Post forum
- + Renew your TWIN membership
- + Enroll in TWIN's Adopt-A-Wolf-Pack program
- Rent a Wolf Lab Box

ALL THROUGH OUR WEBSITE!

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