

HOWLINGS

Through education, dispelling the myths.



Seasons Greetings and Happy HOWLidays!



Winter HOWLiday edition 2015/16

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Aaaaaaaaaooooooooooooouuuuuuuuu.....!!!

A true call of the Canadian wild. Yet for how much longer will this natural phenomenon exist as we know it? Will the howl of a wolf pack remain to be heard in its free-ranging form? How long will their combined harmonies exist to impart shivers or tears, invoking mystery and oneness with true wilderness. The answer depends ultimately upon the decisions we make today and the actions that follow. We will see if wolves trail the fate of the bison, a species still known to exist in the ‘wild’, but one that will never again thunder in herds of immense size. That experience is gone, remembered only in stories, books, movies, paintings and songs. Some of Canada’s ecosystems are just as rich in biodiversity as those of the Amazon Rainforest or Great Barrier Reef, and they require just as much protection.

This winter, we urge you to not only “write letters to decision-makers” and “letters to the editor”, but also “a letter to the alter”. Regardless of what religion or faith or practice you follow, take a moment to tap into what it is you love MOST about this living planet, what you most admire about wolves, what you most respect about Nature. Recognize these thoughts and the feelings they evoke in you. Allow this to regenerate and re-invigorate your dedication to helping ensure that a land ethic can be embraced as part of Canada’s future.

Rekindle your desire to HOWL OUT LOUD for all of the injustices that wolves and other wildlife species are facing, because they deserve better. And you, WE, can do something about it if we act together!

At this special time of year we often appreciate and celebrate the simplest and most important gifts we can receive: full bellies, family time, playful moments and a safe abode. WAI believes all species are entitled to these precious moments, and we promise that we will continue to work hard to promote a society that values wolves and large carnivores for their intrinsic values as well as important ecological roles.

*Winter Wishes!
Thank you for speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves this HOWLiday season!.*



Image courtesy Peter A Dettling

Will there be No Peace for Wolves in BC's Peace Region?

There will be NO PEACE for wolves in the BC Peace Region if suggested hunting regulation changes are permitted. B.C.'s Ministry of Forestry, Lands and Natural Resource Operations wants to remove existing limits on how many wolves hunters can kill in the Peace Region and also make it possible to kill wolves year-round. The province is also planning to TRIPLE the allowable grizzly bear hunt in a remote part of the Peace. [Read about it in this article by CBC](#) .

You can provide comments and feedback directly to the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, where they have posted proposed 2016-2018 changes to regulations on the Angling, Hunting and Trapping Public Engagement Website, available online at <http://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/pub/ahte/hunting/amend-season-dates-and-bag-limit-wolves>

Research indicates that kin-based, or family, packs , which are the most naturally-occurring in wild wolf populations , need to be considered when managing wolves. With an understanding of the value of social stability and how that influences the ability of wolves to fulfil their ecological role as a keystone species, we must urge conservation and management policies to look at more than just numbers. See review about article from *Biological Conservation*: www.journalwatch.conservationmagazine.org/2009/12/08/back-in-the-family/

Almost one year ago a study was released by Dr.s' Wielgus and Peebles that reviewed over 25 years of records. Their report indicated that killing wolves increases livestock depredation rates the following year: [Effects of Wolf Mortality on Livestock Depredations](#) .

This report is backed by further evidence provided in Alberta by the work of Dr. M. Musiani, T. Muhly, C. Cormack Gates, C. Callaghan, M.E. Smith and E Tosoni in their paper titled : [Seasonality and Reoccurrence of Depredation and Wolf Control in western North America](#).

As well, we encourage everyone to read this timeless article by Dr. Paul Paquet and Dr. Marco Musiani titled [The Practices of Wolf Persecution, Protection and Restoration in Canada and the United States](#). It provides further evidence that wolf killing cycles do nothing to prevent conflicts with livestock, and that non-lethal methods focused on prevention are more effective and ecologically as well as ethically sound.



Saskatchewan Is Now Promoting Wanton Wolf Killing

This December, Saskatchewan announced a new decision to kill more wolves in agricultural areas where there are concerns that there are “too many wolves”. Who should be in charge of determining how many wolves are too many? Too many for what? For whom? Who gets to decide the fate of these families and allow the wanton killing of wolves?

Why is Canada dooming its wildlife while ignoring the knowledge and science behind preventative husbandry practices? HOW can these killing provinces neglect to recognize that killing creates more conflicts? (See links to articles at left).

Sadie Parr, the executive director of Wolf Awareness, says that she is happy to know of the flip side of this equation. Parr reports: *I have spoken to several ranchers in western Canada this year who tell me they willingly share the land they use with wolves and coyotes , and that they want to see more people doing so. These people inspire me. More of us need to engage in this discussion and we all need to start focussing on practicing non-lethal methods that prevent conflicts, rather than creating chaos through reckless killing.*



Valhalla Wilderness research cabin used for our partnership Wolf Feeding Ecology Project. Researcher Sadie Parr will be headed back there his January, collecting more scat!



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Wolf Awareness

Through education, dispelling the myths.



REALITY BITES

Grey wolves, *Canis lupus*, once roamed most of the northern hemisphere, but have been eradicated from many parts of their former range. In Canada, wolves are not protected outside of National Parks and some provincial parks. Even these areas are often too small and compromised in many ways to adequately protect the wolves that live in (and beyond) them. The World Wildlife Fund tells us 'history has shown that, if deliberate efforts are not made to conserve large carnivores, they are doomed'.



Many Canadians believe there are plenty of wolves remaining in the country. What they may not realize is that Canada is one of the last strongholds for Grey wolves worldwide, and that conservation goes beyond mere numbers in a population. Wolves have disappeared from many parts of their former range throughout the Northern hemisphere due to habitat destruction, fragmentation, and direct human exploitation. In Canada, grey wolves are still classified as vermin. They can be hunted, baited, trapped, poisoned, and chased in many parts of Canada for the better part of the year often without a specific permit, or bag limit.



Canada hosts diversity among these top predators, making protection even more critical. The Eastern Wolf, *Canis lycaon*, occupies a narrow range in the southern ends of Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. It is similar to, but distinct from, the Red wolf, *Canis Rufus*. The Eastern wolf has been recognized by the federal Species At Risk Act, SARA, as a species of special concern since 2001. However, both provincial and federal levels of government are failing to offer Eastern wolves substantial protection.

Will Canadians reach out and grasp our unique and important opportunity for wolf preservation while we still can? Or will we squander the remaining chances to share our country with these awesome beings?

The governments of B.C. and Alberta have been killing wild wolves in the name of caribou conservation. Most caribou conservationists will tell you that it is not wolves that need to change – it is people. We must stop destroying and altering the critical habitat that caribou depend upon for the sake of our own recreation, resource extraction, development, or any reason at all if caribou are to remain in Canada. The situation is no different for BC's coastal wolves nor Eastern wolves; none have adequate protection as designated reserves are not large enough to contain entire wolf packs.



Italy, Portugal and Spain still have wolves but they are less able to function as part of an intact ecosystem. They have become urbanized and increasingly habituated, feeding off of livestock and garbage. Some countries like Scotland are trying to reintroduce wolves with limited success for various reasons.

In terms of wolves and forest ecosystems, Canada certainly has a unique and important conservation initiative. Will Canada act as a leader in preserving these top predators and helping to maintain biological diversity for the planet? Will we learn from others in the Northern Hemisphere not to make the same mistakes so that wolves can thrive in balance with nature?



We believe that TOGETHER we CAN and TOGETHER we WILL!

HAVE YOU SIGNED AND SHARED THIS CALL TO HELP ALBERTA'S WOLVES ?

WHY NOT PLEDGE TO GET 10 NEW NAMES over the HOWLidays?

The Raincoast Conservation Foundation and Wolf Awareness are asking for an IMMEDIATE HALT TO LETHAL WOLF "control" IN ALBERTA.

RUNNING FOR THEIR LIVES!



Click and share [this link](#)



READ the details of the issue that have been laid out by leading scientists at the [Raincoast Conservation Foundation](#).

Join us. Make our vision a reality.



Twitter: [@wolfawareness](#) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WolfAwarenessCanada>

HOWLINGS

Spreading the Word for Wolves



A GLIMPSE into the future through the past:

Although many new threats and burdens have been forced upon wolves this past decade WAI feels hopeful that with continued efforts we will see a future where wolves are respected and appreciated for the great achievements of Nature that they truly are.

New research findings and media coverage released this past year continue to gain momentum across a variety of popular social media and discussion sources. This type of dialogue is required to see necessary changes occur. As dedicated individuals work hard to reveal the facts, public understanding, knowledge and the demands of society for ethical and ecological management of all sentient beings will only increase. It MUST.

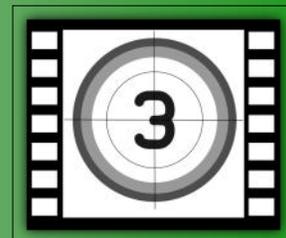


FOLLOW Wolf Awareness on social media!

Twitter: [@wolfawareness](https://twitter.com/wolfawareness)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>

Check out this new short video by the talented Jeremy Williams of River Voices, highlighting some of the work we do at Wolf Awareness, and why: <https://youtu.be/574LNKhTQnE>



Thank YOooooUUUUUUuuuuuuuuuu..... to all of the individuals and organizations that have offered Wolf Awareness support as we rekindle this organization! Please help us to grow.



TOGETHER we CAN create CHANGE!

Together we WILL!

NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION



Environmental Grants Fund of Tides Foundation



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WOLF AWARENESS is RECRUITING PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS!
Do you have skills to offer that will help us bring our message further?

- We are currently seeking help from people with experience in the following :
1. GIS mapping or Googleearth
 2. Website design
 3. Co-ordination of volunteers
 4. Fundraising

Wolf Awareness

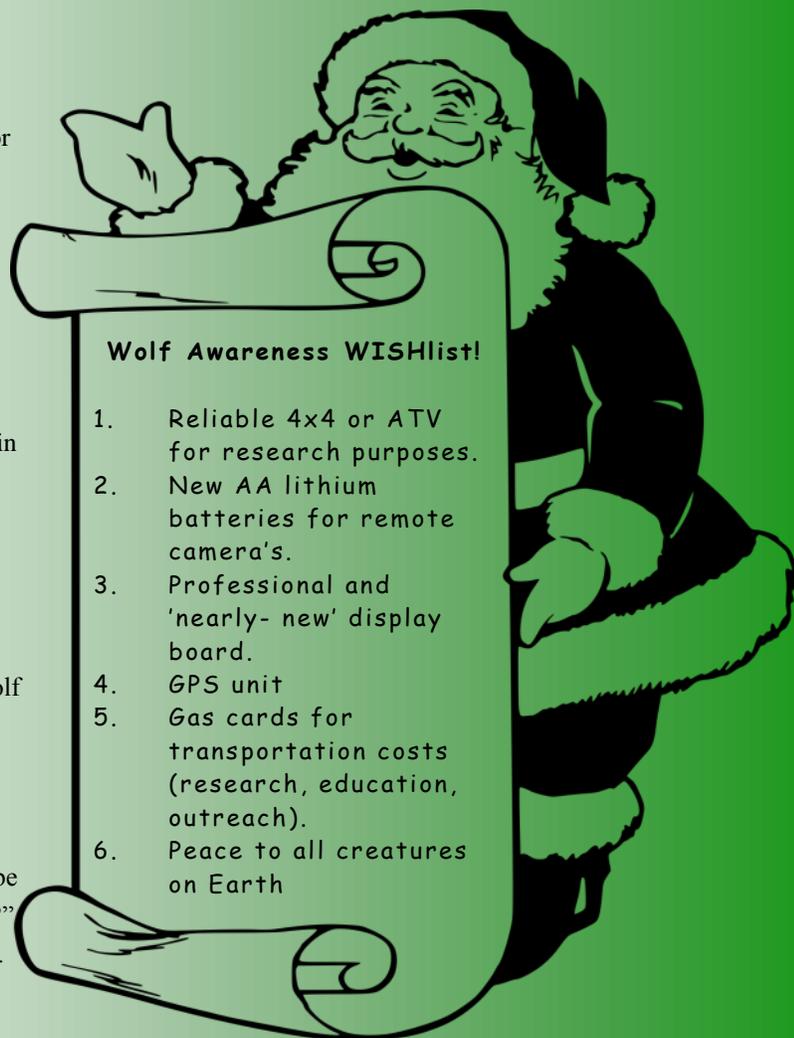
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Final words for 2015

More than a decade ago, National Geographic featured an article stating that wolves may be more similar to humans in their behavior than most animals, including primates. There have been several references to this notion in all forms of media. Wolves are very intelligent and social animals, forming strong familial bonds and loyal relationships. They communicate in several ways, helping to establish and maintain a family hierarchy that leads to cooperation and success. Perhaps their similarities to humans create unease in some of us, which is the root of our fears. Aside from our misplaced hatred, rivalry, glorified kinships or deepest yearnings, in the end... we need to LET THE WOLF BE A WOLF. Canadian policies are not on the side of this keystone species, which is important in helping to maintain balance and diversity throughout ecosystems across the country. It will take a strong and unified effort to sway the current standing of wolves.

Rudyard Kipling explains it well in saying "The strength of the wolf is the pack. The strength of the pack is the wolf". As a highly resilient species, wolf populations persist in areas where they are highly exploited. John Theberge, who together with his wife Mary played a major role in establishing a harvest ban on wolves around Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario stated succinctly, "Will we be content simply if their reproductive capacity exceeds our butchery?" This is no different from "factory farming" wildlife. It is shameful. This must be exposed to be understood, and to make amends. We have updated our Action Page on our website, we hope you use it!



Wolf Awareness WISHlist!

1. Reliable 4x4 or ATV for research purposes.
2. New AA lithium batteries for remote camera's.
3. Professional and 'nearly- new' display board.
4. GPS unit
5. Gas cards for transportation costs (research, education, outreach).
6. Peace to all creatures on Earth

HELP us spread Wolf Awareness!

We will gladly accept new memberships, sponsorships and donations as a gift in someone else's name!



Give the gift of wolf conservation initiatives! LIFETIME membership \$20. FMPP sponsorships below, sponsors receive yearly project update and photo from the field.

Join our Wolf Conservation Team!

Follow My Paw Prints©!

Play an active role in wolf conservation by [becoming a sponsor of our Chilcotin Wolf Feeding Ecology Research Project](#), where we work in partnership with the [Valhalla Wilderness Society](#). An annual sponsorship is possible for WAI Members ([WAI Membership is lifetime!](#)). Sponsors receive annual updates about the research project and the wolves involved, and a wolf "photo from the field". A single sponsorship is \$40, group/class sponsorships are \$50 and corporate sponsorships are \$100.



Note: All sponsors will receive tax receipt and a certificate



Photo Peter A. Dettling

