



# The Wolf Print



Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Centre

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## Open House Days Filled With Fun!

On May 18, we marked the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of our Wolf Education Centre at Panorama with an Open House celebration. The public response was great, with a turnout of almost 400 people. We hope everyone had fun as they learned some neat wolf facts. Father's Day was an Open House success in Golden, with over 200 people celebrating our 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Both events hosted local artists, musicians, interpretive displays and talks, a 'pup's den' for kids to paint, plant, and make natural crafts. There were great door prizes donated as well, and a mouth-watering barbeque. This is one way we encourage the local community to get to know us, which is to get to know about wolves.



## Summer is Here!

With the school year nearing its end and the sunshine warming the air, classrooms have been visiting both of our wolf centres. Our gardens are in

bloom, the songbirds are in chorus, and the smiles on children's faces are delightful to watch as they learn about nature and wildlife.

These are some highlights of the past 4 months:

- \*Construction of a new 2-bin compost at our Golden centre, to help educate about responsible waste management and energy renewal. Read on to find out about more composting tips!
- \*Two successful open house days where over 500 people were involved in learning about and celebrating wolves.
- \*The addition of hundreds of signatures to our petition to the BC Legislature to allow this province to use Karelian Bear Dogs in a responsible bear-shepherding program. Alberta recently adopted 2 new Karelian pups to be used by conservation officers and park wardens. Let's follow their lead!

## Good Composting!

**Q:** Why compost?

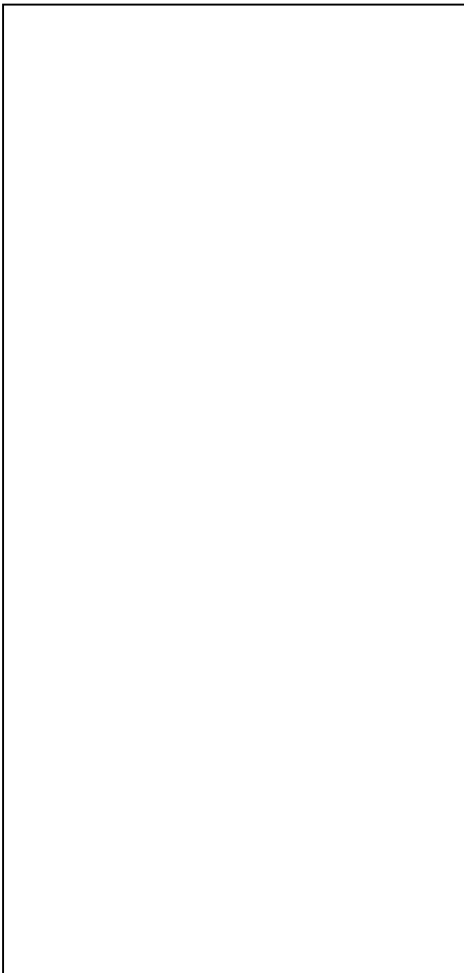
**A:** When living things die, they begin to decay, or break down into the simple raw elements they are made from. During the decay process, energy and nutrients are released and can be re-used to help feed the next generation of plants and the animals that eat them. The fertilizer you end up with is FULL of valuable and nutritious plant

food. Microorganisms and insects live within composts to help break down the waste material faster. These are helpful bugs! A well-maintained composter should be able to feed your garden recycled nutrients within 3 months. Just dig the settled bottom out when it's finished, and treat your garden!

Remember, **do not** compost any of the following: meat, fish, fats, oils, cooked foods, and poisonous or diseased plants. And - especially in bear country - turn your compost **regularly** and ensure there's a lid on your bin. A fed bear is a dead bear....

But what does composting have to do with wolves and wildlife, you ask? Well, composting in a bin is the same process that takes place on the forest floor! Imagine a wolf kill: the pack has eaten their fill, and their left-overs are picked at by scavengers like coyotes and ravens, then further picked at by insects... and a few days later, the decomposition process has begun, where fungi and microorganisms like bacteria start working on the remains. Dead animals and dead plant matter like twigs and leaves are all part of Mother Nature's compost bin.





## Conservation Issues

The proposal for the development of Jumbo Glacier Resort is nothing new, as Kootenay residents have been resisting it for almost 20 years. The resort would be located about 50 km West of Invermere, in the centre of one of the last undeveloped tracts of wilderness left in southern BC. The resort intends to erect 23 lifts, which would span 4 glaciers, and house over 6000 beds. Let's consider some of the ways this development would have local impacts:

### Environmental:

- loss of prime grizzly habitat
- destruction of a major wildlife corridor
- potential pollution of Jumbo Creek, the area's source of drinking water
- a limited life span to the resort (glacial retreat due to climate change)

### Socio-Economic:

- increased traffic on an unstable road will increase mortality rates
- serious safety concerns from wildfire and avalanche risks with only one exit
- limitations on existing back-country recreation and activities
- high ticket prices will exclude many local residents
- working wages not high enough for locals to afford the long commute
- local taxpayers will be forced to pick up the burden of costly maintenance (road upgrades, avalanche control, fire suppression, emergency services)
- many Kootenay communities already rely on existing ski hills for economic survival. Jumbo would pose deadly competition
- the hour long drive from the resort into towns is likely to discourage patrons from using non-resort facilities.



## Adopt A Wolf

You can now adopt a wolf individual from our pack. This will help with the huge responsibility of feeding and caring for our wolf pack, as well as helping us to reach our goals at each facility to promote wolf awareness, help to educate people, and help change legislation to protect our wilderness.

When you adopt a wolf individual from our pack, you will receive photos of your wolf, updates and stories from each season, and the undying devotion (and full belly!) of your sponsored wolf. Who will you choose?

This is how it works:

**\$ 75 = Adopt A Wolf**

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aspen | <input type="checkbox"/> Moab   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuk   | <input type="checkbox"/> Amorok |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maya  | <input type="checkbox"/> Keehta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wiley |                                 |

### WOLF KISSES go to ...

... the Enviro Club at Huband Elementary in Courtenay for raising \$300 to adopt 4 wolves...

... and to Lucy from Cochrane, who – for a second year in a row – raised money for wolves instead of accepting birthday gifts. Lucy, with a little help from her friends, raised over \$300!

