

include an interpretive talk about wolves and their importance in the ecosystem, followed by a group howl and song response from one of our wolves. There will also be hot cocoa and a bonfire to help keep warm, and marshmallows for roasting. This is a fun family event for people of all ages. Come and join us for a howling good time.... aaooooooooooooo....!

CARIBOU RECOVERY

BC FOLLOWING ALBERTA'S LEAD

The BC government recently announced its Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan. The goal is to increase the caribou population to 2,500 animals; the current population is estimated to be 1,900 in 12 herds. They plan to do this by protecting 2 million hectares of habitat and limit snowmobile, cat and heli-skiing activities in their habitat.

Sadly, they also recommend more liberal hunting of predators (like cougars, wolves and black bears), and removal of predators in some areas. Provincial governments have been culling wolves since the 1980's to increase the caribou numbers. Clearly, this method is not working, and has proven ineffective wherever it was used in the past.

This is yet another example where wolves are a scapegoat. We know that caribou are very hesitant about moving across open spaces, and are limited to a small area when the forest around them has been cut down. Curbing logging and protecting old growth forests would provide far more protection for them. Also, caribou live deep in the interior of forests and use this as a strategy for avoiding predators. By building roads and packing down snow with snowmobiles and other backcountry recreation, we basically provide a highway for the predators to reach the caribou. This leads to smaller herds and inbreeding. Furthermore, deer, moose and other animals enjoy the clear cuts and attract more predators to the area. Reducing clear cuts, and providing connected spaces would help preserve habitat for the

THE SNOW WOLF'S EYES

*The full blue moon beams down on my face.
It lights the snow in florescent grace.
I never want to leave this place.
I'll abandon the hassles of the human race.*

*I stare out on the landscape in unspeakable wonder.
I stare out into the serene forest tundra.
I gradually look down and I'm startled to see,
two golden eyes staring at me.*

*What is this creature?
I don't really know.
but whatever it is blends in with the snow.*

*I can make out a figure.
Not ten yards away.
It's a single grey wolf looking for prey.*

*He slowly creeps closer in a soft, cautious stroll.
As I stare through his eyes and into his soul.
I see where he's going.
I see where he's been.
The kills of his hunts.
And the cubs in his den.*

*He's now swiftly sprinting over the snow-covered field.
I notice him start to slowly yield.
He turns his head.
Looking one last time*

*Savouring his brush with humankind.
When I see that he is finally gone,
I look up at the stars and wait until dawn.*

by Drew Cooper

caribou – and would lower the number of deer, moose and predators attracted to these areas.

Preserving old-growth forests would also preserve lichen, the primary food source for caribou in winter. Lichen grows on the old-growth trees and grows VERY slowly. Intact forest ecosystems are both food and shelter for the endangered caribou.

We are glad that the government is taking some action making an attempt to save the caribou - but more needs to be done!

BECOME A SPONSOR

Help us help our wolves! If you become a sponsor you will receive a package with fun goodies, and our quarterly newsletter for one year! You can adopt a wolf from our pack, and receive updates about your wolf... or you can become a pack member and receive general updates about the pack and the centre. Your generosity helps with the huge responsibility of feeding and caring for our pack, putting together our Edu-kits for school programs, helping us promote wolf awareness, and changing legislation to protect our wilderness.

Adopt A Wolf \$75

Pack Membership

\$250 = Wolf Pack
\$100 = Alpha Member
\$50 = Beta Member
\$20 = Puppy Member

Check out our website www.northernlightswildlife.com for pictures and info about the individual wolves.

WE ACCEPT MEAT DONATIONS!

We are also always on the lookout for more pelts and skulls for our displays and edu-kits. If you know anybody with the goods, please pass on our info.



Northern Lights Wildlife
WOLF CENTRE

1745 SHORT ROAD
GOLDEN, BC V0A 1H1
www.northernlightswildlife.com

tel. (250) 344-6798
toll-free 1-877-377-WOLF
info@northernlightswildlife.com



HAPPY HOWLIDAYS!

**GREETINGS
FROM THE ALPHAS**



The holiday season is upon us once again! Here at Northern Lights Wildlife we are celebrating the end of another great year! We would like to take this time to thank our staff and supporters, past and present for all their hard work over the year and for using their voices to spread the message of conservation.

We are still challenging other conservation groups to form a coalition to push for buffer zones around our park boundaries. So far, we have had no response from these groups. Our fight for habitat recovery can only work if we have the force of public opinion. We need political movement to force change, and that's why we need supporters like you to use your voices – because each voice counts.

So as 2007 approaches its end, nothing has changed, and we are still exploiting Mother Nature to the full extent. When it comes to wolves, it seems we are still blaming them for our mistakes. If wolves are responsible for the decline of prey species – like the caribou – then why does mass extinction and extirpation of species happen only when humans are around? Wolves did not slaughter 80 million bison.

Canada fails to be a leader in conservation. All we want for Christmas... is for you not to send us money, but to write a letter, make a phone call, vote, sign petitions. Call other groups and organizations to work together, build a pack to speak for Mother Nature, because she takes care of humans too!

On a lighter note, although it is unfortunate that our second location at Panorama Mountain Village has closed, we are very happy for our 2 wolves, Moab and Keehta, to rejoin our Golden pack! For those of you following Amorok's story, he is also doing well in his new home.

Amorok was a rescued wolfdog that stayed with us for a while, and who was lucky to find a good home with someone who can take care of him.

We thank you all for supporting the wolf centre: the animals are healthy and happy, and love the snow.

Remember, we need your voice!

MOAB & KEEHTA

For those of you who have not met Moab and Keehta at our Panorama location, here is a bit of background on these two critters:

We adopted Moab in the spring of 2004 as a pup. Moab was accepted and loved by our adult wolves and grew quickly. He has grown into a very playful adult wolf and continues to be a "roommate" to Keehta after their move back to Golden. Mo and Keehta are loving the attention of the Alphas everyday.

Keehta came to us as a rescued wolfdog in 2005. She started life as a pet, and when the wolf in her became unmanageable, and the owners realized that wolves are not pets, she ended up at a shelter. We believe she will be 4 years old in the spring of 2008. We had never attempted to integrate a full-grown wolf into our pack before and did not know what to expect. We hoped that since she was still young and had been socialized with humans that she would be accepted... and Keehta proved us right! Her new best friend is Moab, and she is thriving in her new role, not as pet, but as ambassador.

B.C.S.A.R.

"British Columbia (BC) Species At Risk". Recently we took a staff trip to listen to a presentation by the David Suzuki Foundation. The presentation focused on species at risk in BC and their lack of protection.

BC is a "Hot Bed", an area of high biodiversity and, sadly, at great risk of losing it. We are home to the highest biodiversity in the country: with

76% of Canada's bird species, 70% of its freshwater fish species and 60% of its conifer species. Unfortunately, there are also 1300 species in BC whose futures are uncertain and only 5% of these are protected in any way.

Even that protection exists without a single strong legislation. Our species at risk are protected under a variety of documents that are weak and ineffective. Across Canada, only Ontario is a leader with a strong Endangered Species Act. BC needs one too before it is too late!

CLEANING UP THEIR ACT?

According to the BC Wildlife Act, it is legal to chase a bear with a dog - if your intentions are to kill it. However, it is not legal to chase a bear with a dog without a hunting license and bear tag. So, if we want to save a bear's life by chasing it with a dog and teaching it where our territorial boundary is, that is considered harrassment of wildlife and is illegal.

As many of you know, we have been working for years to increase awareness about Karelian Bear Dogs. These amazing dogs have been used effectively, in many states and provinces in North America, to teach bears to stay away from humans. Currently, we are not allowed to use them in BC because of section 78 of our Wildlife Act, which only allows a hunter to chase wildlife with dogs. The good news is that the act is to be amended soon. So please – call, write, and make your voice count! With any luck, all of your letters, emails and petitions will be considered. Hopefully, together we can save some bears!

HOWL AWAY!



This winter we will be having "Howl Nights" at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort in Golden. Join us on the following dates: December 22nd and 29th, February 16th and March 15th. Howl presentations start at 7pm. These events also