



## BC Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan

Our newsletters over the past year have had several articles on caribou recovery. This is a very complex issue that affects many different animals, industries and people. Human activity and habitat destruction continues to be the major threat to the recovery of this species. Sadly, wolves are continuing to be blamed and persecuted for the decimation of caribou.

In October of 2007 the BC government released the BC Mountain Caribou Recovery plan. We are extremely pleased that our representatives are taking action to save these unique animals. However, part of the plan involves wolf culls, increased harvest and bag limits and bounties. This backwards thinking will do nothing to help the caribou unless their habitat is protected and restored. Culling wolves is a short-term fix to a long-term problem. It is equivalent to putting band-aids on bullet wounds!

As all of our knowledgeable wolf sponsors and supporters will know, wolves and caribou have co-existed in balance with each other for millennia. Wolves keep the caribou herds strong by preying on the weak and sick. They create biodiversity and support hundreds of other species. If we eliminate them from an area there will be drastic consequences.

The Ministry of Environment has already enacted "emergencies measures" and culled 2 wolf packs in the South Purcells and 2 other packs in the Narrow Lakes region of BC. Wolf "management" is also called for in the Southwest, Southeast and Central Kootenays, South Monashee, Revelstoke-Shuswap, Wells Gray-Thompson, Upper Fraser, Quesnel Highland and Hart Ranges. The caribou's populations were given categories, one being *Status Quo* defined as "excluding time limited actions such as predator control." However, several *Status Quo* areas involve increase harvest pressure for an unspecified extended period of time. Their documents admit that in the Southeast Kootenay

there is uncertainty that wolves are affecting the caribou populations and the cull would mainly be for agriculture. Other "management" involves culls until the habitat recovers. However, the plan indicates that recovery may take 60-100 years. Are wolves to suffer for this long?

Wolves have been killed since the 1960's in BC to increase caribou numbers. Clearly this is not effective management and we hope they will learn from their past attempts.

We ask for your help and your voice once again tell the government of BC that the killing of wolves will not be accepted by the public. Use the sample letter attached as an outlet for your environmental conscience. Please tell our government habitat conservation is the best long-term, sustainable method of saving our wildlife.

## Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 Celebrate with the 4 R's

Use this spring, the season of life, to create a positive change in your life.

We all know **3 R's: Reduce Reuse Recycle** But do you know the **4<sup>th</sup> R? REFUSE!** Here are some tips to follow this very important, but often forgotten R.

### Refuse...

- ...plastic bags!
- ...products with toxins!
- ...to flush!
- ...to buy over packaged products!



By changing the way we live and what we buy we can demand change. These are just a few tips so check out [earthday.ca](http://earthday.ca) for more events, celebrations and tips on how to live a green life.



## Yellowstone Wolves Under Threat

The re-introduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park is one of the greatest examples of wildlife management. It is a famous success story known worldwide and represents how vital wolves are to a healthy ecosystem. Sadly, the wolves of Yellowstone may lose their protection.

The Bush administration wants to remove the wolves of the Greater Yellowstone area and Northern Rockies from the Endangered Species List. Since the re-introduction of wolves in the area in 1995, wolves began to flourish once again in the surrounding states. It has restored natural balances and created valuable tourism in the area. Approximately 1500 wolves live in the Northern Rockies. Although thriving, this is far below a stable population of 2500 to 5000 animals. However, all but 300 could be slaughtered and the US government would still consider them "recovered". Removing them from the list will leave wolves vulnerable to hunting, poisoning, trapping and even aerial gunning in Idaho and Wyoming.

Why hasn't the US government learned from the past? Eliminating wolves from Yellowstone in the 1920's had drastic effects. The food web was disrupted, vegetation was overgrazed and valuable habitat was lost. We need wolves to keep our forests healthy.

We encourage our US readers and supporters to write to their representatives and ensure wolves remain protected. Please visit [nrdonline.org](http://nrdonline.org) for sample letters and contact information.

### KIDS CORNER!

Hey Kids,  
Send us your drawings,  
Poems and stories about  
wolves. We'd love to hear  
from you and they might  
show up in our next  
newsletter!



## Grandma Attacked By A Wolf?

### Grandma's Story

On Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup> I was attacked by a wolf in Fort St. John B.C. I'm a 68-year-old woman and was walking down my driveway when I heard my goat yelling, I entered my barn, crouched beside the goat and was bitten on the arm by a wolf! I looked over and my face was 18 inches to 2 feet from the face of a wolf! He bit me on the arm and now I have a big bruise.

### The Wolf's Story

I'm an elderly wolf and have been hungry lately. I normally do not like to go into people's territory or into barns but I am underweight, do not have a pack to help me hunt and can no longer find enough food in the forest. As I was trying to eat a goat, grandma walked in and scared me! I didn't know what to do! I was trapped in the barn and had nowhere to run. I bit her on the arm out of self-defense. Unfortunately, I scared her and as a result I was shot.

### The Story Behind the Story

As usual, the media dramatized this incident as an attack. If this were an "attack" she would have received injuries far more drastic than the bruise she walked away with. This was not an attack at all. She approached the wolf (who was probably terrified), who bit her arm but did not even break the skin. The vocabulary the media chooses further perpetuates the false image of the wolf as a dangerous, vicious animal.

The media coverage of this incident shows how rare it is for wolves to encounter humans. The story was sensationalized to seem like this elderly woman barely escaped with her life. Luckily, all of our sponsors know that wolves are beautiful, loving and timid animals that deserve our respect!

Why was the wolf in this story underweight? Why would he enter a barn to find food? Surrounding Fort St. John is an area of high human activity. Logging, agriculture and oil and gas industries have a major presence in the area. The north is no longer a pristine

## Wildlife Words

These are definitions the Canadian Species At Risk Act uses to classify species and other words connected to wildlife. Can you match them up?

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| a) Extinct    | b) Extirpation    |
| c) Ungulate   | d) Endangered     |
| e) Threatened | Special concern   |
| Habitat       | Wildlife conflict |

1. A species that no longer exists anywhere. Example: Passenger pigeon, sea mink
2. A disagreement relating to destruction, loss of life or property, and interference with people that are attribute directly or indirectly to wild animals.
3. A species that no longer exists in an area but exists elsewhere. Examples: Grizzly Bear, Black-footed Ferret
4. A species that is facing extirpation or extinction. Examples: Beluga whale, Whooping Crane
5. The natural environment where an organism or ecosystem normally lives.
6. A species that is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the reasons for its decline in population. Examples: Grey fox, Wood Bison, Fur Seal
7. The order for hoofed mammals.
8. Examples: mountain goats, bison
9. A species that may become threatened or endangered because of threat (for example, habitat destruction, climate change etc.) Examples: wolf, Polar Bear, Monarch Butterfly

### Red Deer Presentations

Our Alpha Female, Shelly Black, will be in **Red Deer April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>** She will present to the local scouts and schools and will even have a wolf with her! Contact us for more information.

wilderness. Our Alpha Male, Casey Black, has been to northeastern BC and reported that it is crisscrossed with roads, seismic lines & pipelines. This has an enormous affect on the ungulate population. Wolves depend on ungulates for food. As we destroy their habitat and food sources and fragment population's wolves suffer as well.

An enormous issue is the hydrogen sulphide gas that is being released by the oil industry. This toxin damages eyes, brains, lungs and hearts of people. Importantly, it affects hormones and reproductive organs. Is this why the wolf entered the barn? The poison, being release in the area for decades must affect the ungulates. Lichen, the primary food source of caribou, is very sensitive to air pollution and dies off. Sterility and underweight and unhealthy prey animals from air pollution may cause the wolf to starve and find other food sources. Instead of reporting on the "attack", perhaps CBC should have reported on the effects of hydrogen sulphide. Not the fact that a poor unhealthy wolf was trying to survive.

### Become A Sponsor

Your contribution goes directly towards helping to feed and care for our wolves as well as spread the message of wolf conservation. You can adopt a wolf or become a pack member and receive updates about the pack and the wolf centre. We have also been able to send our Alpha Female, Shelley, to Red Deer, Edmonton and Calgary to help to educate people, and help change legislation to protect our wilderness.

<b>Adopt A Wolf</b>	\$ 75
<b>Pack Membership</b>	
\$250 = Wolf Pack	
\$100 = Alpha Member	
\$ 50 = Beta Member	
\$ 20 = Puppy Member	

Happy birthday to all of our wolves, wildlife and sponsors born in the spring!



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