

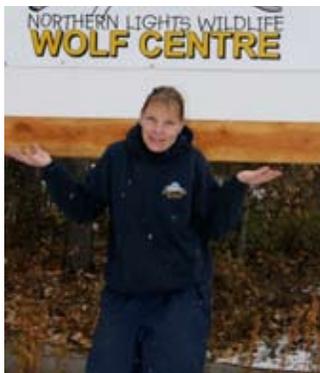
# The Wolf Print

NORTHERN LIGHTS WILDLIFE WOLF CENTRE  
Volume No. 6 Issue No. 3

1745 SHORT RD GOLDEN, BC V0A 1H1

1-877-377-WOLF (9653)

Fall 2009



## We Don't Know?!

*The Dragon's Den has not told us whether we will be aired or not. Buuut, I think we will be. Commercials show Kevin howling, which is why we think they will air us... but we don't know when. CBC has stated that they will let us know 3-4 weeks prior to us being aired. If we are, you can VOTE for us for a chance for NWL to win \$50,000 towards the wolves.*

*So WATCH OUT!! Our web page will also post our air time as soon as we find out!*



## SPOOBY Howl Night

**Thursday October 29th, 2009**  
**Come join us for a Special**  
**Howl program in celebration of**  
**Hallowe'en!**

**Wear your scarey costumes &**  
**don't forget to practice howling!!**

## WOLF CENTRE UPDATES

### ALASKA UPDATE.....

The official response we were given from Alaskan officials regarding the wolf culls has come down to \$ money \$. The letter stated that moose & caribou are critical culturally & nutritionally to Alaskans as well as to subsistence hunters. They continued to state that the moose & caribou are integral to the overall health of the ecosystem..... No WOLVES are! If they do not understand or realize that it is the wolf's role that maintains ecosystems; the health of ungulates & ultimately that of the forest, then how will they ever piece the puzzle together? In closing, they actually thanked Alanah for researching about carnivores...but failed to miss the entire point of our debate. Surprised?

### ASPEN GOES TO SCHOOL(s)!

Aspen & Shelley will be in the St. Albert, AB area the first week in March 2010. If you are involved in an environmental group, or if there are any other schools in the Edmonton area interested in having Shelley & Aspen give a presentation, please contact the Wolf Centre to set up your date!

### THANK YOUUUUUUUUU

Big Thanks to Nellie McClung school of Calgary for hosting Shelley and Aspen at their school in Sept., we had a Great time! Thanks Mr. deBore for making the arrangements!

### SNOWFLAKES are FLYING!!

Thinking of Christmas? Gift certificates for photo sessions, sponsor & adoption packages make great presents!

### Canadian Wolf COALITION

Sadie is ready to hit the road to speak with and two everyone about the "Canadian Wolf Coalition." She has put together a wonderful power point program about the coalition and would love to come to your community to share this information... You can book her today for the New Year if you would like to bring her program to your community! Call the wolf centre for more information.

We also have more Coalition t-shirts in stock! Order yours today & help us help wolves!

## We Landed, We Learned, We Loved.

*We are two zoology students from Newcastle University in England. Part of our course involves us visiting any animal institute throughout the world to learn about the work they carry out. We chose Northern Lights!*

*We arrived at the centre ready to observe, learn and listen. At that time we were unaware of the passion and commitment all of the staff at Northern Lights have for making a difference to the future of the wolf. After hearing all of the interpretive talks we were shocked at the lack of protection the wolf has in Canada. This made the role of the wolf centre seem even more valuable, and highlighted the importance of wolves in the ecosystem.*

*When we arrived, preparations for the open house were well underway and we soon got involved in helping out. The open house gave us an excellent opportunity to see the role Northern Lights plays in the community and speak to lots of people involved in similar projects throughout British Columbia. It enabled us to really feel like part of the team, working in the gift shop and helping out at the kid's craft table. Unfortunately, we were only able to spend one week at the wolf centre. However, the experience has provided us with life long memories.*

*Thank you to everyone at Northern Lights for making us feel so welcome!*

Jess & Dan

(summer exchange students from the U.K.)



"Tuk: The Silent Type"

AKA Chicken, but he's a lover not a fighter as demonstrated in this photo with Shelley  
Photo Courtesy of Colette Hubner, 2009

## “Who done it?!” Putting Livestock Depredation in Perspective

*Many people point to the wolf when livestock losses occur. Let's face it...blaming something makes us feel better, but this is another example of using the wolf as a scapegoat and not focusing on the right target.*

For decades, if not centuries, public and government have been killing wolves and other predators to protect livestock. For example, the U.S. government was practicing lethal control on coyotes for 80 years in an effort to increase sheep production, only to realize that this had no effect on the sheep industry! (2) The real culprits were increasing production costs and decreasing product prices.

### **The FACTS:**

In 2008-2009 throughout all of British Columbia there were only 70 verified livestock losses due to wolves. (1) 2005 research done in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming indicated that LESS THAN 3% of all livestock mortality was due to wolves, grizzly bears, and black bears COMBINED! (2)

•Total livestock losses due to non-predators were at least 89%, with respiratory and digestive problems contributing the most (between 8 – 32%), (2).

•This study points out that total cattle losses due to wolf depredation in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming (AKA ranchland) are minor when compared to other causes of death, (2).

**Misperception #1:** *Wolves cost the livestock industry too much.*

**FACT:** there are only a few losses each year, which has minimal effects on the industry. However, to an individual rancher losing even a few animals seem like a lot. This leaves an angry impression, which is often exaggerated, and this is the voice that gets heard.

•If your ranch is within the territory of a wolf pack and there are no problems, ranchers are advised to LEAVE THE PACK ALONE; they may be protecting livestock from wolves that are more prone to go after livestock (1).

**Misperception #2:** *Wolves kill for fun and in excess of what they can consume, often referred to as “surplus killing”.*

**FACT:** Surplus killing is considered uncommon in the wild, however a few documented cases do exist (3).

•Wolves may not return to a carcass once it is disturbed by humans, leading to the thought that excessive killing is occurring when it would not have (1,2). This could also lead to wolves killing another animal to replace the food source they have just lost (1).



•The number of wolves feeding on an animal may not be able to consume the entire amount (1). In the wild, any leftovers would provide for scavengers and contribute to biodiversity.

•Surplus killing does occasionally exist among sheep in the Northwestern US, but has not been documented in cattle. (2)

•Livestock and domestics display poor anti-predator behaviour, which are reactions recognized in nature to deter predator advances (2). Sheep especially have prey traits that make them more vulnerable to predators (2).

It is important for wolf conservationists to acknowledge that wolves cause some livestock depredation each year, although minimal. Livestock production and wolf habitat often overlaps, and where they do, there will occasionally be losses. It is valuable to recognize both sides of the story, and by investigating concerns we can discover the facts.

In 2002, the BC Wild Predator Loss Control and Compensation Program was initiated, with compensation funds coming from the Ministry of Agriculture and lands. Under this program, ranchers are compensated for 75% of the value of an animal lost. In the Northwestern USA, compensation programs have been in effect for 20 years. These mitigation efforts are to minimize the chances of ranchers taking things into their own hands by shooting predators on their property that they view as a possible threat.

### References:

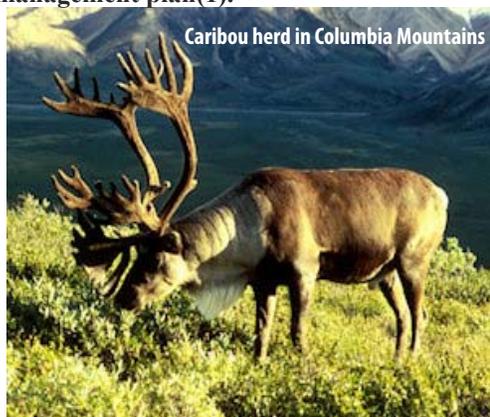
1. MacKay, Andy. (2005). “Mitigating Cattle Losses Caused by Wild Predators in British Columbia, A Field Guide for Ranchers”. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, [British Columbia Cattleman's Association], British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture & Lands.

2. Muhly, T.B., Musiani, M., (2009). Livestock depredation by wolves and the ranching economy in the Northwestern U.S., Ecological Economics, doi: 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2009.04.008.

3. [www.wolfftrust.org.uk/a-d7-depredation-surplus.html](http://www.wolfftrust.org.uk/a-d7-depredation-surplus.html)

## **“MANAGING” MOUNTAIN CARIBOU: A Dismal Fate for ALL B.C. Predators**

As found in Steven Wilson's article “Recommendations for Predator-Prey Management to Benefit the Recovery of Mountain Caribou in British Columbia” prepared for the B.C. Ministry of Environment, in order to recover Mountain Caribou populations, the government basically wants to eliminate three species to save one. Managing predator & primary prey populations to reduce predation pressures where caribou recovery seems to be prevented is only one of 5 steps within this management plan(1).



He recommends three principles to guide predator management, which are to focus on eliminating wolves & cougars to benefit the caribou (1). Wilson continues to recommend that in order for the management of predation to be successful, bears must also be targeted (1). Once again, they discuss sterilization of alphas, removing all members (pack/individuals) within mountain caribou habitat, aerial shooting, trapping, hunting etc.

Wilson does outline public concerns regarding this predator management plan as they have already faced resistance & public concerns of disrupting natural balance, animal welfare & hunters being the main beneficiaries of predator management(1). But there are no indications that the government is willing to change or adapt this strategy to address public concern.

Not only that in Revelstoke last year, a poll weighed the conservation of mountain caribou to recreational land use & recreation won(2). What does this say about the average person; the perspectives we have regarding conservation & our willingness to act upon it. If we haven't learned from experiences like Yellowstone & the consequences/risks associated with removing wolves from areas, then we, the environment, flora & fauna, in totality our planet are doomed. Moreover, these are all the same old policies, practices & recommendations that the government has been trying for 40 years & has it worked yet?

References: 1. Wilson, Steven (2009). “Recommendations for Predator-Prey Management to Benefit the Recovery of Mountain Caribou in British Columbia”. Prepared for BC Ministry of Environment, Victoria Canada.

2. Revelstoke Times 2008.

