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Gray Wolf Management and Re-Establishment in North America

Kristen P. La Vine and Robert H. Schmidt, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Utah State University, Logan UT 84322-5210

Several years after intense control efforts eradicated wolves from much of their former range in North America, a growing awareness, interest, and support of wolves is being expressed by people from all around the world. Nonetheless, wolf conservation and management is a highly controversial issue. All opinions were represented in the international group of 385 persons who turned out in August for the Second North American Symposium on Wolves.

The larger than expected crowd gathered at the University of Alberta in Edmonton for 3 days of presentations highlighting the status, biology, and management of wolves. The symposium was chaired by Dr. L.N. Carbyn, a leading wolf biologist and representative for the Canadian Circumpolar Institute and the Canadian Wildlife Service—just 2 of 8 the sponsor organizations involved. Most of those in attendance considered the symposium a success, and Carbyn was pleased with the “strong spirit of cooperation” shown at the gathering, and the “apparent desire by all parties involved to better understand the issues.”

The specific goals of Wolf Symposium '92 were to:

- review the status of wolves in North America;
- present current knowledge regarding the species, and the gaps in that knowledge;
- evaluate the effectiveness of current wildlife sanctuaries in protecting the wolf and its ecosystem; and
- to document the economic and environmental concerns of wolf predation on big game hunting, recreation, and tourism.

Papers were presented by scientists, governmental agents, and wildlife managers from around the globe, and covered all areas of interest, ranging from L. Boitani, University of Rome, discussing the “Ecological and cultural diversities in the evolution of wolf/human relationships,” to a presentation on the “Space-time characteristics of wolf howling,” by K.H. Frommolt-Humboldt, University of Berlin, and A.A. Nikol’skij,

University of Moscow. Presentations specific to wildlife damage management included “Using livestock guarding dogs to protect against North American wolves,” “Physiological and social aspects of reproduction of the wolf and their implications for contraception,” “Control of endangered gray wolves in Montana,” and “A demonstration of wolf capture devices.”

At times during the week, various viewpoints were debated. One such debate was over the existence of the red wolf (*Canis rufus*) as a distinct subspecies. R.K. Wayne, Zoological Society of London, used the molecular-genetic variability between the subspecies of wolves in North America to provide evidence that the red wolf may actually be an ancient hybrid between gray wolves (*C. lupus*) and coyotes (*C. latrans*). Validation of Wayne’s theory would erase the need for a separate subspecies qualification. But R.M. Novak, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, argued against Wayne’s results, concluding that the taxonomy of fossil and modern species shows the red wolf as a distinct species.

Another debated point was the assumption the native people, and not the wolf, were the preeminent predator of large ungulates in Yellowstone National Park. C.E. Kay, Utah State University, presented evidence from historical journals and photos to show that both ungulates and wolves were rare in the national park during 1835-1876, probably due to native hunting. Kay’s “Aboriginal Overkill” hypothesis parallels the ideas of D. Dekker, an Edmonton-based independent researcher, who recounted similar information for Jasper National Park in Alberta, Canada. In contrast, examination of early historical records by P. Schullery, U.S. National Park Service, showed the “presence and wide distribution of wolves, elk, bison, mule, deer, and pronghorn...in the present park area.” The debates that followed these polarized presentations prove that there is still much to be learned regarding wolves and their management.

Continued on page 4

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

March 19-24, 1993: North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Washington, D.C. Sponsored by The Wildlife Society. For more information, contact Dr. Lowell W. Adams, Chair, National Institute for Urban Wildlife, 10921 Trotting Ridge Way, Columbia, MD 21044, Phone: (301) 596-3311, or Dr. John M. Hadidian, Cochair, Center For Urban Ecology, National Park Service, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20242, Phone: (202) 342-1443.

April 18-21, 1993: Northeast Association of Wildlife Damage Biologists, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Contact: James E. Forbes, USDA/APHIS/ADC, P.O. Box 97, Albany, New York 12201, (518) 472-6492.

April 26-29, 1993: 11th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop, Hyatt Regency, Kansas City, MO. For further information, contact: F. Robert Henderson, Ext. Wildlife Specialist, Kansas State University, (913) 532-5654, or Robert A. Pierce II, Ext. Wildlife Specialist, University of Missouri, (314) 882-7242. *The Annual Meeting of the NADCA membership will be held in conjunction with this meeting. Watch the Probe for future details of agenda items to be discussed, as well as specific date and time of this meeting. Plan to be there!*

May 25-26, 1993: The Wild Pig in California Oak Woodland: Ecology and Economics. Embassy Suites Hotel, San Luis Obispo, CA. Contact: Dr. William Tietje, Forestry & Resource Management, 2156 Sierra Way, Suite C, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. (805) 549-5940.

July 4-10, 1993: Sixth International Theriological Congress, Sydney, Australia. This is an international meeting of scientists interested in mammalogy, and will include symposia and workshops including such topics as population biology of mammals, the role of disease in population regulation, and wildlife management. Will include sessions on *Management of Problem Wildlife* and *Predation As a Regulator of Mammal Populations*. For further information, write: The Secretariat, 6th Int'l Theriological Congress, School of Biological Science, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia 2033.

The Probe is the newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association, published 10 times per year.

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Your contributions to *The Probe* are welcome. Please send news clippings, new techniques, publications, and meeting notices to *The Probe*, c/o Hopland Field Station, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449. If you prefer to FAX material, our FAX number is (707) 744-1040. The deadline for submitting material is the 15th of each month.

August 2-6, 1993: Bird Strike Committee—USA, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Seattle, Washington. Will include two days of conference papers and a one-day field trip. Contact: James E. Forbes, USDA/APHIS/ADC, P.O. Box 97, Albany, NY 12201, (518) 472-6492.

September 19-25, 1993: First International Wildlife Management Congress, Hotel Cariari, San Jose, Costa Rica Includes session *Conflicts Between Man, Agriculture, and Wildlife*. Send abstracts before 31 March 1993 to: Dr. Paul R. Krausman, Sch. of Renewable Nat. Resources, Univ. of Arizona, 325 Biological Sciences East, Tucson, AZ 85721. For further information, contact IWMC Secretariat Director, The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, phone (301) 897-9770.

October 1993: 6th Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference, Asheville, NC. For further information, contact: Peter R. Bromley, Ext. Wildlife Specialist, NC State University, (919) 515-7587.

NADCA Annual Meeting to Be Held in Kansas City

The 1993 Annual Meeting of NADCA will be held at Kansas City, Missouri, in conjunction with the 11th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop, April 26-29, 1993.

The NADCA Regional Directors need your help. This is your meeting and we want it to cover issues you think are important. Please provide your input to your Regional Director as soon as possible.

The Directors are looking for suggestions, ideas, topics or any comments you wish to make.

The name and address of your Regional Director is found in the 1992 membership directory or you may send your comments to Mr. Michael D. Hoy, NADCA Secretary, 1611 Weidner Street, Stuttgart, AR 72160.

Renew Your NADCA Membership

The label on the cover of *The Probe* always includes the date when your NADCA membership expires. We would appreciate timely renewals. You will save NADCA some postage expenses in sending your renewal notice and some effort on the part of the Treasurer in preparing the cards. Keep in mind that the USPS delivery may take several weeks, depending on your distance from the mailing point in California. This delay may result in your missing an issue if you fall too far behind in your renewal. Please renew at least one full month before the date on your label.

Wes Jones, Treasurer

Animal Damage Control in the News

Colorado Court Dismisses Wolf Lawsuit

A Colorado federal district court recently granted a Motion to Dismiss in a lawsuit filed to force the introduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park. According to a report in the Colorado Wool Growers Association newsletter, a Washington, DC-based environmental group, Defenders of Wildlife (DOW), had sued Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Interior, to obtain a court order compelling Secretary Lujan to introduce wolves into Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. The DOW argued that a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) report completed in 1978 regarding wolf "recovery" in the tri-state area had the force of law and had to be implemented.

The Mountain States Legal Foundation (MSLF) filed the Motion to Dismiss, arguing that the FWS document was not an "action document" and could not be implemented without compliance with several federal statutes. Representing livestock groups and the American Farm Bureau Federation, the MSLF also claimed that Congress had not funded the wolf introduction program for the current fiscal year.

Trapping Course Becomes Mandatory in British Columbia

As of June 17 trappers in British Columbia will be required to attend an advanced trapping course aimed at the promotion of humane trapping practices. According to the August issue of *Communiqué*, the newsletter of the Fur Institute of Canada, the course, which has been available on an optional basis for three years, will now be mandatory.

Effective July 1, 1992, the ruling requires licensed trappers who have not had professional instruction since 1983 must upgrade their skills by enrolling in the advanced course. Trappers licensed in other provinces must also take the course if they wish to trap in British Columbia. Referring to the progress made in developing more humane traps, John Cashore, BC's Environment Minister, hopes that "...making the course mandatory will lead to greater awareness."

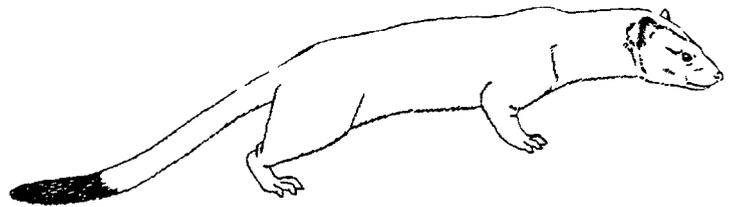
The British Columbia Trappers Association supports the ruling. "We endorse this move 100 percent," stated Barb Brown, Association president. Brown stated that Association's Education Committee has had the measure under consideration for several years. "...with the EC regulation and the need to protect our European markets, mandatory courses are a logical step. In addition, we hope to fully participate in the eventual harmonization of all trapping courses across the country."

The advanced course takes two days.

Pred-X Tags Prove Less than Successful for Nevada Sheep Producer

A Nevada sheep producer found that Pred-X eartags failed to protect his lambs from coyotes and mountain lions in a test conducted in June. A new predator repellent product produced by Predex Corporation of Duluth, Minnesota, the eartags have been promoted as an effective means of protecting sheep from coyote predation.

After discussion with Ely District ADC Supervisor Mel Anderson, the rancher decided to give the tags an honest test and declined the aerial hunting normally conducted on the test area before sheep are brought in. The 1,430 lamb test flock was docked on June 4 and at that time, each lamb received an eartag. At first it appeared that the tags might be working—for eight days there were no lamb losses. But on the ninth day, lamb losses began again and by August 17, coyotes had killed 37 lambs, in addition to the 20 killed before the ear tags were applied. The Pred-X ear tags cost the rancher \$1,464.60. Although the field trail may not be conclusive, the Pred-X tags are apparently ineffective in providing any significant degree of protection from predation.



Short-tailed weasel, *Mustela erminea*

NADCA Assists in Animal Use Survey

Jim Armstrong and Melissa Hutchins would like to thank NADCA members for their excellent support in the development of *People and Animals*, the survey to measure public attitudes about animal use. Of the NADCA members contacted, ninety-three percent responded. We appreciate this show of commitment to the issues facing our profession.

The editors of *The Probe* thank contributors to this issue: Franklin W. Anderson, Mike Worthen, James E. Forbes, and Wes Jones. Send your contributions to *The Probe*, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

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Gray Wolf Management...

The symposium closed with a panel discussion on the question: "Is managing wildlife for sustainable yields a better form of conservation than strict preservation?" Chaired by L.D. Mech, the panel of 7 professionals, each representing a different viewpoint, debated whether killing wolves to protect livestock and hunting interests is a socially, economically, and ecologically acceptable practice.

D. Kellyhouse, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, stated that managing for abundance of big game and minimizing losses and injuries to livestock due to wolves will draw the support of the local public. If threats by wolves are not dealt with by the government, the public will deal with them in their own manner.

W. Pacelle, Fund for Animals, received the most arguments against his claim that sport hunting and trapping should not be allowed as it is a violation of the animal rights ethic. V. Geist, University of Calgary,

believed the current system of public use and ownership of wildlife has succeeded. He warned against the alternative system of private ownership, in which the force of the elite would determine the fate of North America's wildlife populations. The panel discussion was primarily for the audience; it was at this time that they were able to voice their questions and comments regarding wildlife conservation and/or preservation in regards to wolf management.

The audience was very pro-wolf, and seemed sincerely interested in maintaining and reestablishing wolf populations while resolving livestock predation issues. Gray wolves are expanding their range in the northern United States, red wolves are being reintroduced in the southeastern states, and the Mexican wolf will soon be howling in the southwestern states. Wildlife damage management professionals should stay abreast of these issues.

Proceedings of this symposium will be available. Contact: L.N. Carbyn, Canadian Wildlife Service, Twin Atria Building, 4999-98 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3, Canada.

Recent Publications of Interest

The Clemson Beaver Pond Leveler (AFW Leaflet 1, Dec., 1991, 4pp.) by Gene W. Wood, Larry A. Woodward, and Greg Yarrow. For more information contact the authors at: Department of Aquaculture, Fisheries and Wildlife, G08 Lehotsky Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634 (803-656-3117).

Resistance of Woody Ornamental Plants to Deer Damage (147HGG-FS800.00, 3pp., \$1.00) by M. J. Fargione, P.D. Curtis, and M.E. Richmond. Order from: Resource Center, Cornell University, 7 Business and Technology Park, Ithaca, NY 14850. (Make checks payable to Cornell University.)

Pesticides and Wildlife: A Guide to Reducing Impacts on Animals and Their Habitats (Pub. No. 420-004, 44pp., \$3.00) by Elizabeth R. Stinson and Peter T. Bromley. Order from: Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, Extension Distribution Center, 112 Landsdowne Street, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0512.

Pesticides and Wildlife Series (Corn- AG-463-2, Small Grains- AG-463-6, Fruit Trees- AG-463-7, Christmas Trees- AG-463-8) by William E. Palmer, Peter T. Bromley, and others. Order from: North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695.

Bats: Information for Kentucky Homeowners (FOR-48, 6pp.) by Thomas Barnes. Order from: Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, 131 Shovell Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0064.

Animal Damage Control Program Highlights, 1991. Misl. Pub. No. 1501. 9pp. Free from: Deputy Administrator, ADC/USDA/APHIS, P.O. Box 96464, Washington, DC 20090-6464.

Conibear Traps for Woodchucks

by Karl Curtis, Jamesville, NY

The Winter 1992 issue of *Wildlife Damage News* included information about trapping woodchucks. P. Curtis recommended the 220 Conibear trap in the burrow entrance as a means of controlling woodchucks. Much better yet is the 160 Conibear trap. It is smaller, thus fitting the burrow entrance better, and is much easier to set. By placing the trap as far into the burrow as possible, and then laying some sticks across the top of the burrow, the set is less likely to take nontarget animals. Being smaller, the 160 Conibear closes tighter, and causes a quicker death. Use the 160 trap a few times, and you will never set a 220 Conibear to catch woodchucks again.

The article above was sent in by James E. Forbes and is a reprint from the *Wildlife Damage News* published by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Letters: Wolves, Coyotes, Etc.

Dear Editors:

I recently attended a meeting sponsored by Mission Wolf of Silver Cliff, Colorado. They travel around the United States with wolves trying to gain support for Wolf Reintroduction into wilderness areas and specifically the San Juan Mountains Weminuche Wilderness Area. Currently they have been successful in getting Representative Skaggs (D-Colorado) to introduce a bill for \$50,000 for a study. In the same breath, the same people are blasting—yes blasting—ADC. I quote: "Unfortunately, the budget deficit, casting a pall on wildlife programs (but not, apparently, on government programs to kill wildlife, as evidenced by the huge amounts of money going to the notorious Animal Damage Control) may kill even our very modest request for funding."

This organization has also contacted all county commissioners in Colorado for support, but have not received very good reception except from Boulder County. Boulder County is the lair of most animal rightists and environmentalists in the Southwest.

One major concern most people in the Southwest have with re-introduction (if accomplished) is predation on livestock and the reduction of the elk and deer herds. Big game hunting and tourism is one of the biggest revenues of the State of Colorado.

Another concern is the lack of a rabies vaccine approved for wolves or wolf-hybrids. The wolves traveling around the country, therefore, are not vaccinated with an approved vaccine, yet the Mission Wolf

people encourage children to let the wolves lick them, "as it is the wolves' way of saying HELLO". This, I believe, is a serious health concern and it is being investigated by the local and state health officials and an edict is to be issued shortly.

Specifically, most livestock producers are against re-introduction of wolves in the Southwest and feel the cost of re-introduction and control is not feasible—since the wolf is not an endangered species. Estimates of re-introduction of wolves in Yellowstone was \$300,000, initially, and then \$6,300 annually for control of wolves outside of their boundaries. These figures do not include payments for loss of livestock.

Further, guard dogs have proven effective against coyotes under certain controlled conditions. But experience reflects that a guard dog would be mincemeat against a wolf pack. These are problems that must be considered with re-introduction.

Input on this subject is urgently required at the federal level. Your Congressmen and Senators should be advised of your opinions and Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan, 18th & C Street, Washington, DC 20240, should be contacted.

This is a problem that needs to be reviewed by all ADC personnel as they can provide some of the most pertinent and accurate information for our wildlife and political representatives.

Respectfully,
F.W. Anderson
Director, Region 2

Education About Wildlife Damage Control Important

Editors' Note: This letter is reproduced, in part, to remind all of us that we have a continuing job to do in education. Not only the public, but professionals in the natural resource field, need to be informed of the facts related to wildlife damage and control.

Dear Rancher:

Several recent sightings of coyotes within Point Reyes National Seashore (California) have prompted us to take this opportunity to explain our position regarding animal management. Coyotes are an important component of the coastal California ecosystem. Coyote numbers have been greatly reduced during the last century due to hunting and trapping. As their numbers increase, we are highly encouraged that the presence of coyotes in the Seashore will help re-establish a natural system. As predators, coyotes may help control the two species of non-native deer that were introduced to the area prior to the Seashore's creation.

You should also know that the National Park Service Management Policies direct the park to "mini-

mize human impacts on natural animal population dynamics." The policy also states that "native animal populations will be protected against harvest, removal, destruction, harassment or harm through human action."

We can understand your concern over the potential loss of livestock. However, we are unaware of any confirmed loss of livestock from coyote depredation within the Seashore. In fact, throughout the West, the instances of coyote-killed livestock is [sic] quite rare. In nearly all cases, instances of coyote depredation have turned out to be coyotes feeding on carcasses of already dead cattle..."

With your help and understanding, ranching and the native wildlife can co-exist.

Sincerely,
John L. Sansing, Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore

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NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Wes Jones, Treasurer, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871

Name: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - ____ Home

Address: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - ____ Office

Additional Address Info: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Dues: \$ _____ Donation: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____ Date: _____

Membership Class: Student \$7.50 Active \$15.00 Sponsor \$30.00 Patron \$100

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| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA - Extension Service | <input type="checkbox"/> ADC Equipment/Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal - not APHIS or Extension | <input type="checkbox"/> State Agency |
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