The Wolf Print

Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Centre 1745 Short Rd Golden B.C 1-877-377-9653 Winter 2010-2011 Volume 7 Issue 4

Alpha's Message

2010 has been another great year! We have accomplished one of our three promises: we got Moab and Keehta on display. Thanks to Casey, Chad, Brad, Mike and Max's hard work!

As for the government issues, we are back to baby steps since there has been a Cabinet shuffle in our Provincial Government, and our Federal Environment Minister has stepped down. But, that won't stop us! We will keep howling our message of awareness and fighting for improved environmental laws.

This is the time of year that I take a special moment to thank everyone; thanks to our sponsors and visitors for all your support, and thanks also to all the staff for your hard work. I want to make sure that you all know you are the reason we stay afloat. We need supporters like you. We know that it has been a tough few years with economic hard times and we have felt it as well; sponsors down, but visitation still strong and that keeps us kicking. Thanks for all your support!

We had a wet but great summer, thanks to Sadie, Dave, Max, Alannah, Victoria and Tania. You all deliver our message so well in your own special way and that's what makes our centre special; our staff and their passion. Thanks guys, from Casey and I and all the critters.

On a sadder note, I do need to announce that our dear Stevie, our special kitty, passed away. He is missed dearly. I keep looking over my shoulder thinking he is following me like he did all the time. Stevie, may you have fun in kitty heaven.

Happy Holidays,

Shelley Black, Alpha Female

Wolf Centre Updates:

Fundraiser Success!

Recently, we were in Burnaby to present about wolf conservation at a fundraiser organized in our benefit. A huge thanks goes out to Laurie Hammond who organized the evening and made the night such a success! The event was fun, awareness-raising, and generated a great donation that will help support everything we do here at the Wolf Centre. Thank you Laurie, from the Northern Lights Wolf Pack and staff.

Great Artwork!

Thanks to Gracie L. for her submission! We're always so impressed at how talented our supporters are!

If you have some wolf artwork or poetry you'd like to share with us, mail or email it to us (addresses below). Who knows, you might see it in our next issue!

Issues in Your Backyard: 2010 in Review

Are you aware of what is happening in your backyard? A province-by-province summary of some recent battles and victories in Western Canada. For more information, see our website and the Canadian Wolf Coalition (www.canadianwolfcoalition.com).

British Columbia

- We have collected over 4300 signed letters at the Wolf Centre asking our BC government to stop the wolf culls and sterilization programs in place in the name of Mountain Caribou recovery. 23 other environmental groups are working with us on this campaign. These actions are still taking place while other actions, like introducing more caribou to dwindling herds, is put on hold again. Keep writing letters!
- BC has no legislation to protect wildlife at risk. Sign a petition (www.protectbiodiversity.ca/action) to urge our political leaders to create an endangered species law.
- Early in 2010, BC announced a ban on mining and oil extraction in the ecologically rich Flathead Valley. Let's make sure BC sticks to its promises! Push for more protection by urging our government to name the Flathead River Valley Canada's next National Park! (www.wildsight.ca/act/flathead)
- The BC government is expected to make a decision on the Jumbo Valley and its proposed development to a mega-resort in the coming weeks. Help keep Jumbo Wild! Go to www.keepitwild.ca.

Alberta

- Victory on Bill 29! After pressure from citizens and environmental groups, AB Parks & Recreation Minister Cindy Ady recently withdrew this legislation that would severely reduce the protection of wildlife and their habitats in Alberta Parks. Instead they will go through a public consultation process in order to introduce new legislation next year. Make sure they hear your voice during the consultation period!
- Two bounties have been announced in the High Prairie region and annual culls continue to take place, in the name of livestock and mountain caribou. We are working on getting needed information to livestock ranchers on how to prevent livestock losses from wolves and other wildlife, as well as to let them know that bounties are not the answer. Help spread the word to anyone you may know who supports these programs.
- Strychnine – a highly toxic, cruel poison – continues to be used legally in Alberta despite its impacts on non-target species and risk to human health. Sign our petition online (www.northernlightswildlife.com) asking the Provincial government to ban the use of strychnine in Alberta.

Saskatchewan

- We applaud the Saskatchewan government for ceasing the coyote bounty! Coyotes, like wolves, are an important part of our ecosystem. It is far more beneficial to learn how to live with coyotes than to indiscriminately kill as many as possible, which can in fact worsen the problem. Write to the government thanking them for calling an end to this bounty!
- Compound 1080 is a highly toxic, cruel poison. It causes target species to suffer greatly before dying and also kills numerous non-target species who feed on tainted carcasses, even months after that animal has died. Saskatchewan's federal permit for Compound 1080 expires at the end of 2010. Sign our petition (www.northernlightswildlife.com) urging Premiere Brad Wall to NOT renew the permit and instead ban the substance.

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More Politics…

Big Leadership Changes

The past few months have been turbulent with regards to our political leaders. First, BC Premier Gordon Campbell announces a cabinet shuffle, resulting in a change in BC's Minister of Environment (now Murray Coell). Then Premier Campbell announces he is stepping down. A replacement has yet to be found, and in the interim Gordon Campbell will continue to act as Premier. Finally, Federal Minister of Environment Jim Prentice announces his resignation, and was immediately replaced by John Baird. We have yet to see whether any of the new ministers will do a better job than their predecessors, but what we do know is we need to stay active and ensure all the new ministers are 'caught up' in the issues we have been working on. So, keep writing those letters! For updated contact information on these and our other political leaders, see the conservation section of our website.

Important Dates!

Feb 2 – World Wetlands Day

Apr 22 – Earth Day

Apr 23 – AWA Climb for Wilderness (Calgary)

Jun 19 – NLW Annual Open House

Happy holidays to all! As always, Northern Lights Wildlife Centre is open every day of the year (yes, even Christmas!), so come by and visit us any day!

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 many schools in BC and Alberta, where she spreads the message of wolf ecology and wildlife conservation to our youth.

We accept meat donations too!

Adopt a Wolf $ 75

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

New
$1000 = Wolf Guardian
Receive a walk with a wolf in thanks

Nellie McClung School Fun Fact:

Did you know that wolves howl to communicate?

The Wolves

-Neil Owen Tupling, Windsor, Ont.

The wolf, it watches. The wolf, it waits.
The wolf decides to seize the day.

It calls to others who walk the land,
Seeking a place in a common band.

The hunt is on; the prey will fall.
The newest member, the pack will call.

It joins the hunt and makes the kill.
The inaugural feast is quite a thrill.

The meal is finished before too long
And at the end they join in song.

The neighboring packs observe this night
In hopes that they too will catch prey in flight.

To share the spoils across the lands,
The wolves team up in common bands.

It's All About YOU!

Never forget the power of one voice. Your voice can protect mountains and rivers, wolves and willows, salmon and grizzlies. As 2010 comes to an end we have many little victories to celebrate, as well as a lot of work ahead of us in 2011. The little things you do in your everyday life can help support either environmental sustainability or environmental degradation. We can speak with our voices, our pens, our purchasing decisions, our votes. Choose clean air, water and wilderness in everything you do. And thank you for all that you have done so far!

Best Wishes for a Safe, Fun and Cozy-warm HOWLiday season!

From the whole pack here at Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Centre.

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