

Wolf Awareness Inc. (WAI) is a non-profit charitable foundation dedicated to the conservation of wolves through research and education. Scientifically accurate information forms the basis of our education programs.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

As a member of WAI, you will help us to develop a stronger voice for wolf conservation. With your help, we can generate support for action that assists in the conservation of wolves and wilderness habitat.

To become a member, make a donation, or to enrol in the “Follow My Paw Prints Sponsorship Program,” fill out this form and mail it to the address below. Upon request, we will issue a tax-creditable receipt. We accept cash, cheque [payable to Wolf Awareness Inc], money order, and email bank transfers.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I/We would like to ☐ become a WAI member for \$20*

WAI members have the chance to become project sponsors.

*Membership is not tax-creditable.

OR

I/We would like to ☐ make a general donation

I/We would also like to:

☐ sponsor the Chilcotin Wolf Feeding Ecology Project

Single/family ☐ \$40/yr School/Group ☐ \$50/yr

Corporate ☐ \$100/yr ☐ Tax receipt required

Participants will receive

A membership in Wolf Awareness Inc., including a subscription to the quarterly email newsletter *Howlings*.

Sponsors will receive a sponsorship certificate and quarterly updates on the wolf project, as well as *Howlings*.

Education and Outreach

Wolf Awareness Inc. provides educational and interpretive programs for people of all ages. Through our programs, we strive to foster an awareness and appreciation of wolf ecology and the conservation of wilderness habitat. Contact us to schedule a program or to learn more about what we can provide.

Send to:
Wolf Awareness Inc.
21-514 Anderson Road
Golden, BC, Canada V0A 1H1
email: wolfawareness@gmail.com
phone: 250-272-HOWL (4695)



www.WolfAwarenessInc.org

**SPONSOR A WOLF PROJECT TO SUPPORT
RESEARCH, CONSERVATION, AND EDUCATION**
Follow My Paw Prints®

Our Follow My Paw Prints® Sponsorship Program provides people with a unique opportunity to get to know wild wolves while also helping to support scientific research efforts. Sponsorship is open to members of Wolf Awareness Inc. In addition to quarterly Howlings e-newsletters, sponsors will receive quarterly updates about the research project and learn alongside us about the individual wolves, wolf packs, and wolf societies we are researching.



Our current project is the first study of wolves in the remote Brittany Triangle (largely protected) and Nemiah Valley, where there exists a small human population and some ranching. The Brittany Triangle is also home to wild horses. Researchers are investigating the dietary habits of wolves in the adjacent areas using non-invasive methods. This research will help to fill an important knowledge gap about predator-prey interactions among wolves, wild horses, and domestic livestock. Accurate information will aid our efforts to foster coexistence among wolves and people as we combine science with community-level outreach goals that will allow for coexistence between domestic cattle, horses, and wolves in the available landscape without detrimental effects to any species.

**“FOR THE STRENGTH OF THE PACK IS THE WOLF,
AND THE STRENGTH OF THE WOLF IS THE PACK.”**

-Rudyard Kipling



All images generously provided by Peter A. Dettling.

**WOLVES:
FAST
FACTS**

**“ONE OF NATURE’S MOST INTERESTING
AND EXQUISITE CREATIONS, A VIBRANT
EXTENDED FAMILY WITH EXCEPTIONALLY
CLOSE, SOPHISTICATED EMOTIONAL TIES
AND A FORM OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION
AT LEAST AS ADVANCED AS ANY FOUND
ON THE PLANET.”**

-Dr. Gordon Haber studied wolves for 43 years.

Wolves Need Your Help Now

The preservation of wilderness is vital to the successful conservation of wolves. Wolves occupy large territories, live in low densities, and are sensitive to human disturbance.

The current rate of habitat loss and human activity are compromising the ability of wolf populations to persist in many areas of Canada.

Become informed.

Become involved.

www.WolfAwarenessInc.org



WOLF AWARENESS INC.

BASIC BIOLOGY OF THE GREY WOLF

Scientific Name: *Canis lupus*
Weight: 30-50 kilograms. Females usually smaller than males.
Colour: Ranges from black to grey to white to brown, with any mixture of these. BC coastal wolves appear more ochre.
Lifespan: Generally 6 to 8 years, but can exceed 10 years.

Lifestyle: Social animals that live in extended family groups, often called packs. Wolf family units can range in size from 2 to 30 wolves, but are usually made up of 4 to 8 individuals. Wolves are often on the move and will travel several kilometres each day.

Habitat requirements: Wolf territories will range from 50 sq. kilometres to 3,000 sq. kms (following migratory caribou herds). Territories must be large enough for the family to secure enough food for itself year-round.

Food preferences: Wolves are obligate carnivores. They are at the top of the food chain as apex predators and will scavenge as well as hunt large ungulates, such as deer, elk, moose, and caribou. They will also subsist on smaller mammals, such as beaver and snowshoe hare.



FAMILY LIFE

Wolves live in family groups, or packs, that are usually made up of a single breeding pair and their offspring, or pups. Wolf parents lead their pups through important life lessons for two or more years about how to survive in the wild. Parents also pass on skills and traditions unique to the habitat they live in. Wolf families communicate very effectively with each other, which helps them to cooperate as a team when hunting large prey. Wolves are also very playful with each other and show affection to family members. Wolf families will defend their territories from other wolves who compete for food. Effective communication helps wolves to avoid encounters with other wolf packs, as well as to reduce family strife.

COMMUNICATION

Body language: Very important at close range; allows for silent and instant communication.

Vocalizations: Howls travel several kilometres, allowing for distance communication. Wolves howl for many different reasons; also growl, gruff, grunt, etc.

Scenting: Marking territories and resources with urine, scat, and scent glands enables wolves to communicate with each other over time and space.



Wolves of coastal BC have evolved separately from mainland wolves, forming a genetically and ecologically unique group that largely feeds on salmon and other marine life. Coastal wolves will also swim several kilometres to reach a new island within their territory in search of food.

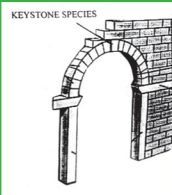
Wolves in BC are in a precarious situation. Not having the benefit of hibernation like bears, they are exposed to human disturbance throughout the year. Further, as obligate carnivores, their preferred habitats are valley bottoms, where most ungulates reside. Their preference also converges with the preferred valley bottom habitats of people, increasing the likelihood of conflict. From 1900 to 1980, wolves in BC were extirpated in vast portions of the province on three occasions. They recovered each time, but always returned to diminished and degraded habitats in reduced numbers.
—Dr. Paul Paquet

ECOLOGICAL ROLE

A wolf pack, or family unit, is a keystone species in an ecosystem, which means it has many influences upon numerous other species and natural processes in that ecosystem. Decades of scientific research has shown that wolves and other large carnivores contribute to maintaining balance and biodiversity in nature. Wolves have been documented to exert influences within ecosystem in more ways than by directly controlling ungulate populations or disease levels, although wolves have filled this niche across their former Holarctic range.

What is a keystone species?

As in an arch, removing an architectural keystone will cause the entire structure to collapse. Similarly, removing or exploiting wolves can cause an ecosystem to collapse.



KEYSTONE SPECIES IN THE WEB OF LIFE

Other ecological services wolves provide to their natural community include:

- Influencing ungulate behaviour, thus affecting vegetation growth, carbon sequestration, stream morphology, and species richness in mammal, insect, fish, bird, and amphibian communities.

- Providing scavenging opportunities for a variety of other species evenly throughout each year, which helps support biodiversity by providing food resources.
- Helping to maintain natural meso-predator populations and behaviours, e.g., coyotes (*Canis latrans*).



CURRENT THREATS

Large carnivores require vast territories and habitat in order to secure enough food for survival and safe living spaces, such as for denning and mating behaviours. This often brings them into contact, and sometimes conflict, with people, who may view wolves as competition for space and resources. As our population continues to expand around and within what have become islands of wilderness,” human tolerance and a willingness to coexist with large carnivores is becoming ever more important on a global scale.

The main threats to the survival of wolves include loss of habitat due to destruction, development, and encroachment by humans. Wildlife management of wolves in BC includes liberal hunting and trapping seasons, as well as government “control” programs where wolves are killed in the name of Mountain Caribou recovery or where conflicts arise with livestock on public lands. In addition, killing wolves is authorised under “perceived” threat to self or property.

Unfortunately, habitat loss and fragmentation, combined with direct human persecution of wolves, puts this iconic animal in a position where conservation efforts and education about the species are critical to help ensure that wolves can continue to function as nature intended, particularly in British Columbia, one of the last places on the planet that can still hope to achieve maintaining viable wolf populations.

Will you help to establish a bright future for wild wolves and healthy ecosystems in BC?

WOLF AWARENESS INC.



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