

News and Notes



DELISTING OF MINNESOTA WOLVES is still being considered by the federal government. After the state legislature failed to pass a wolf management plan recommended by a stakeholders' roundtable last year, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources wildlife specialists devised a plan that the Legislature will consider in 2000. If passed and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Service will likely begin the delisting process.

THE DISPERSING WOLF from Camp Ripley that traveled across Wisconsin and back (Fall and Winter 1999 *International Wolf*) is now "off the air." Biologists Sam Merrill and Dave Mech reported that her last signal was heard on November 14, 1999. At this writing, the biologists have heard a weak secondary signal by ground tracking and are trying to find the collar.

THE MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY PROJECT suffered a severe setback when recovery coordinator Dave Parsons retired. Parsons was told that he could continue working for the project under a U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service program for retirees, but the Service then decided against it. In addition, another setback occurred when the adult female member of the Campbell Blue pack that had been expected to produce pups in 2000 was killed by a mountain lion. The other four packs released into the wild continue to do well.

ISLE ROYALE WOLVES are affected by the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), a major weather force in the North Atlantic Ocean, according to an article in the prestigious journal *Nature*. Authors Eric Post, Rolf O. Peterson, Nils Chr. Stenseth and Brian McLaren found that the NAO influences Isle Royale snowfall that also affects moose vulnerability, wolf predation and the growth of balsam fir.

YELLOWSTONE WOLF 9, the famous female progenitor of so many of the park's wolves, has either been ousted from her pack or left on her own. Her daughters have been



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producing pups for the last few years, and one of them now appears to be assuming the top breeding role. Wolf 9 remains in the area, and could even become a pack helper as happened with "Mom," an Ellesmere wolf, when her daughter "Whitey" began breeding.

THE NORTH AMERICAN INTER-AGENCY WOLF CONFERENCE is scheduled for April 11-13, 2000 at Chico Hot Springs, Montana. Contact Suzanne Laverty, PMB 217, 3355 N. Five Mile Rd., Boise, ID, USA 83713; e mail: Slaverty@defenders.org or phone(208) 672-1732.

WOLVES IN INDIA may soon be studied using state-of-the-art technology. In December, Sam Merrill, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, visited the Wildlife Research Institute in Dehra Dun, India, to introduce both satellite tracking collars and Global Positioning System collars to Indian researchers. (For information on GPS collars, see the Spring 1999 *International Wolf*.)

WOLVES OF THE WORLD will be the subject of a new International Wolf Center traveling exhibit to be produced during the next few years. Demonstrating the great variation in wolf size and color around the northern hemisphere, the exhibit will be produced in modular form so that schools, visitors centers, museums, and other venues can display all or part of it. Center board member Nancy Gibson heads the project.

WOLF CONSERVATION IN EUROPE got a big boost in December. A plan for the conservation of five large carnivores, including the wolf, in Europe was approved by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention administered by the Council of Europe. The Council is comprised of all European countries, including Russia and the European Union. The Committee also approved establishment of an ad hoc group of experts on large carnivores to administer the plan and monitor it at national levels and to advise on the technicalities of

conservation of large carnivores in Europe. The first meeting of the large carnivore group is in Norway in June.

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE is teaming up with carnivore experts and various government and non-profit organizations to present Carnivores 2000, a conference on predator biology and conservation in the 21st century, November 12-15, 2000 in Denver, Colorado. For more information or to register, visit the website at www.defenders.org or call (202)789-2844.

Check www.wolf.org for further wolf information.



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