

News and Notes

“WOLVES KILL GUARD DOGS” could be the title of a report from the Tom Miner basin in Montana. There, wolves have killed four livestock guard dogs this year and last. The dogs may be attracting the wolves to the area, so the rancher has been keeping the guard dogs inside when the wolves come around.

TWENTY-FOUR ARCTIC WOLVES entertained 13 members of an International Wolf Center expedition to Canada's Northwest Territories in August. The group watched a pack of nine adults and 15 pups at a rendezvous site some 200 miles northeast of Yellowknife daily for an entire week. Caribou, musk oxen, and arctic hares, the main prey of the wolves, were also seen.

WOLF RECLASSIFICATION in much of the 48 contiguous United States has been formally proposed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Wolves in several states, including Wisconsin, Michigan, North Dakota, and South Dakota, would be reclassified from “endangered” to “threatened.” Minnesota's wolves have been classified as threatened since 1978 (see <http://midwest.fws.gov/wolf> for the complete proposal; information can also be found on the Center's Web site, at www.wolf.org; go to the “News and Events” link).

WOLF MANAGEMENT in Minnesota is the subject of a lawsuit filed by several wolf advocacy organizations. The groups claim that the wolf management plan passed by the 2000 Minnesota Legislature was improperly attached to a funding bill



Neil Hurt

(Left to right): Tristan Rebane, Dave Mech, Dean Cluff, and Jerry Sanders were part of an International Wolf Center expedition to Canada's Northwest Territories in August, where they observed 24 arctic wolves and other wildlife.

in violation of the state constitution. Decisions on two previous suits based on the same claim resulted in decisions that differed from each other.

WOLF PACK LEADERSHIP was the subject of an article by L. David Mech in the April-June 2000 issue of *The Canadian Field Naturalist*. Mech reported that during summer when pups are present in a wolf pack, the breeding male tends to initiate activities associated with foraging and travel, and the breeding female with pup care and protection.

WOLF DELISTING in Minnesota may have received a boost in June when the Minnesota Conservation Federation Board unanimously petitioned the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to immediately begin the process of removing the wolf in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan from the Endangered Species List. The wolves there met the government's recovery goals in 1999 (at least 1,250 in Minnesota and 100

in Wisconsin and Michigan combined for five consecutive years) and now number more than double the goal.

THREE CURIOUS WOLVES from Montana's Spotted Bear pack watched fire trucks traveling up and down Bunker Creek Road in the midst of one of the West's worst forest fire seasons. Two other wolves were seen watching firefighters battling the 18,000-acre Monture Creek fire, according to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

TWO WOLF BOOKS are currently in the news. L. David Mech's *The Wolf: the Ecology and Behavior of An Endangered Species* (published by University of Minnesota Press), has now been in print for 30 years, with more than 100,000 in circulation. Mech's *The Arctic Wolf: Ten Years with the Pack* (Voyageur Press) was recently published in Hungarian. ■