

# THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE OF LIVING WITH WOLVES

This special issue explores the persistent, global challenge of living with wolves. It also examines the significance of a topic that threatens wolf restoration around the world: wolf depredations on livestock and the consequent poisoning and extirpation of wolves. This issue of *International Wolf* covers nearly every aspect concerning the topic. Our contributors have done an outstanding job exploring controversial issues regarding wolf depredations around the world: current methods of controlling wolves; alternative methods studied for minimizing wolf depredations; how a wolf kill is determined; the use of public lands; the need for wild, uninhabited places; and the role that zoning plays in wolf management.

We attempted to represent all viewpoints. Biologists in Europe, Asia, and the United States show what is happening in the field by offering specific examples of wolf-livestock interactions. The statistics presented by scientists are real, but we must bear in mind that their data focuses on individual, “problem” wolves and is not representative of the larger wolf population in each country. We also have a personal encounter, written by Montana sheep rancher John Baden, and a passionate debate between Tom Compton and George Wuerthner regarding why subsidizing grazing on public lands may or may not be appropriate.

*International Wolf* looks a little different. Although the order has changed for this issue (the Wolves of the World section is up-front and our director’s comments are in the back), we are still *International Wolf*, full of intelligent and thought-provoking articles, stunning photographs and illustrations. As you have told us countless times, you enjoy reading about personal encounters with wolves and the Wolves of the World section. You will not be disappointed.

Nonetheless, huge questions surround the topic of wolf depredation. As the earth’s population grows, will we leave room for wolves? If so, where? Although India, for example, will soon surpass China as the world’s most populated nation, what does it mean

that America or Europe, with far smaller human populations, account for far more pollution, wasteful habits, and energy use? Will wolves and other wildlife continue to take the backseat to globalization and other human actions?

While such questions are daunting, one approach is to start with individuals. What can you do for wolves? Work to make small improvements in your local surroundings and promote sustainable living, but always bear in mind that we—nature and humans—are interdependent. This is an eco-systemic reality! If the extirpation of wolves continues unchecked, we will harm both nature and ourselves, and affect future generations. This idea of interdependency is so basic and obvious that it cannot be dismissed.

Be kind to the earth and the wolf. Please share and recycle this magazine. ■

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