



## Tracking the Pack

### Ten Years and Making Tracks

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As the International Wolf Center celebrates the 10th anniversary of its flagship facility in Ely, it's a great time to review the changes that have occurred in wolf pack dynamics.

The history of the ambassador wolves at the Center dates back to 1989, when the Center operated a summer-only exhibit in the U.S. Forest Service's Voyageur Visitor Center. The display included four wolves born in 1989: Raissa, Bausha, Ballazar and Jedadiah. These four served the early educational needs of the Center and later moved on to other exhibits. Some visitors may remember the curator who slept in the tent next to the wolf pen; yes, that was me. During the summer of 1989, 1990 and 1991, my dog Maggie and I slept under the stars and even survived an infestation of forest tent caterpillars. This opportunity to camp out arose more out of necessity than desire. Nighttime security was an issue during the early years due to a lack of a secondary chain-link fence.

In 1993, Lucas, Lakota, MacKenzie and Kiana were born and served as the first year-round wolf exhibit at the Center, accompanied by the

grand opening of the new facility and the *Wolves and Humans* exhibit. For a few years visitors enjoyed watching the pack dynamics of these four littermates, but in 1998 Kiana passed away. Her death was not only a loss to the wolves but to the visitors' experiences and the dynamics of the pack. The three remaining littermates remained on display, but plans were made to add more wolves to the pack.

In 2000, a pair of arctic pups, Shadow and Malik, were born and joined the other ambassador wolves, creating the Center's largest pack. As time went on, these pups matured into strong, healthy adults while the 1993 litter of MacKenzie, Lucas and Lakota began to show signs of age. The natural aging process reduced their ability to keep up and compete with the younger wolves, so by the end of 2002, all of the 1993 litter had been moved to an adjacent, more protected enclosure to form the Retired Pack.

*Jedadiah, a male from the 1989 litter, sleeps in a pine bed at the summer-only exhibit at the U.S. Forest Service's Voyageur Visitor Center.*



The Center will be adding pups to the Exhibit Pack during summer 2004 to join Malik and Shadow. Who knows what the new pack dynamics will be? ■



*Born in 1993, MacKenzie and Lakota were young pups when the Center opened its new year-round educational facility.*

*Kiana was one of four littermates who served as the first year-round wolf exhibit at the Center.*



*Shadow and Malik were born on May 8, 2000, and joined the other ambassador wolves during that fall.*