



Welcome Letter

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MISSION

The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wild lands and the human role in their future.

Educational services and informational resources are available at:

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Why This Special Issue on Education?

Welcome to this special wolf-education issue of *International Wolf*. As you open our pages, we open our thoughts to you about educating people about wolves. With wolves recovering in key areas of the United States and Europe, wolf education becomes increasingly important.

Not only are wolves inhabiting more areas of the country, they are also living closer to humans. Conflicts with human interests including livestock and pets are increasing.



L. David Mech

Some hunters are becoming concerned that wolves might kill too many game animals, and a few people fear for the safety of their children. All these concerns need to be kept in perspective, and it is only through public education that this can be done.

As with other wildlife, public agencies will manage wolf populations, and members of the public will disagree on what the proper approach will be. At present, several states are holding public discussions about wolf management and developing wolf management plans. Some people want wolves eliminated, while others object to any wolves being killed.

What is an objective and informed approach? Public officials must figure this out and try to accommodate the disparate wishes of the public. The better informed people are, the better public agencies can manage wolves to the greatest benefit for wolves and humans.

Thus, this special issue of *International Wolf* will help foster this effort. Because the International Wolf Center's mission is to advance the survival of wolf populations through education, this special issue of our magazine helps accomplish that mission straight on.

This issue of *International Wolf* is being sent not only to members, as usual, but also to educators and wildlife professionals in the various states where wolves live now or will soon. We hope each reader will find it valuable and use it to help educate others. ■

L. David Mech
Founder and Board Member, International Wolf Center