





About the Wolf Conservation Center

The Wolf Conservation Center (WCC), founded in 1999 by H el ene Grimaud, is a private, not-for-profit environmental education organization located in South Salem, NY. The Wolf Conservation Center's mission is to change the perception people have of wolves by teaching people about wolves, their relationship to the environment and the human role in protecting their future.

The WCC accomplishes its mission through onsite and offsite education programs emphasizing wolf biology, the ecological benefits of wolves and other large predators, and the current status of wolf recovery in the United States.



H el ene Grimaud

In addition to her dedication in founding the Wolf Center, H el ene Grimaud has become a global advocate for wolves. In H el ene's words, wolves are not only essential "biodiversity engineers," preserving balances among animal and plant species, but also "endlessly fascinating creatures who have much to teach humans."

Wolf Conservation Center

Current number of:

employees: 11

volunteers: 15+

wolves: 38

enclosures: 10

acres: 28

dogs in the office: 3 (for now)





Education

Through our educational programs, thousands upon thousands of people are learning just how important wolves are. Our education and Ambassador wolf programs introduce the community to the importance of a healthy planet and healthy ecosystems.

Our programs aim to educate the public on the history and ecology of wolves. Each program offers an educational component followed by a trip to the enclosures where visitors can see the wolves and how they interact with one another.

2017

Highlights included:

- **581** education programs with a total attendance of **18,363**
- **1,031** emails received by Ambassador wolf Atka

Visitors have said... "What your organization does for the wolf population is nothing short of magnificent and inspiring. Your volunteers and staff there are a gift to these wolves, and to the community. A pleasure to meet. This was a truly unforgettable experience that made me realize I am meant for something more. I hope to be back soon."

Atka's Email Address

As online communication has become more popular, Atka decided that, at 15 years of age, he should build his digital identity. So, after a long, requisite chat about safety, etiquette, and responsibility, WCC staff gave Atka his very own email account! Schoolchildren and wolf supporters from around the world were encouraged to email Atka with questions, thoughts, and stories, as a way to broaden awareness and offer different learning channels.

Since the inception of Atka's email address, he has received emails from all seven continents - including Antarctica!

Some of Atka's favorite email correspondents include:

- A budding wolf biologist from Mexico who was inspired to study wolves after watching Atka on his webcam
- Elementary school students who wanted to learn more about Arctic wolf adaptations and feeding habits
- A wildlife photographer based in Antarctica, observing penguins and seals

Species Survival Plan

The WCC participates in the Species Survival Plan (SSP) for two critically endangered wolf species – the Mexican gray wolf and the red wolf. The Mexican gray wolf and the red wolf are among the rarest mammals in North America; both species were at one time extinct in the wild.

Saving Endangered Species

The Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) or “lobo” is the southernmost and most genetically distinct subspecies of gray wolf in North America. Once numbering in the thousands, the native species thrived in the United States throughout southwest; and also across the border in northern Mexico. By the mid-1980s, hunting, trapping, and poisoning caused the extinction of lobos in the wild, with only a handful saved and placed in SSP institutions.

The red wolf (*Canis rufus*) is a distinct species of wolf.

2017 Wolf Pups

On May 22, Mexican gray wolf F1226 (Belle) gave birth to a litter of three pups, adding to her already large family of five. Beyond being adorable, the pups represent the WCC’s active participation in an effort to save a species on the brink of extinction. It seemed only fitting that each pup receive a name in honor of their fiercest advocates so, while they have alphanumeric names, they are affectionately known as Nita, Jean, and Max.

Once common throughout the southeastern U.S., red wolf populations were decimated by the 1960s due to intensive predator control programs and loss of habitat. In 1980, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) captured the last wild red wolves and placed them in SSP institutions (just 14 animals); and declared the red wolf “extinct in the wild.”

What is a Species Survival Plan?

An SSP is a breeding and management program designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of captive-based animal populations. It’s a coordinated effort among zoos, organizations like the WCC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Wildlife Agencies, Mexico’s Fish & Wildlife Agencies (for the Mexican Wolf SSP), and managed under the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The primary purpose of these SSPs is to support the reestablishment of Mexican gray wolves and red wolves in the wild through captive breeding, public education, and research.

Since 2003, the WCC has played a critical role in preserving and protecting these imperiled species with through carefully managed breeding and reintroduction. To date, the WCC remains one of the three largest holding facilities for these rare species and four wolves from the WCC have been given the extraordinary opportunity to resume their rightful place on the wild landscape.





Advocacy

Our thousands of supporters are guided and directed to make their voices heard on numerous issues that continue to impact wolves in the wild. We believe every individual has the ability and responsibility to affect the world, as well as a powerful voice to safeguard the future of wolves for generations to come.

We are able to engage with a vast number of learners and supporters through our 15,000+ visitors and our robust social media effort. Consistent, professional effort has resulted in over three million people following our work on Facebook where they are alerted to ways they can help save wolves locally and across North America, communicate effectively with their elected representatives, and encourage personal responsibility for improved human stewardship of our World.

In 2017...

Wolf Conservation Center staff, volunteers, and supporters joined over 40,000 science enthusiasts in New York City on April 22nd for the inaugural "March for Science", a movement that celebrates scientific triumphs and progress while also advocating for science-based decisions and legislation. Initially created by a group of scientists in response to attempts to de-regulate industry and repeal environmental laws, the movement was quickly embraced by all those who appreciate the use of science in creating a better, more sustainable world.

As one of the first wildlife conservation organizations to publicly announce their support for, and planned participation in, the March for Science, the WCC was selected by the New York Times to explain the importance of supporting science-based policies as they pertain to endangered species. A Daily 360 video featured WCC Director of Education Regan Downey, who stated, "the WCC is marching for the Endangered Species Act and the importance of science-based decisions in protecting wildlife and wild places for future gen-

erations." More succinctly, a "march for science is a march for wolves."

Our nation and world are at a crossroads when it comes to ensuring the future sustainability of our air, water, wild lands and wildlife for future generations. Our nation's future relies on a well-educated public to be wise stewards of the very environment that sustains us – now and for future generations. The recent efforts to constrain and muzzle scientific research and shroud well-established scientific ideas in "uncertainty" signal a dark turning point that is sure to touch us all.

This past Earth Day, we marched on behalf of wolves, wildlife, wild lands and water. We marched for the Endangered Species Act. We marched for our children. If we allow science to be silenced, we fail ourselves – now and for future generations.



Pop Up Shop at the Paul Nicklen Gallery

New York City became a bit more wild with the addition of a WCC pop-up shop in June 2017. Hosted at the Paul Nicklen Gallery, the event brought together fine art enthusiasts, environmental advocates, and residents interested in learning more about wolves and wildlife. WCC staff and representatives offered a variety of branded items and informative handouts designed to raise awareness for wolves and dispel inaccurate myths regarding wolf behavior.

The Paul Nicklen Gallery displayed limited edition artwork by Paul Nicklen, Vincent Munier, and Julie Testwuide. Nicklen, a renowned National Geographic photographer, co-founded Sea Legacy, a non-profit dedicated to protecting the world's oceans, with Cristina Mittermeier.

Highlights from 2017



Pilots Save Endangered Wolves

LightHawk is a volunteer-based environmental aviation organization that donates flights to conservation groups. LightHawk asks that its volunteers bring a lot more than skill. For flights over North America, pilots use their own aircraft and absorb the cost of fuel, insurance, and hangaring during a mission.

The Species Survival Plan (SSP) management groups for the Mexican gray wolf and red wolf determine which wolves should breed each year but the first task beyond planning on paper is to unite the wolves in reality. Sounds easy, but what if the wolves are on opposite corners of the country?

Thanks to the generous support from volunteer-based environmental aviation organizations Lighthawk and Pilots to the Rescue, the WCC was able to transport Mexican gray wolf M1564 (New Mexico) and red wolf M1606 (North Carolina) to their new companions in New York. Volunteer pilots Jim Houser and Patrick Lofvenholm offered more than just their special skills; each pilot used their own aircraft and paid fuel, insurance, and mission-related fees.



Great Bear Rainforest Adventure

One of earth's most stunning wildernesses on Canada's Pacific coast, the Great Bear Rainforest is home to a myriad of healthy populations of species of plants, birds and animals, including subspecies and genetically unique populations of wildlife like the Spirit Bear and coastal gray wolf. Serious environmental challenges have put this region in threat, prompting the action of scientists and conservationists who are working hard to promote the protection of this last wild intact functioning ecosystem and one of the planet's most priceless treasures.

Guests were able to sail between the coastal islands, amongst wolves and whales, on the stately Columbia III. Experienced naturalists from Mothership Adventures shared expert guidance and first-hand knowledge of the local flora and fauna.

Mark Ode, attendee, writes

"The WCC's excursion to the Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia was a once in a lifetime experience that highlighted the beautiful flora and fauna of this unique coastal ecosystem. Our hosts and guides on this adventure were amazing in their knowledge and love of the area and its wildlife. We were able to observe coastal wolves, grizzlies, black bears, whales, and dolphins in their own environment and gain insight into their behavior, while also learning about some of the challenges they face and what can be done to help protect them and their habitat."



Saving Endangered Wolves via Artificial Insemination

The entire existing populations of Mexican wolves and red wolves are derived from a limited founding populations (just 7 individuals for the Mexican wolf and 14 for the red wolf), so genetic health is the primary consideration governing decisions regarding reproductive pairings and captive-to-wild release events. It is also the reason that the SSP programs for both wolf species pursue extraordinary conservation measures to save these species including semen collection, gamete cryopreservation, and artificial insemination (AI).

With the support of reproductive specialists from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, the WCC artificially inseminated Mexican gray wolf F1143 (Rosa) and red wolf F1568 (Argo) in the hopes that the females would produce pups in the spring. Although neither procedure ultimately proved fruitful, the WCC was proud to take an active roll in physically safeguarding the representatives of the rare species that have been entrusted to our care.

Donors

The WCC would like to thank the following for their unwavering support and fierce dedication to wolf conservation. Thank you.

\$50,000+

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INCOME

In-Kind	\$21,615
Education Programs	330,664
Fundraising Events	80,709
Individual Donations	599,782
Capital Campaign Donations	1,659,846
Promoted Donations	210,532
Corporate/Government Donations	68,230
Miscellaneous	7,498

Total Income \$2,978,876

EXPENSES

In-Kind	\$21,615
Personnel	402,319
Operations	354,622
Fundraising	26,214
Capital Campaign	96,454
Administration	43,861
Contributions	1,800
Cost of Goods Sold	65,432

Total Expenses \$1,012,317

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$3,036,836
Fixed Assets	3,374,945
Capital Campaign Long Term Pledges	295,501

Total Assets \$6,707,282

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	\$222,232
Accumulated Fund Balance	4,518,490
Net Income	1,966,560

Total Liabilities \$6,707,282



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