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WOLF CONSERVATION  
CENTER





# About the Wolf Conservation Center

The Wolf Conservation Center (WCC), founded in 1999 by H el ene Grimaud, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit environmental education organization working to protect and preserve wolves in North America through science-based education, advocacy, and participation in the federal recovery and release programs for two critically endangered wolf species - the Mexican gray wolf and red wolf.

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

## Wolf Conservation Center

Current number of:

employees: 11

volunteers: 65

wolves: 47

enclosures: 10

acres: 30

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."







# 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.

2018

Highlights included:

551 education programs with a total attendance of 18,000

Visitors have said...

"As you walk up the hill you can hear the wolves howling! The staff is friendly, down to earth, and very knowledgeable. The entire experience from start to finish was pleasant and exciting. This was an amazing experience I will cherish. I can't wait to go back!"

"The visit was a once in a lifetime experience!"

"The entire experience was so fantastic. Great education, staff members are so informative and friendly. Seeing and hearing the wolves has been a lifetime dream. Thank you for the amazing work for being the wolves advocates."

## Thank You, Atka

On September 22nd, we said goodbye to Ambassador Wolf Atka. He was 16 years old.

Atka instilled compassion, understanding, and awareness to the hundreds of thousands of people he met over his storied career.

To celebrate Atka's life and legacy, the WCC held an open house memorial so that his friends could bid him farewell. Throughout the 6-hour event, over 400 people came to pay their respects, leave flowers, and share in their memories of the beloved ambassador wolf.

Later in the year, the WCC partnered with Sacred Warrior to create an endangered species and medicinal plant garden in Atka's memory, entitled "Atka's Garden: Sacred Warrior & Wolf Conservation Center Sanctuary."

Thank you, Atka!

# Species Survival Plan

The Wolf Conservation Center (WCC) participates in the federal Species Survival Plan (SSP) recovery programs for the Mexican gray wolf and the red wolf, two of the rarest mammals in North America. Both species at one time were extinct in the wild.

## Saving Endangered Species

The **Mexican gray wolf** (*Canis lupus baileyi*) is the southernmost and most genetically distinct subspecies of gray wolf in North America. From prehistoric to fairly recent times, the Mexican wolf, or lobo, ranged from central and northern Mexico to western Texas, southern New Mexico, and central Arizona. By the mid-1970s, hunting, trapping, and poisoning caused the extinction of lobos in the wild, with only seven rescued after placing them in captivity.

On March 29, 1998 the wolves were reintroduced into the wild as part of a federal reintroduction program under the Endangered Species Act. Missing from the landscape for more than 30 years, the howl of the rarest and most unique subspecies of gray wolf was once again greeted by the mountains of the Southwest.

## 2018 Baby Boom

The WCC had a record year for pups, with 22 critically endangered pups born to four different litters. On April 19th, a collective ten red wolf pups were born to mothers F2121 (Charlotte) and F1858 (Veronica). On April 30th, first-time mother Mexican gray wolf F1505 (Trumpet) gave birth to three, and on May 18th, Mexican gray wolf F1143 (Rosa) gave birth to a staggering nine pups! With pips and squeals, the adorable new residents announced their global debut to onlookers via the WCC's webcams. Beyond being adorable, these pocket-sized predators represent the WCC's active efforts to save red wolves and Mexican gray wolves from the brink of extinction.

The **red wolf** (*Canis rufus*) is a distinct species of wolf. 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 14 wild red wolves and placed them in SSP institutions. On September 14, 1987, USFWS took a giant leap forward in endangered species conservation by releasing red wolves in North Carolina's Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge as part of a federal reintroduction.

The red wolf reintroduction was among the first instances of a species, considered extinct in the wild, being re-established from a captive population. In many ways, the red wolf program was the pilot program, serving as a model for subsequent canid reintroductions, particularly those of the Mexican gray wolf to the American Southwest and the gray wolf to the Yellowstone region.

## What is a Species Survival Plan?

A Species Survival Plan (SSP) is a breeding and management program designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of captive-based animal populations. The primary goal for the Mexican gray wolf and red wolf SSPs is to breed wolves for maximum genetic integrity for reintroduction into the wild.

The WCC has played a critical role in Mexican gray wolf and red wolf recovery. 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 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 18,000+ visitors and our robust social media effort. Consistent, professional effort has resulted in over four 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 2018...

The WCC held a series of policy workshops led by Environmental Policy Master's student Nadya Hall. Nadya worked with the WCC to develop and implement four policy workshops covering the topics of 1) Understanding Policy; 2) Individual Action; 3) Science, Social Media, and Species Survival Plans; and 4) Community Action. Through Nadya's workshops, guests of the WCC were able to learn more about their role as a citizen and how they can use their voice to support wolf conservation and other pressing conservation issues.

### 2018

Public comments submitted in support of stronger federal protections for red wolves:  
**107,988**

Active legal proceedings: **1**  
*(challenging the federal government's deeply flawed recovery plan for the Mexican gray wolf)*

Followers on Facebook: **4,189,058**



### The WCC Welcomes New Volunteers

An integral part of the WCC's success is its many dedicated volunteers and interns. In 2018, we welcomed 36 new volunteers and our volunteers as a whole contributed 3871 hardworking hours.

On June 6th, nearly 70 employees from PepsiCo's office in White Plains, NY spent their day volunteering at the Center working on various projects from landscaping, to clean-up, to habitat enhancement. Although Atka was concerned about his stuff being rearranged, he was pleasantly surprised to return home to a lush carpet of soft sod – great to roll on, snooze on, and tear up, too!

Later in the year, the WCC named Mexican gray wolf F1505 (Trumpet's) pups in honor of three outstanding volunteers and advocates – m1742 (Kral), m1743 (Joe Darling), and f1744 (Babs).



### Bringing Wolves to Times Square

From May to August, New Yorkers may have gotten a glimpse right into the eyes of WCC red wolf on the corner of Broadway and West 43rd Street in New York City's Times Square. The billboard served as a reminder that, while most New Yorkers aren't often thinking about wildlife, there are 50 wolves residing just one hour north of the city at the WCC! Falling at a critical time for the conservation of red wolves, the video featuring a close-up shot of a red wolf was also an important tool to raise awareness for the plight of red wolves in the wild. Hopefully, NYC natives were encouraged to learn more and contribute their voice to helping the WCC protect and preserve critically endangered wolf populations.

# Highlights from 2018



### 2018 Cocktail Fundraiser: Saving Planet Earth One Wolf at a Time

\$1.3 million was raised at the WCC's first ever NYC cocktail fundraiser at Spring Place in TriBeCa, where we welcomed over 200 attendees spanning nearly every NYC industry.

The event featured speakers Paul Nicklen and Cristina Mittermeier, renowned nature photographers and Co-Founders of Sea Legacy. Guests of the event included Ed Norton, Kris Tompkins, Carl Icahn, and Stephanie Ruhle. Young activist Bria Neff donated a wolf painting to the auction, which sold to Carl Icahn for \$15,000.



### A Movie Under the Stars

On October 5th, the WCC and director Jeff Mittelstadt welcomed the community to the Center for a free movie screening.

The movie shown was Staring Down Fate, an award-winning film about Chris Lucash, a man who dedicated himself to bringing red wolves back from extinction in the wild, but whose life took a drastic turn when he was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). The film featured unparalleled access to the red wolf recovery program and attendees had the opportunity to discuss the film afterwards with director Jeff Mittelstadt and members of the WCC staff.

# Donors

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

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Summer Yagi

# Financials

## Income

Contributed Services  
**\$18,340**

1%

Programming  
**\$372,323**

24%

Earned Income  
**\$128,850**

8%

67% Contributions  
**\$1,051,259**

## Expenses

Fundraising  
**\$177,652**

13%

Administration  
**\$257,553**

19%

68% Programming  
and Operations  
**\$921,235**

\*Excludes Capital Campaign income.



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