

WOLF CONSERVATION
CENTER





About the Wolf Conservation Center

The Wolf Conservation Center (WCC), incorporated in 1999 by H el ene Grimaud, is a private, not-for-profit environmental education organization located in South Salem, New York. The WCC’s mission is to teach the public about wolves, their relationship to the environment, and the human role in protecting their future. The WCC is also a key participant in the federal Species Survival Plans for the critically endangered red wolf and the Mexican gray 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

In addition to her dedication to the Wolf Conservation Center, H el ene Grimaud has remained a global activist 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

2019 end-of-year numbers:

employees: 12

volunteers: 108

wolves: 50

enclosures: 10

acres: 32





Education

The Wolf Conservation Center accomplishes its mission through onsite and offsite education programs emphasizing wolf biology and behavior, the ecological benefits of wolves in the environment, and the current status of wolf recovery in the United States.

Programs

The WCC offers a variety of educational programs that teach visitors about wolves, local wildlife, and more. All programs include an educational component in the WCC classroom followed by a trip to the wolf enclosures, where visitors can see ambassador wolves Zephyr, Alawa, and Nikai.

Visitors have said...

"Absolutely wonderful organization with extremely knowledgeable staff who are passionate about preserving wildlife. Such an extraordinary educational opportunity and experience for all ages. Not to be missed!"

"It was a truly wonderful experience that we plan on having many times more! It is worth the drive, cost, anything! Bring the...kids!"

"Our visit to the Wolf Conservation Center was a once-in-a-lifetime experience!"

Some of the programs offered at the WCC include:

Wolves of North America

Pack Chat for Kids

Sleeping with Wolves

Coexisting with Coyotes

Full Moon Wolf Walk

Photography Session

Evening Howl

Summer Camp for Kids

2019

Highlights included:

595 education programs with a total attendance of 17,106



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. As participants in these programs, the WCC houses and breeds endangered wolves, conducts critical conservation research, and makes recommendations for wild release.

What is a Species Survival Plan?

A Species Survival Plan is a federally mandated breeding and management program under the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of captive-based animal populations. The effort is coordinated among zoos, organizations like the WCC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), state wildlife agencies, and potentially other countries' fish and wildlife agencies (as in the case of the Mexican gray wolf SSP, which is a coordinated effort with Mexico's government). The primary purpose of a SSP is to support the re-establishment of critically endangered, endangered, or threatened species through captive breeding, public education, research, and pre-release care.



Meet the Red Wolf

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 USFWS captured the last 14 wild red wolves and placed them in SSP institutions. Red wolves have since been reintroduced in a small protected range called the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina. At the close of 2019, their wild population was comprised of fewer than 30 individuals. At the time of this document's publishing, there are only 8 known, collared red wolves remaining in the wild.



Meet the Mexican Gray Wolf

The Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) or "lobo" is the most genetically distinct lineage of gray wolves in the Western Hemisphere, and one of the most endangered mammals in North America. By the mid-1980s, hunting, trapping, and poisoning caused the extinction of lobos in the wild, with only a handful remaining in captivity. In 1998 the wolves were reintroduced into the wild as part of a federal reintroduction program under the Endangered Species Act.

At the time of this document's publishing, there is a single wild population comprised of 163 individuals - a 24% increase from the 131 counted at the end of 2018.

One Small Pup, One Huge Leap for Conservation



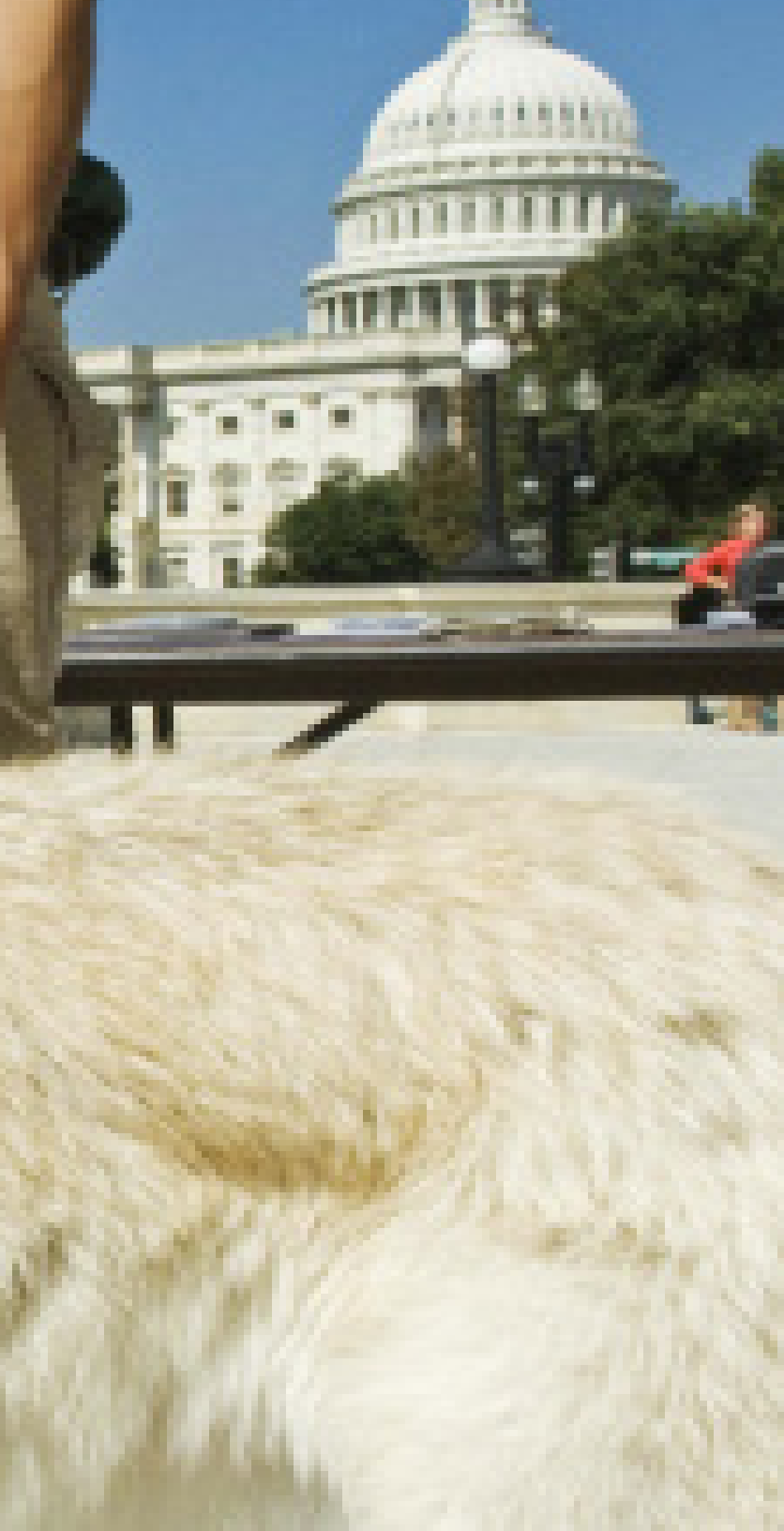
On April 26th, the WCC's Mexican gray wolf Trumpet (F1505) gave birth to five pups. One tiny female pup was chosen for the journey of a lifetime - she would be cross-fostered into a wild litter. Cross-fostering is a coordinated event where captive-born pups are introduced to a similar-aged wild litter to be raised by surrogate parents in an effort to augment the wild population's genetics.

On May 9th, two-week-old Mexican gray wolf pup "Hope" was flown to Arizona on a private plane donated by a generous friend of the WCC, alongside WCC Curator Rebecca Bose and Paul Maus, DVM. The team met members of the Arizona Game and Fish Department and a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hiked to the den of the Saffel pack, where the breeding female had recently given birth. Hope's new mom immediately accepted her and allowed her to nurse as she wriggled among her new siblings.

Hope is aptly named for the hope she brings to the future of Mexican gray wolf conservation. As a living, breathing part of the American Southwest, Hope will continue to inspire and raise awareness for Mexican gray wolves.







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 that 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.

The WCC Offers Free Scientific Webinars

2019 was the first full year of the WCC's scientific webinar series. Free to the public, the scientific webinars aim to educate about interesting and emerging research in wolf and wildlife conservation. The topics covered in 2019 include:

- The Evolution and Ecology of Wolves with Joseph Hinton, Ph.D.
- The Role of Reproductive Management in Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery with Cheryl Asa, Ph.D.
- Wolves of Isle Royale with Rolf Petersen
- Red Wolves Discovered: Red Wolf Ancestry Along the Gulf Coast with Kristin Brzeski, Ph.D.
- Understanding Policy: How we Protect Our Most At-Risk Species with Nadya Hall, M.S.
- Genetics of Urban Coyotes in Los Angeles with Javier Monzón, Ph.D.
- The Secret Lives of Wolves in Voyageurs National Park with Tom Gable, Ph.D. Candidate
- Taxonomy, Ecology, and Management of Eastern Coyotes with Joseph Hinton, Ph.D.
- Himalayan Wolves: Taxonomy, Ecology, and Consequences for Conservation with Geraldine Werhahn

1.8 million Speak Out Against Policy Change

In March, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formally announced its plan to remove federal Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the lower 48 states.

In response to the proposal, the WCC mobilized support across the nation. We directed constituents to comment directly to the federal register in opposition, offering key science and talking points to support their stance. We offered a scientific webinar to equip constituents with the tools and knowledge to best navigate the federal register and participate in the discussion in a meaningful way. An additional action alert, directing constituents to reach out to policymakers, was active through June and July. 11,262 people responded to the alert.



Westchester County Gets a Little More Wild

In January 2019, the WCC welcomed Wildlife Outreach Specialist Dana Goin to the education team. Dana specializes in educating the public about co-existence with local predators, with a special focus on Westchester County's local apex predator: the eastern coyote. The WCC is dedicated to dispelling myths and misinformation regarding eastern coyotes, one of the most maligned species in North America.

A close genetic relative to the wolves, coyotes play an equally vital role in our local ecosystem as an apex predator. Coyotes are explorers, opportunists, and one of the most successful carnivores in North America because of their ability to cope, if not thrive, after decades of persecution at the hands of ranchers, landowners, farmers, and government agents. Dana educates the community about these interesting and essential creatures while encouraging positive attitudes and coexistence techniques. Throughout 2019, Dana taught a total of 20 coyote education programs throughout the community, two of which were held at the WCC.

The WCC also joined Muscoot Farm for Coyote Awareness Day on May 4th.



20th Anniversary Gala: Strong & Wild

To celebrate the WCC's double-decade anniversary, we hosted our 20th Anniversary Gala at Spring Place in TriBeCa, NYC. The event brought out a multitude of supporters and welcomed guest speaker Ed Norton, as well as special guests Pentatonix, Paul Nicklen, and Cristina Mittermeier. Aerosyn-Lex Mesrovic and Bria Neff of Faces of the Endangered both donated one-of-a-kind art pieces, which sold in the live auction for \$16,000 and \$25,000, respectively.

To date, the 20th Anniversary Gala was the WCC's most successful fundraiser.



WCC and Defenders of Wildlife Celebrate Red Wolves

Raising awareness for red wolves can take many forms – art, education, advocacy – but it is a special event that combines all three. In September, representatives from Defenders of Wildlife and the WCC held a joint event at the Center to unveil a new statement fixture: a statue of a red wolf mother and pup donated by artist Dale Weiler and his wife, Loti Weiler of Weiler Woods for Wildlife. The event welcomed red wolf champions from both the WCC's support base and Defenders of Wildlife's. Guests enjoyed refreshments in the warm cabin classroom, before taking a walk to the WCC's ambassador wolves and exhibit red wolves for the statue unveiling. Along the way, our pathway to the wolves was decorated with signs featuring each of the WCC's red wolf residents, the majority of which live off-exhibit. With red wolves balancing on the brink of wild extinction, the WCC is proud to join forces with other wildlife champions to raise awareness for the future of red wolves.

Highlights from 2019



Donors

We would like to thank the following for their unwavering support and fierce dedication to wolf conservation.

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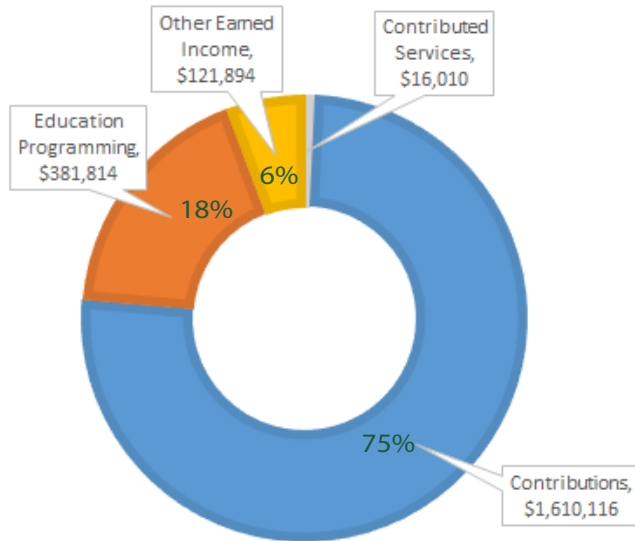
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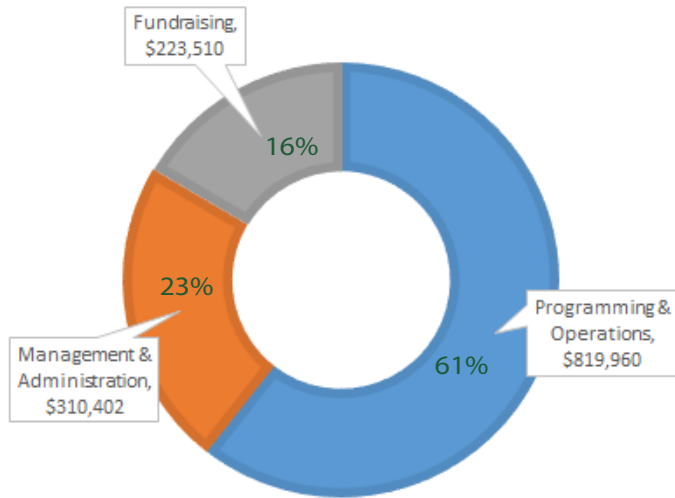
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* Excludes capital campaign income

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