Wolves: The Nightmare Begins!

By T. R. Mader, Research Director

Did you hear the news? A non-native, non-endangered, transplanted wolf had pups. Not in Yellowstone mind you, but in ranch country near Red Lodge, Montana. Isn't that wonderful?

It sure is to the liberal press promoting wolf recovery. Unfortunately, it's their subscribers and listeners will suffer the impacts of these destructive predators.

You see, it's news when wolves have pups, it's not news when they kill.

Here's another prime example of media bias.

Orlin Henderson runs 60 head of livestock, and two burros, on his 600 acre ranch near Priest River, Idaho. On January 14, during the "wonderful" wolf transplant to Yellowstone and central Idaho, Henderson found a burro killed. It lay a few feet from a fence and there wasn't a mark on it. Its neck appeared broken. Henderson figured the burro was chased into the fence.

Ashton Robinson, the local Animal Damage Control (ADC) officer, came out and set three M-44s — cyanide coyote getters — near the carcass. Canine tracks and scat were found nearby. Both Henderson and Robinson figured it was coyotes or dogs doing the killing.

Robinson made another discovery while setting the M-44s. In some timber, not more than 100 feet from the burro, a cow lie dead — freshly killed. Examination revealed injuries to the neck, shoulder and flank.

Within two days, the M-44s did their job. It wasn't a coyote, or dog as Henderson figured, but a young wolf. Robinson wrote a report stating the evidence, tracks, scat, etc. and one dead wolf, indicated wolves did the killing.

Since wolves are politically defined "endangered," U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS) was called. Immediately FWS claimed there was no documentation wolves did the killing. After all, no one saw them do it. FWS discounted the wolf tracks and didn't collect any scat for examination. They did take the dead wolf, though. FWS agent, Roger Parker, ordered Robinson to amend his report, which blamed wolves for the livestock losses, to state there was no evidence wolves had done the killing. Parker ordered this before Henderson and other witnesses. Robinson did as ordered. FWS immediately restricted predator control: no M-44s or any trapping.

On February 4, Henderson lost another cow a short distance from the burro and first cow. She was bedded down and jumped out. The cow took several jumps, ranging from 15 feet to 21 feet, before being killed. No marks were found on this cow except a bloody nose. Again large canine tracks and scat were found. The local vet examined the cow. It appeared healthy except for some lung fluid which could have been slight emphysema or from the cow being chased and stressed to death.

FWS showed up and claimed this second cow wasn't a wolf attack either. It was emphysema, although Henderson never had the problem before.

FWS decided to set traps in the area. Since one wolf was killed, there might be another and they wanted to radio-collar it and monitor its movements. (Note: the trapping wasn't to remove the wolf or wolves due to possible depredation on Henderson's livestock, but to study the wolf. FWS even told Henderson they would not remove any wolf they caught.)

Reluctantly, Henderson allowed FWS to set traps. A neighbor's dog was trapped. The dog, a Great Pyrenees, roamed the area frequently, but never bothered livestock. Immediately, FWS issued a press release blaming the dog for the livestock losses.

Mind you, the FWS didn't see the dog do any killing, but that didn't matter, here was the culprit. It wasn't wolves and here was proof. (Is there a double standard here or what?) The dog was returned to its owner and chained up. FWS left.

On February 12, with the neighbor's dog chained and unable to travel due to a trap injury, another cow was killed. The hillside was torn up from where she was bedded and where she lay. Manure and blood were splattered down the hill for more than 200 feet. This time her guts were torn out, but due to ravens and other predators, cause of death could not be confirmed. There was no snow for tracking, but canine scat was found nearby. A few days later it snowed and large canine tracks were found again.

Did you hear about all this in the press? Was this incident news? Not on your life! But wolf pups born in ranch country is front page headlines.

So the nightmare has begins. Or, maybe it's war. By attrition.

[For a copy of a 19 page documented account of the FWS' bungling of the Henderson incident, write AWS, 12665 Hwy 59 N, Gillette, WY 82716. If you can afford it, send $3 to help with postage. Also, this article was sent to every paper in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, New Mexico and Arizona. If you did not read this editorial in your local paper, call and ask them why they didn't run it.]

> Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel in order to be tough.
>
> -- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Of Wolves And Politics

By T. R. Mader

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is trying to make amends with the state of Wyoming since dumping their non-native, non-endangered wolves in the state. FWS Director Mollie Beattie said the wolf recovery was biologically perfect but politically flawed.

Biologically perfect? Hogwash! Since when is aerial gunning non-endangered wolves, taking them from their native habitat, shipping them a couple of hundred miles south, (which, presto chango, makes them "endangered") and dumping them in the most degraded, mis-managed ecosystem in the West, biologically perfect? (The only thing perfect about this whole agenda is the job security it provides federal bureaucrats.)

Ms. Beattie, our offer still stands: We challenge you or any employee of the FWS or National Park Service (NPS) to meet in a neutral public forum and openly debate whether wolves were native to Yellowstone Park. We were to meet in Riverton, Wyoming, several years ago to debate this most important issue, but the feds backed out at the last moment.

After all, if wolves are not native to Yellowstone Park (they aren't), how can transplanting non-native, non-endangered wolves be biologically perfect?

And concerning politics, Ms. Beattie, don't you think it's a bit late to make amends after dumping your non-native, non-endangered species in Wyoming? Or, maybe this is politics at its finest. Cram wolf recovery down western folks' throats and then offer them pleasant platitudes. It won't work, lady.

It's high time the states took up their responsibility and told the federal government where to go and how fast to get there. The Supreme Law of the land is the U.S. Constitution (not the Endangered Species Act, Mr. Bangs) and nowhere does that document give the federal government the right to dump dangerous predators in any state.

Idaho may have their legislative act together better than Wyoming and Montana on this wolf issue.

Oh yes, all three states have consistently and loudly voiced their opposition to this wolf fiasco. But how you voice your opposition makes all the difference.

Montana passed a resolution stating that if Montana should have wolves, so should eastern states. After all, what's good for the goose is good for the gander. Since Washington, DC and Seattle folks' opinions counted equally with those who must bear all the impacts, why not give them wolves too? Nice thought, but it won't happen.

Idaho and Wyoming passed resolutions and memoriams against wolf recovery too. But since such actions don't carry any legal clout, they don't mean much. It's kind of like wetting your pants in a dark suit. You get a warm feeling, but nobody notices.

Wyoming was looking good with its wolf bounty bill. What better way to stand up for Wyoming citizens than to tell the feds that when their non-native, non-endangered predators stepped into the state, they were fair game?

When Wyoming's Governor Geringer's vetoed the bounty bill, Sen. Charles Scott, from Natrona County, Wyoming, said, "I hope this doesn't prove to be one of the defining points of the Geringer governorship because what he's saying is it's all right to have rhetoric against the federal government but when it comes down to it, he ain't there."

Idaho stands firm. They refuse to deal with the FWS so that all legal options are open. The ESA does require full cooperation between the feds and the states. There's been little cooperation with that state, or any state for that matter, a clear violation of the ESA.

This wolf recovery has never had local support or cooperation. That's why they held public hearings in Washington, DC, Denver, Seattle, Anchorage and other places. They had to get the support from somewhere.

Arizona and New Mexico had better take note.

[Ed. Note: This article was sent to every paper in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, New Mexico and Arizona. If you did not read this editorial in your local paper, call and ask them why they didn't run it.]

The Endangered Species Act: Noah's Ark Or Pirate Ship?

By Orlean Koehle

Most of us through the years of environmental indoctrination in our public schools and the media, ever since the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, have come to think of the environmentalists as modern-day Noahs, bravely protecting all the hundreds of species aboard their enormous ark - an ark that must now be large enough to hold 944 species: 744 listed as endangered, 200 listed as protected, and 3000 waiting to clammer on board. (Statistics of March, 1995, House Research Committee, and Ike Sugg, Competitive Enterprise of Washington, D.C.)

However, after receiving the following information, I have come to a different conclusion: 1) I have found out this is a very expensive ark, costing $900,000,000 to "maintain" all these species - plus $336,000,000 for the combined salaries for the top twelve environmental agencies; 2) The success story of the ESA is zero - "In over 20 years, not a single endangered species has legitimately been recovered and delisted as a result of the ESA." In fact many species have been harmed by it. (National Wilderness Institute of Washington, D.C., March, 1994); 3) There are many reports of dishonesty and fraud in listing these species in the first place; 4) The ESA is in violation of the 5th, 4th, and 8th Amendments - it has caused hundreds of thousands of loggers, farmers, ranchers, miners, and fishermen to lose their jobs and have their property "taken" (made useless and worthless because of the presence of an endangered species) without any compensation; They are expected to "quarter" a species without compensation: Not being allowed to use their own property is "cruel and unusual punishment," not to mention the enormous fines and jail sentence if a tiny species is harmed in anyway; 5) Much of our natural resources and industries have also been "taken:" 8.5 million acres of forest is now closed to logging because of the spotted owl; millions of acres of farm or ranch land can no longer be used - because of the kangaroo rat or some snail or lizard or salamander; the use of our rivers has been taken because of an endangered salmon or other fish; 6) America - the nation which is blessed with the greatest natural resources and industry now has such a shortage of lumber and food that we have to import them from other countries; from Mexico, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Chile, and Russia (yes, even some lumber is coming from Russia); 7) All of this big fuss about extinction is totally unnecessary anyway - animals have been going extinct again and again from the beginning of the earth; it is a natural process, and in most cases it has actually been beneficial. That is how the vast oil deposits were formed - from the remains of extinct marine life and dinosaurs. (Harvard paleontologist, Stephen Gould.)

For all of these reasons I have come to change my viewpoint of the "benevolent" ark and the "brave" environmentalists. Perhaps a more appropriate image would be an enormous pirate ship - manned by some of the greatest con-artists, sharks, and pirates our nation has ever known.

My suggestion to our Congress is to admit that we have all been "taken" by this ridiculous law. Let our congressmen now "take" it, shred it, and recycle it as compost. That would do far more good for the earth and all the species on it, than it ever has as a law. Let the environmentalist stop trying to play God. He does a much better job than they do, and doesn't charge a dime. Let all the little species get down off the ship and go back to living normal lives

See Endangered Species Act Page 8

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1. ABUNDANT WILDLIFE SOCIETY supports Conservation - the management of wildlife by man instead of Environmentalism - the cyclic "balance of nature" also known as feast and famine.

2. ABUNDANT WILDLIFE SOCIETY supports hunting, fishing, trapping and multiple use with sound conservation management.

3. ABUNDANT WILDLIFE SOCIETY supports reasonable predator control. We **DO NOT** advocate the extinction of any species. Predators are known disease carriers and will decimate wildlife populations if left uncontrolled.

4. ABUNDANT WILDLIFE SOCIETY is for land use and against land lockup. Logging, Grazing, Mining and Multiple Use of public lands are good and necessary.

5. ABUNDANT WILDLIFE SOCIETY believes private property rights and ownership are the only basis to REAL FREEDOM. Central government control is detrimental to wildlife, environment and the economy.

6. Most environmental groups with, no regard for truth, use misinformation to further their agendas and are anti-God, anti-American and anti-gun (in the hands of law-abiding citizens.) ABUNDANT WILDLIFE SOCIETY believes America is the greatest nation on earth, that its greatness is due to its Christian heritage, and that guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens is the best means of restraint against the tyranny of government.

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(307) 682-2826
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