Keep Wolves In Pens, Says Wildlife Group

[Ed. Note: Many of you heard how the wolves refused to leave their pens after the gates were opened. While these events were happening, Research Director, T. R. Mader, issued the following news release.]

(GILLETTE) Since the wolves aren't in favor of leaving their pens in Yellowstone National Park, one international wildlife group suggests the biologists should be listening to the wolves.

"It's obvious the wolves are quite content in their pens being fed road kill," says T. R. Mader, Research Director of Abundant Wildlife Society of North America (AWS), "so let's close the gates and leave the wolves where they're happy and content."

Mader says this arrangement should be acceptable to everyone since both sides would benefit from it.

"The wolf lovers can come and see the wolves because you darn sure aren't going to see them if they leave the pens. The animal worshippers could stand around and howl with the wolves, bow down and pay homage, toss'em some road kill, or whatever they wanted to do. They could hire Renee Askins of the Wolf Fund to do lectures on behalf of the poor little wolvies. Perhaps they could get Hank Fischer of Defenders of Wildlife to periodically enter the pens and dance with the wolves," chuckles Mader.

It would be beneficial for those who exploit the wolf for economic gain, contends Mader. "The Park Service could charge for tours to see nature's latest welfare recipients (wolves eating road kill) in their taxpayer-funded free housing. The biologists could run their fancy transmitters off the hillside and not have to hire expensive airplanes to fly them around. It would keep the guards employed forever. Those guards, haven't they done a wonderful job protecting the wolves? Why not keep them on the dole permanently since they're doing such a great job?" he asks.

The opposition would be happy, too, says Mader. "There won't be decimation of wild game populations, no livestock loss, no pets with their guts torn out and lying on the front step. What can I say? Everyone wins with this arrangement."

Animal Research Helps Gorilla

You won't hear the animal rights folks raging about it, but recently a gorilla was on the receiving end of some pretty special medical treatment perfected in part through animal research.

Chicory, a 9-year-old, 250-pound blackback gorilla, had a large egg-sized brain tumor removed on Wednesday, December 21, 1994. The surgery was done by a team of five neurosurgeons at Loyola University Medical Center. The gorilla was housed at Brookfield Zoo in Chicago which was close to the Medical Center.

Chicory's illness was noticed 10 months ago when the active gorilla began to grow progressively more shaky and lethargic. A MRI showed the tumor just above the ear of the gorilla.

The surgery went fine although some special problems arose. Drilling through the gorilla's thick skull was compared to drilling through a 2 x 4. Also, no oxygen mask fit the gorilla, so a bell-jar device was used. Doctors monitored the level of anesthesia by watching the blood pressure and other vital signs of the gorilla.

The tumor was benign and the gorilla was up and walking around the day after surgery.

None of this could have happened if it wasn't for animal research.

AWS Staff Report

Common Misconceptions About Wetlands And Wetland Policy

By John Shanahan

Misconception: Individual land-owners are primarily to blame for the loss of wetlands.

Reality: Government is the principal culprit when it comes to wetlands destruction. In 1780, before the Army Corps of Engineers launched a systematic campaign to eradicate wetlands, there were 221 million acres of wetlands in the lower 48 states. Today there are just 104 million acres.

Misconception: Sharp government restrictions on private property use are necessary because wetlands continue to be lost at an alarming rate.

Reality: The "no net loss" of wetlands goal of federal policy has apparently already been achieved. In 1994, for example, 108,000 acres of wetlands were lost, but 167,000 acres were restored, for a net gain of 59,000 acres of wetlands.

Misconception: The Clean Water Act gives the federal government the right to limit land use for the purpose of protecting wetlands.

Reality: Wetlands are not explicitly protected under the Clean Water Act, nor for that matter, any other legislation. The word "wetland" is not mentioned in Clean Water Act.

Misconception: The federal government has the right to limit the use of private property to preserve wetlands without restriction.

Reality: Under the power of "eminent domain," the federal government does have the authority to take land for the "public good," but not without just compensation. When excessive regulation significantly diminishes that property value, a defacto taking of property has occurred.

Misconception: All wetlands are worthy of preservation.

Reality: The official definition of what constitutes a wetland has fluctuated frequently and is too broad. By some estimates, 40% of drought stricken California (even before the rains of 1992-1993) would have qualified as wetlands under the government's 1989 definition.

Source: Talking Points on the Economy, Environment #13, Heritage Foundation Backgrounder Number 195, Issue Date: September 21, 1994.

Public Sign To Embarrass Dutch Immigrant

An elderly Dutch immigrant of Port Bolivar, Texas, has been forced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers to post in front of his home a 10-foot-high, 20-foot-wide sign describing his crime of depositing "illegal fill material" on his property, deemed as a wetland.

The sign, like an enormous Scarlet Letter of shame, names the man twice, stated that he must remove the fill at his own expense, revegetate the wetlands, pay civil penalties and foot the bill for restoration of the property and relocation of his retirement home.

On the Gulf Coast, the less-than-half-acre of land has been owned by the man for 20 years and is 50 feet from a main highway.

It was the site of a muddy bait camp with outdoor latrines before the retirement home was built and hardly regarded as ecologically valuable wetland. As reported by the Wall Street Journal, the man now faces a jail term for contempt of court because the Corp doesn't like his revegetation efforts.

[Ed note: Is this why we keep hearing the winds of war coming to our land? Note this quote by Robert J. Pierce of the Army Corps of Engineers, "For regulatory purposes, a wetland is whatever we decide it is."]

Source: PLA Newsletter, January 1995

The Ultimate Illusion

Before we leave this Green Puzzle Illusion, you have to hear the strange tale of Virgil Gobel, as told in the June 1994 issue of Field & Stream.

Virgil, manager of the Long Lake Farms club in Browning, Illinois, thought that he and his fellow club members were being conservationists. But it turns out that they're worse criminals than Geraldo Andrade.

Following last year's Midwestern floods, 14 volunteers from the hunting club took time off from work to return to nesting sites they'd built for mallards and Canadian geese.

Their goal was to save as many eggs as they could; they saved 300 mallard eggs and one goose egg.

Virgil built an incubator next to the club house, hatched the eggs, and began to raise the birds for release. Club members had released about half the birds when, fortunately, a special agent from the Interior Department got wise to their sinister plans and busted them.

It seems they had violated Subpart B, Section 21.11 of the Interior Code which plainly says "No person shall take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nest, or eggs of such birds except as may be permitted under the terms of a "blah, blah, blah, blah..." you get the point.

The agent confiscated the rest of the birds for evidence and was about to drive away with them when Virgil pointed out that the birds would not survive in the agent's inadequate vehicle. So the agent took them down the road and released them — saving club members the effort.

Six weeks later, however, the club was fined $4,100. Members were warned that if they contested the charges and lost, they were liable for up to six months in federal prison and/or a fine of up to $5,000 on each count (more than 100 birds), plus court costs and "revocation of hunting privileges."

It's the last threat that got to them most, since the club is all about hunting. Members quickly agreed not to contest the charges and their fine was dropped to $2,300.

Source: People for the West! Volume 7, No. 8, pg. 23

Predator Friendly

By Baxter Black

A new concept in protecting coyotes has been introduced by a group of Montana animal rights disciples: Predator Friendly Wool. They propose to develop a market for wool raised on ranches where sheep are not protected from predators. The sheep raisers who do not practice predator control are to be paid a bonus on their wool. They propose to sell Predator Friendly Wool products through urban boutiques.

Well, all I can say is HALLELUJAH! When was the last time anybody wanted to help sheep people? The government took away wool subsidies, eco-freaks wear petrochemical derivatives and cowboys won't eat sheep. Suddenly, from out of left field we have concerned citizens with expendable income willing to buy and wear wool items. The hitch is that the sheep ranchers must help feed the coyotes, wolves, bears, lions, eagles, wild dogs, carnivorous poachers and mutton-loving piranha.

How can we go wrong? We'll get national promotion. We can reduce costs by laying off herders and border collies. Park the camp wagons, use the carbide guns as planters, sell the mules. And all for the price of a few baby lambs and old ewes.

Sounds pretty good, doesn't it? And if the idea works it may spread to other areas.

Inner cities, for instance. They suffer from a terrible image problem. The streets are unsafe, tourism is nil, budgets are always in the red. How about Predator Friendly Neighborhoods.

Any community that did not discourage muggers, burglars, murderers, arsonists, purse snatchers and other assorted predators would be given increased federal dollars.

Police expenses would be cut drastically. Courts would close at noon. Lawyers would desert the community. Tours could be scheduled that allowed sensitive patrons to see predators in their natural habitat rolling winos, mugging passers-by, selling drugs and stealing cars. And all in an environment nationally advertised as Predator Friendly.

And just like the Predator Friendly Wool program, the new Predator Friendly Neighborhood plan could all be accomplished simply by sacrificing a few more sheep.

Or, how 'bout new election laws where presidents and politicians were elected for life. A Predator Friendly Congress, unaccountable to any voters.

Ah, my imagination ran away with me. But the sheep business needs a shot in the arm and the trade-off, though distasteful, is worth considering. I guess my hesitation is the calling we have chosen.

Ezekiel 34:8 "...and my flock became prey to every beast of the field because there was no shepherd..."

We are the shepherds.

Source: On The Edge Of Common Sense, Baxter Black, D.V.M.

Why Worship The Wolf?

By Jim Hofsommer

Worship, according to Webster, means respect, admiration, or reverence for a divine being. There was a time when most of those who chose to not worship the God of our Bible simply carried on without these observances. Now, it would seem that, in our enlightened world of advanced thinkers, some have invented a new Deity to worship - Egad!- a wolf, of all things.

This hungry critter, since medieval times has been held in contempt as a friend to neither man nor beast, suddenly has been elevated and canonized as Supreme Ruler of the North. I can't imagine how we for several thousand years, have failed to recognize the virtues of this long-fanged munch machine.

These days, children are taught to venerate him, our all knowing benevolent government protects him, and funds are poured out to ensure that he has abundant romping grounds.

I hear they have even built a "sanctuary" up in Ely, Minnesota where worshippers can come to congregate and do alms. In northern Wisconsin, a highway improvement project was put on hold for months while the fertile minds of new-age environmentalists pondered all the nuances this project would have on his travel, reproductive and grocery shopping patterns. You know, he might bust if his favorite tree was disturbed and he couldn't find it. Meanwhile, motorists continued to risk both life and limb while traveling this treacherous goat trail.

Have you ever heard such outrageous humbug? How far out of touch with reality can you get? Just a few short decades ago, any simpleton who proposed such preposterous fantasies would have been quietly sat in the corner while the little white men with butterfly nets came to check out what was loose in his gearbox. Lunatics who stood out in the brush in the middle of the night and howled at the moon used to be called werewolves, or, just kooks; today those who do the same thing are highly esteemed (and paid) as "wildlife biologists." Progress for the advancement of man used to be considered good; now man is looked upon as an alien from outer space, infringing on the territory of our new Wolf-God. We sure have come a long way, Baby!

I can't help but wonder what bright idea some Neanderthal might think of next - worship snakes?

Hello Troy,

Saw you on "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" February 8, 1995 on our National Television. All I can say is if the wolves eat that wolf advocate's pet dogs she may sing a different song!

I cannot believe this wolf mystique fantasy. They're not pretty etc. etc. Anyone who's seen a deer stagger into a yard with tongue out and foam dripping off it trying to escape a wolf pack loses their mystique thoughts.

Yes, they do (wolves) move south as wild food supply dwindles. They were bad in farm areas here last year until nature sent mange which sadly kills everything. Anyway, the farmers could get no compensation for kills or the excuse was no one saw a wolf do it. Parents were also taking their kids to bus stops in the dark. (Why don't a hungry wolf eat a human??)

Even here only trappers are allowed to shoot or trap wolves. (Endangered species.)

Anyway, fight on, get input from Alberta ranchers. As one guy said "Take all the wolves."

Wolves are VERY cunning to trap, shoot or poison. Their only enemy is man. They're smarter than him!!

Letter received from Carol Johnson, Box 190, Big River, Sask S0J0E0, CANADA