

Wolves and Humans: Coexistence, Competition and Conflict

Neville Public Museum * January 23 - May 3, 1987

OVERVIEW

The exhibit compares human attitudes and relationships with wolves from prehistoric times to the present, and contrasts these with how wolves are perceived both behaviorally and biologically today. It is designed to help visitors answer the question, what is a wolf? At the same time, "Wolves and Humans" is as much about people as it is about wolves.

More than four years in the making, "Wolves" was developed as a traveling exhibition by the Science Museum of Minnesota, at a cost of nearly a half-million dollars. Major funding was provided from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It will tour only ten museums around the country, and be displayed in only two others in the Midwest - Green Bay in 1987, and St. Louis at the end of 1988. Designed for a 5,000-6,000 square foot space, the exhibition will occupy three entire galleries on the Museum's second floor.

EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS

Combining a variety of interactive and participatory techniques in an informative and entertaining style, the exhibit's main components are:

1. Wolf images - images and cultural statements made about the wolf.
2. Wolves and humans - an examination of both as hunters of the same prey in the Northern Hemisphere during the Ice Age.
3. Wolf lore - interprets images of the wolf in different cultures and times through examples of fine arts and folklore.
4. Wolf pack - the centerpiece of the exhibit is a diorama of 12 mounted wolves in a pack around a freshly killed whitetail deer. Video monitors showing live wolves surround the diorama to explain social organization and behaviors of the pack.
5. Wolf talk - a participatory area where viewers will hear howling development from pup to adult. Includes a howling booth, where participants are encouraged to "get the wolves to howl".

6. Wolves and dogs - the wolf as ancestor of the domestic dog.
7. Wolf today - predatory habits and research results on locations of wolf packs worldwide, examined through displays and computer games.
8. The exhibit closes with photos and a continuously running video interview with 12 people who live in wolf country.

THE PROJECT

The premiere of "Wolves and Humans" at the Neville Public Museum can be compared to the opening of the Museum's permanent exhibit, "On the Edge of the Inland Sea", where more than 4,000 visitors attended the grand opening alone. The drawing power of this exhibit will attract more than just those with an interest in wolves. As an exhibit one would expect to find only in a major city, many people will come out of curiosity. The DNR is currently developing a timber wolf plan, which is drawing interest throughout the state. The folklore aspect will have appeal to another audience segment. And by reports from the exhibition's previous sites, children are in total awe of the entire presentation. Last year's visitor count at the Neville Museum for the same time period was 33,600 - it is not unreasonable to expect in excess of 60,000 visitors during the 15-week run of "Wolves and Humans". (The exhibit's schedule, including visitor count to date, is attached.)

A schedule of auxiliary events to compliment the exhibit is in the process of being developed. Participation in these programs will be augmented by visitors' interest in the exhibit, as well as media coverage.

Advance coverage has begun, and includes the following at this time:

- The Green Bay Visitor and Convention Bureau has announced the exhibition in their fall publications which have been distributed state-wide, as well as forwarded information to the Wisconsin Division of Tourism. The Bureau's new monthly calendar of events, "This Week in Green Bay", will feature the exhibit on January's cover. (Among other places, the booklet will be placed in every hotel room in Green Bay.) The Convention Center's "call-in" line will announce the exhibit during its entire run as well. Should a separate brochure on the exhibit be prepared, they will distribute it state-wide, as well as in surrounding states.
- A group of six students in a promotional strategies program at UWGB has undertaken the "Wolves" exhibit as a class project. They will develop a full media program for implementation.
- Advance notification of the exhibit has been broadcast state-wide on WPNE radio.

- The Museum has supplied information about the exhibit to various sources around the state, including Wisconsin Trails and NEWmonth magazines, and continues to do so on a regular basis.

In addition to the coverage mentioned, other plans include personal appearances on television and radio talk shows throughout the state; developing a brochure for distribution by the Visitor and Convention Bureau to bus tour companies in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota; letting other tribes within the state know about the Oneida tribe's involvement in this far-reaching project; and in general assuring complete coverage through as many media contacts as possible. With an extensively planned and executed media campaign, potential audiences will be drawn from both within and outside of Wisconsin.

BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP

As sponsors of the "Wolves and Humans" exhibition, the Oneida Tribe of Indians will realize three immediate benefits: 1.) being directly associated with an exhibition of the highest professional quality and proven public interest; 2.) an opportunity to increase the public's awareness of the tribe's extent of community involvement; and 3.) an opportunity to increase the public's awareness of the tribe's general heritage, and specific heritage involving wolves. This awareness will not be limited to the Green Bay area - promotional efforts are underway to reach audiences throughout the state, as well as in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and southern Canada.

The Oneida tribe will be invited to participate in and benefit from events surrounding "Wolves", including:

- use of the Frankenthal Gallery for an exhibit about Oneida heritage to run concurrently with the "Wolves" exhibit. (This gallery overlooks the Fox River and is immediately adjacent to the three second floor galleries being used for "Wolves".)
- coordinating group bus tours to the Neville Public Museum and the Oneida Nation Museum through the Visitor and Convention Bureau.
- coordination of media packages and news releases to benefit both the Neville Public Museum and the Oneida Nation Museum, as well as the tribe.
- presenting tribal cultural and educational programs to the public that would compliment the exhibit, i.e., storytellers, historians, talks on Oneida cultural and religious relationships to wolves, etc.
- involving other Indian tribes in a cooperative effort for increasing public awareness of Native Americans.

SCHEDULE FOR WOLVES AND HUMANS

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN	12/10/83-7/29/84	379,280
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming	6/25/85-9/2/85	215,000
Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, ID	9/22/85-12/29/85	30,000
Museum of Science, Boston, MA	2/14/86-5/11/86	221,283
American Museum of Natural History, New York City	6/11/86-9/1/86	<u>600,000</u> *
		1,445,563
Fort Worth Museum of Science and Industry, TX	10/10/86-1/4/87	
Neville Public Museum, Green Bay, WI	1/23/87-5/3/87	
Explorers Hall, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.	5/22/87-8/16/87	
Museum of Science, Miami, FL	9/4/87-3/13/88	
National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Canada	4/1/88-10/9/88	
St. Louis Science Center, St. Louis, MO	10/28/88-1/22/89	

* Estimate based on first three weeks of attendance.

Timber wolf plan being developed

Press-Gazette

RHINELANDER — Public meetings will be held here and in eight other Wisconsin cities this month so citizens can help the State Department of Natural Resources develop a successful timber wolf recovery plan.

Public concerns must be understood and misconceptions about the wolf corrected before a successful plan can be developed, DNR officials said.

Experts from the DNR, the U.S. Forest Service and the Wisconsin County Forests Association will be at the meetings to provide information about wolves and listen to citizens' comments.

The meetings will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the following locations: Park Falls High School, Park Falls, Sept. 22; University of Wisconsin Student Union, Madison, Sept. 22; UW-Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources Building, Sept. 23; Florence High School, Florence, Sept. 23; University of Wisconsin, Barron County campus, Rice Lake, Sept. 23; Nicolet College, Rhineland, Sept. 24; Superior Senior High School, Superior, Sept. 24; UW-Green Bay, Sept. 25; and Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee, Sept. 25.

DNR officials who scheduled the meetings said the eastern timber wolf is an endangered species here, and will disappear from the state without a recovery plan to insure its survival.

"We have our work cut out for us," said Richard Thiel, wolf biolo-

gist with the DNR's Endangered Resources Bureau in Madison. "Only 15 wolves remain in the state."

It is thought that as many as 25,000 wolves once lived in Wisconsin. Their numbers were reduced by early settlers who feared for their safety and livestock, and worked to exterminate the animals, said Thiel.

Bounties established in the 1800s were not removed until 1957, when just one wolf remained in the state, he said.

Developing a self-sustaining population of timber wolves won't be easy because few young wolves survive, the animals need large undeveloped areas in which to roam, and because wolves often fall prey to "human killers," Thiel said.

Although it's illegal to shoot timber wolves — the federal fine is \$10,000 and the state fine is \$1,000 — about 25 percent of the state's wolf population dies each year of gunshot wounds, he said.

Thiel said some people are violently opposed to the animals because wolves eat meat, particularly deer.

He said DNR research indicates that about 55 percent of the wolf's diet is comprised of deer while the remaining 45 percent is beaver, snowshoe rabbit, mice, squirrels, muskrats and other small mammals.

There is no record of wolves ever attacking humans, either in Wisconsin or elsewhere in the United States, DNR officials said.

Wisconsin Journal 9/24/86

DNR ponders future of the timber wolf

MADISON, WIS. — The sentiment was strong here Monday night: Let's do what we can to encourage wolves to prosper as part of the wildlife community of northern Wisconsin. The discussion, in fact, centered on what can be done.

That's what Department of Natural Resources officials had in mind when they scheduled a series of meetings around the state to gain information and opinions from the public on restoring the timber wolf as a self-sustaining species in the state: How to do it, not whether to do it.

When Chuck Pils, a DNR staff member, told the audience that all opinions would be listened to and taken into consideration, he had to immediately assure an alarmed woman that state law required that the goal of the DNR's Timber Wolf Recovery Team be recovery, and that contrary views would be taken into consideration but would not change that goal.

He did acknowledge that some persons who lived in the north and hunted deer might not welcome the wolf with open arms.

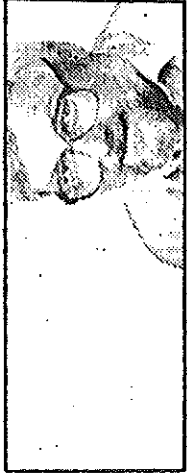
Pils told the 100 or so at the meeting that the wolf had been exterminated in Wisconsin, with the help of a state bounty, by 1958, but that a few wolves moved in from Minnesota during the 1960s.

For a number of years, he said, there were 25 to 30 wolves in northern Wisconsin, in about five packs. Those numbers, he said, are now down to 13 to 15 wolves in three packs and several lone animals.

Three problems stalk wolves today, Pils said:

- Diseases, especially canine parvovirus, have cut into pup survival.
- Hunters, especially deer hunters, illegally shoot wolves.
- Wolves need large areas of remote habitat, partly to protect them from hunters.

Several persons in the audience supported clo-



RON LEYS
OUTDOOR EDITOR

wolves were known to live. Pils said that had been done in 1980 but was rescinded after the 1982 season when the Wisconsin Conservation Congress objected and sportsmen voted against the idea in statewide balloting at spring fish and game hearings.

There were questions about how non-hunters could make their opinions better known, and Pils said that the spring hearings were open to all citizens.

Gene Wook of Sauk City, representing the Wisconsin Federated Humane Society, recommended that wolf recovery be pursued even if people had to be relocated and their activities curtailed.

He also advocated more stringent enforcement of dog ownership laws, contending that unvaccinated dogs were spreading diseases to wolves.

Jeff Zuba, a University of Wisconsin veterinary student who has been studying the parvovirus problem, said coyotes, which are numerous throughout the north, were the main carriers of parvovirus and that it would be difficult to control the disease among such a widespread population.

An attempt is being made to capture and vaccinate wolves, the audience was told.

Several persons advocated education as part of

courses required for young hunters and through Project Wild in regular school programs. It was said that young people were less prejudiced against wolves and would be more easily persuaded to let them be.

But Terry Young said: "I don't understand why we have to go to such efforts to avoid ruffling the feathers of a special interest group. I don't see how we have time to wait for little kids to grow up."

She said that when the need for an older drinking age was seen, little time was wasted in making it law.

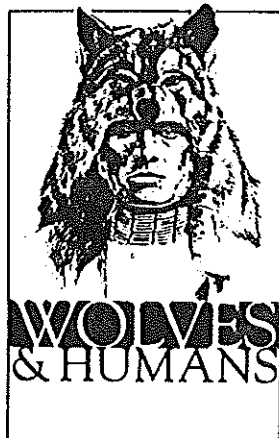
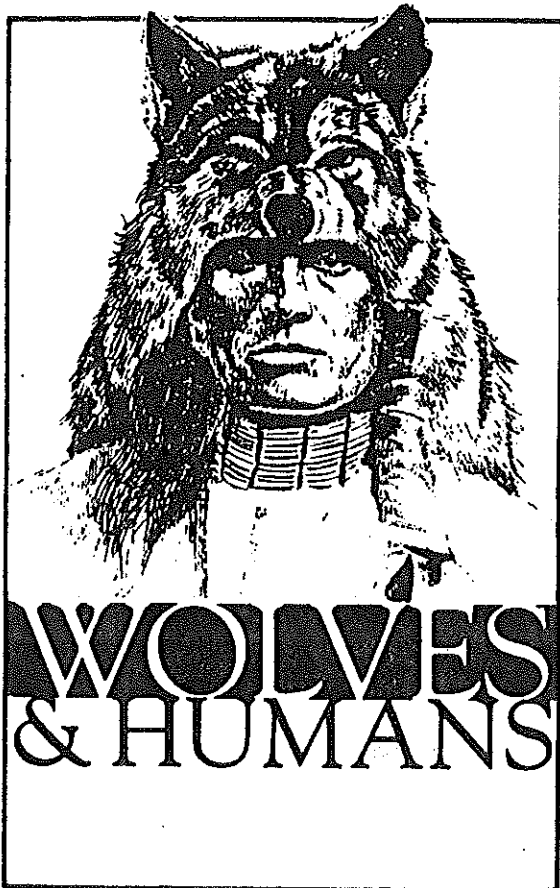
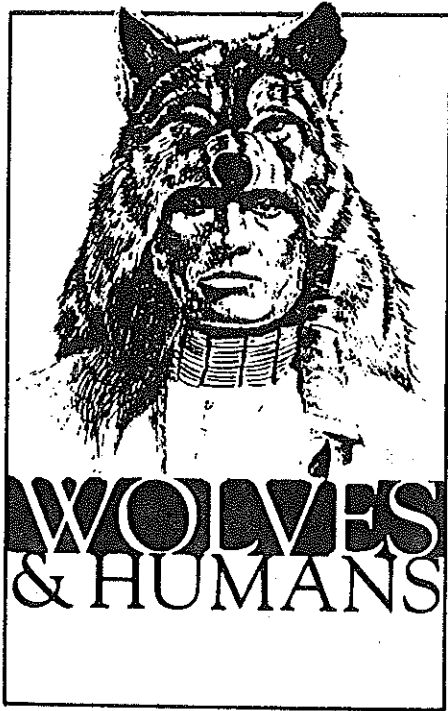
Halvor Bjornson, who said he had been a deer hunter for 40 years, cautioned the DNR to carefully weigh the question of whether to encourage wolves. He said wolves had virtually wiped out deer populations in areas of Minnesota and that in Fairbanks, Alaska, wolves come into town and kill and eat chained-up dogs.

Pils replied that conditions were different in the areas mentioned by Bjornson, and he said comparisons were not relevant.

Frank Iwen, addressing Bjornson, said he and several friends hunt deer in an area of Wisconsin where wolves also hunt. He and his friends continue to find deer there, he said.

Other meetings, all at 7 p.m., will be held Tuesday in the College of Natural Resources Building at the University of Wisconsin — Stevens Point, the Florence High School Auditorium and the UW campus at Rice Lake. Meetings will be held Wednesday night at Nicolet College in Rhinelander and in Superior Senior High School and Thursday night in the Community Science Building of the UW — Green Bay and in the Continuing Education Building of Milwaukee Area Technical College, 1036 N. 8th St.

Persons who can't make the meetings can mail comments and suggestions by Oct. 15 to: Timber Wolf, Department of Natural Resources, Box

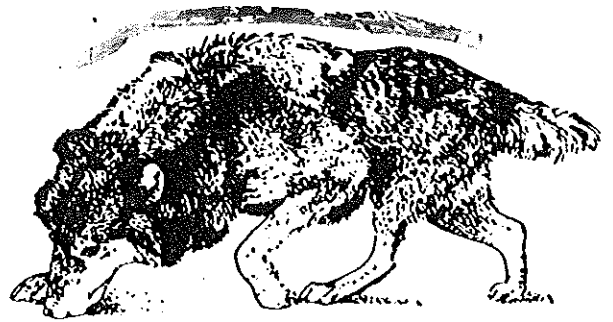




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