



ANNUAL REPORT

*The Wolf Conservation Center
teaches people about
wolves, their relationship
to the environment,
and the human role
in protecting their future.*







MESSAGE FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF OF THE WCC

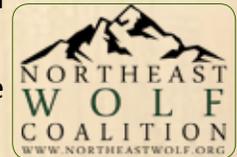
Dear Friends of the Wolf Conservation Center,

Feared and admired, cursed and revered, wolves are the stuff of legends and a symbol of America's vanishing wilderness. Their reputation is larger than life; their role in the restoration of America's wildlife heritage is bigger still. Inspired by the importance and plight of the iconic species, Hélène Grimaud founded the Wolf Conservation Center (WCC) in 1996 to save wolves from the brink of extinction and to teach the broader message of conservation, ecological balance, and personal responsibility for improved human stewardship of our World.

At the close of 2014, it is remarkable to see how much the WCC has grown in prominence and influence! All of us at the WCC were gratified to see the completion of several long-term efforts to expand our educational reach and contribute to wolf survival. At the same time, we undertook amazing new initiatives that we hope that will have even greater impact in the coming years.

Just a few of the high points from 2014 were:

- 🐾 **Continued Success:** On-site and offsite education programs and a special events reached over 35,000 people,
- 🐾 **Launched the Northeast Wolf Coalition:** A new initiative that explores the vision of wolf recovery in the Northeast,
- 🐾 **Ambassador Wolf Pup Nikai:** Another powerful presence in the fight to preserve wolves' rightful place in the environment,
- 🐾 **At last, we will truly have a "Den of Our Own":** The acquisition of the last of the three lots that comprise our wooded site solidifies our ability to remain in our current location and allows the WCC to draw up long-term improvement plans,
- 🐾 **Call of the Wild:** Released of captive-born, critically endangered red wolf M1804 to his ancestral home on the wild landscape,
- 🐾 **Challenged the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)** in collaboration with Earth-justice, Defenders of Wildlife and others to secure the future for endangered Mexican gray wolves,
- 🐾 **"Family Walk for Wolves":** our second annual event that gave hundreds of local supporters an opportunity to celebrate the wildlife and wild lands of the Empire State,
- 🐾 **Robust Support on Social Media:** WCC is approaching TWO MILLION supporters on Facebook – expanding our educational reach far beyond the boundaries of our facility.





MESSAGE FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF OF THE WCC



As satisfying as these accomplishments were, many challenges remain...

Wolves continue to be subjected to aggressive hunting and trapping in states where their federal protections have been lifted. Wild Mexican wolves and red wolves face serious recovery challenges that will affect their future success. Finally, if USFWS' proposed national delisting rule is passed, it will threaten the recovery of recolonizing wolves that are just beginning to make a comeback in parts of their historic range.

But we won't give up.

As always, we thank all our donors, volunteers and staff whose invaluable dedication and support make it possible for us fulfill our missions. We look forward to a productive year in 2015 in which we will take significant steps to strengthen our capacity to meet challenges of the present and future while continuing our efforts ensure the survival of the inspiring and essential wolf.

Warmest wishes,

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Wolf Conservation Center



The Wolf Conservation Center

South Salem, New York  www.nywolf.org



OVERVIEW OF THE WOLF CONSERVATION CENTER



Strong and wild, wolves once roamed across most of the United States. More than a symbol of wilderness, science tells us that wolves are a vital part of many varied ecosystems. But after centuries of an unremitting slaughter by humans, this misunderstood predator was brought to the brink of extinction.

Over the last several decades, however, efforts have begun to right this horrible wrong: to reintroduce and restore these magnificent creatures to their rightful places in our landscapes, in our hearts and in our culture.

The WCC has been part of this effort for almost two decades. We have nurtured wolves, educated hundreds of thousands about their plight, and fought for their habitat and protection.



THE WOLF CONSERVATION CENTER IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Wolf Conservation Center (WCC), founded in 1996 by H el ene Grimaud, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit environmental education organization located in South Salem, NY. The WCC's mission is to recover wolf populations in North America by teaching about wolves, their relationship to the environment, and the human role in protecting their future. The WCC accomplishes this mission by educating adults and children about their importance and plight, and mobilizing support and advocating for these species which cannot speak for themselves, and participating in two federal wolf recovery programs.

WHAT WE DO AT THE WCC

-  **Nurture Wolves**
-  **Educate People**
-  **Mobilize Support**



Nurture Wolves

We are home for up to 30 wolves, most of them kept off exhibit with the goal of one day releasing them into their wild ancestral landscapes. We are the preeminent facility in the eastern United States for the captive breeding and pre-release of endangered wolf species.

The WCC participates in the Species Survival Plan (SSP) and Recovery Plan for the Mexican gray wolf and the red wolf, which are among the rarest mammals in North America. Both species at one time were completely extinct in the wild. Under the aegis of the Endangered Species Act, reintroduction efforts in the past decade have established small, wild populations of about 100 red wolves and 75 Mexican grays. To-date, four wolves from the Center have been given this extraordinary opportunity.

Educate People

We teach about 40,000 people a year, mostly kids, about the importance of these predators and their impact on our lands, waters and culture. Our Ambassador Wolves and other programs reach people both at our 28-acre facility in South Salem, NY, and in schools, museums, libraries and nature centers throughout the Northeast. Our wolves aid our students in understanding the importance of their wild counterparts by allowing unprecedented personal interaction.

The WCC's newly developed interdisciplinary curriculum in wolf education will deepen the educational experience the Center can provide and expands the organization's geographic reach.

Mobilize Support

Our thousands of supporters are guided and directed to make their voices heard on the numerous issues that continue to effect wolves in the wild. We believe every individual has the ability and responsibility to affect the world, as well as a voice (and the right to use it) to safeguard the future for generations to come.

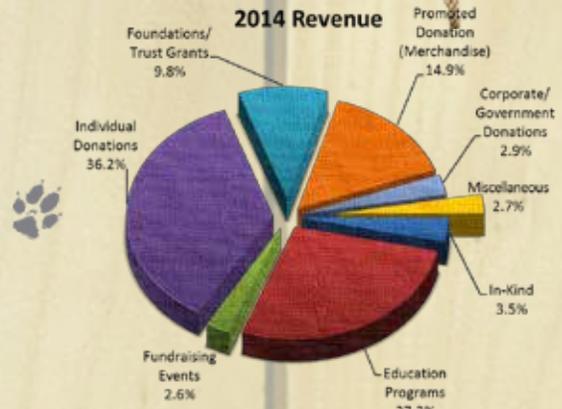
We're able to engage with a vast number of learners and supporters through our robust social media effort. Consistent, professional effort has resulted in over two million people following our work on Facebook where they are alerted to ways they can help save wolves locally and across North America, communicate effectively with their elected representatives, encourage personal responsibility for improved human stewardship of our World.





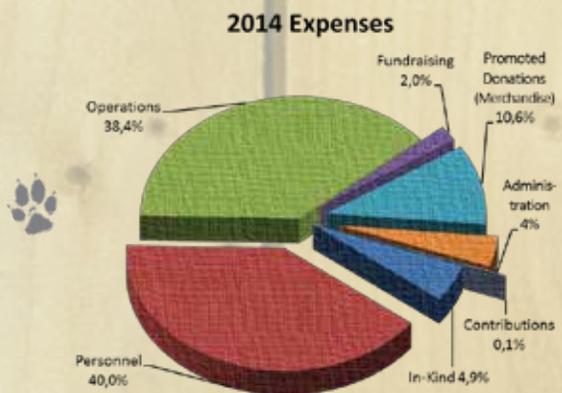
SOURCES OF FUNDS

In-kind	\$ 36,714
Education Programs	\$ 288,623
Fundraising Events	\$ 27,889
Individual Donations	\$ 382,203
Foundations / Trust Grants	\$ 103,860
Promoted Donations (Merchandise).....	\$ 157,221
Corporate / Government Donations	\$ 30,622
Miscellaneous	\$ 29,043
Total Revenue	\$ 1,056,175



USES OF FUNDS

In-kind	\$ 36,714
Personnel	\$ 299,028
Operations	\$ 287,384
Fundraising.....	\$ 15,121
Promoted Donations (Merchandise).....	\$ 79,569
Administration	\$ 29,921
Contributions	\$ 750
Total Expenses	\$ 748,487



ASSETS

Current Assets.....	\$ 689,958
Fixed Assets.....	\$ 2,750,942
Total Assets.....	\$ 3,440,900



LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities	\$ 509,361
Accumulated Fund Balance.....	\$ 2,623,851
Net Income	\$ 307,688
Total Liabilities	\$ 3,440,900



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

As citizens of the 21st century, our nation and world seem to be at a crossroads when it comes to ensuring the future sustainability of our air, water, wild lands and wildlife for future generations. Ultimately, achieving this goal will not be easy. It will require a sustained and shared effort by our government, American businesses, American educators, parents, and all those who value our natural treasures.

Thus, our nation's future relies on a well-educated public to be wise stewards of the very environment that sustains us, our families and communities, and future generations. It is environmental education which can best help us as individuals make the complex, conceptual connections between economic prosperity, benefits to society, environmental health, and our own well-being. Ultimately, the collective wisdom of our citizens, gained through education, will be the most compelling and most successful strategy for future conservation initiatives.

Through wolves, the WCC teaches the broader message of conservation, ecological balance, and personal responsibility for improved human stewardship of our World. By providing science-based information, the WCC allows wolves and humans to better coexist in our fragile environment, improves our efforts to successfully restore endangered wolves to their ancestral homes in the wild and offers direct exposure to an elusive predator people might not ever see in the wild. The WCC education and Ambassador-wolf programs open the door to understanding the importance of a healthy planet. They are designed to conform to New York State Standards for Science Education and touch on a variety of disciplines from biology to history.

People can experience the WCC's educational message in three formats:

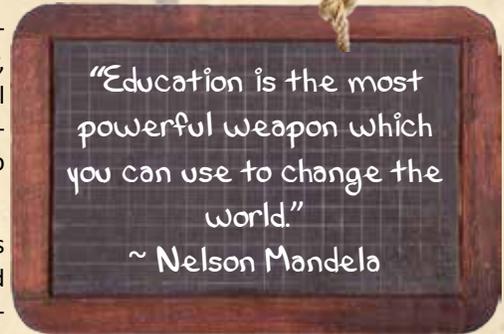
-  On-site programs at the WCC facility in South Salem, NY;
-  Off-site programs in schools, museums, libraries and nature centers throughout the Northeast in which a visit from our traveling ambassador wolf, Atka, is the highlight;
-  Classroom learning, though our innovative "Interdisciplinary Curriculum in Wolf Education – Tracks to the Future," enables middle students to learn and master many of the required Common Core State Standards in Language Arts, Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies while using wolf conservation as an integrating theme. The Curriculum deepens the educational experience the Center can provide and expands the organization's geographic reach.

VISITORS TO THE CENTER



The WCC conducted 385 on-site education programs during 2014, another all-time high. Some highlights include outstanding attendance for our long-running "Wolves of America," "Wolf Camp for Kids," and "Sleeping with Wolves Overnight Adventure" programs, along with the debut of "Tap Your Inner Predator" and "Wild Edibles" workshops. Programs are conducted year-round, Tuesday through Sunday, so WCC supporters can behold the wolves during their different phases of each season.

As we begin 2015, we are actively planning ways to better accomplish our educational mission. We have already taken significant steps to strengthen our capacity to better meet challenges of the present and future via the acquisition of a permanent "Den of Our Own!" This acquisition will give us the freedom to develop a new education center and exhibit space to dramatically increase the number visitors we serve and enhance their experience.





AMBASSADOR WOLF PROGRAMS

The WCC conducted 141 off-site Ambassador Wolf programs during 2014. The following schools and organizations helped us bring our message to wide and diverse audiences.

Alley Pond Environmental Center, Inc.
 American Museum of Natural History
 Ansonia Nature Center
 Ardsley Children's Center
 Bedford Road School
 Berkshire Museum
 Boscobel House & Gardens
 Buckley School
 Burr Intermediate School
 Camp Critter - Westchester SPCA
 Camp Gan Israel of Westport
 Central Elementary School
 Charles DeWolf Middle School
 Charles H. Bullock School
 Cheshire Academy
 Christodora
 Dalton School
 Davis School
 Education Connection
 Elmwood Elementary School
 Farmington River Elementary School
 Franklin Academy
 French American School of New York
 Gardner School
 George Fischer Middle School
 George Washington Elementary School
 Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson
 Green Chimneys
 Greenbelt Nature Center
 Greenwich Education Group
 Greenwich Scouts
 Hackley School
 Harrision High School
 Haviland Middle School
 Hazelnut Farm
 Henry H. Wells Middle School
 Hommocks Middle School
 Huckleberry Hill Elementary School



Hudson Valley Christian Academy
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 John Pettibone School
 Kent Elementary School
 King Street Intermediate School
 Lincoln Titus Elementary School
 Long Island Wolf Expo
 Lycée Français de New York
 Middle Gate Elementary School
 Mohegan Tribe
 Mohonk Preserve
 Mt. Pleasant-Blythedale School
 New Pond Farm Education Center
 Norfolk Land Trust
 North Haven Day Camp
 Northwest Park
 Parkway School
 Patagonia Soho
 PEARLS Hawthorne School
 Peekskill Middle School
 Pelham Middle School
 Pleasantville Elementary School
 Pound Ridge Town Day Camp
 Reed Intermediate School
 Reeves-Reed Arboretum
 Rockland Audubon Society
 Rocky Brook Day Camp
 Rye YMCA
 Scarsdale Middle School
 Scarsdale Public Library
 Science Scene
 Shoreline Outdoor Education Center
 Siena College



Somers Intermediate School
 South Orangetown Middle School
 State University of New York New Paltz
 Staten Island Zoo
 Steep Rock Land Trust
 Taconic Outdoor Education Center
 The Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter
 The Institute for American Indian Studies
 The Speyer Legacy School
 Thomas Jefferson Elementary School
 Titusville Intermediate School
 Tuxedo Summer Camp
 Two Rivers Magnet Middle School
 Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation
 West Bristol School
 Westbury Middle School
 Westchester Country Club
 Western Connecticut State University
 White Memorial Conservation Center
 Wilton Cub Scout Pack 17
 Wilton Go Green Festival
 Wilton Library
 Winding Trails, Inc.
 Wolf Central Inc
 Woodcliff Middle School
 Woodcock Nature Center
 Woodlands High School Science Fair
 Yale Peabody Museum



ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

 WOLF

The WCC participates in the Species Survival Plan (SSP) and Recovery Plan for the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupis baileyi*) and the red wolf (*Canis rufus*), which are among the rarest mammals in North America. Both species at one time were completely extinct in the wild. Under the aegis of the Endangered Species Act, reintroduction efforts in the past two decades have established small, wild populations of less than 100 red wolves and 109 Mexican grays. Presently, there are approximately 400 Mexican gray wolves and 300 red wolves remaining in the world, the majority living in captivity within the network of facilities participating in the SSP.

Organizations participating in the SSP are tasked with housing and caring for the wolves, collaborating in the captive breeding program, sharing observations and recommendations for release, and engaging in the sometimes unusual and often controversial efforts to save the species.

Every one of the captive endangered wolves is a part of something bigger than their pack, or the facilities that house them. They are integral parts of the recovery of their rare species. Some of these wolves contribute as emissaries for their species, living on exhibit to help educate people about the importance of their wild counterparts. Some of these animals also contribute to the revitalization of their species as participants of the SSP captive breeding program. However, the most fortunate captive wolves contribute as candidates for release into the wild.

Raising Awareness

At the close of 2014 the Center's campus housed thirteen Mexican gray wolves and seven red wolves. Visitors can view two of the SSP enclosures, and four wolf families are broadcast to a global audience via WildEarth TV webcams. By exposing the public to these beautiful and rare wolves, the WCC aims to raise awareness for the species as well as the natural and political pressures that challenge recovery.

Via the WCC's awareness and action campaigns, the WCC helps to arm supporters with tools to demand progress in both the rules governing wolf reintroduction and recovery management for both species.

Captive Breeding

The primary goal for the SSP is to breed wolves for maximum genetic integrity for reintroduction into the wild. In order to maintain genetic diversity within the Mexican wolf and red wolf populations, the SSP management groups use software developed for the population management of endangered species to select breeding pairs. Wolf unions are chosen based on the genetic "value" of the individuals and the benefits their potential offspring would contribute to the diversity of their rare species. Because the entire existing Mexican wolf population descended from just seven founders rescued from extinction and the red wolf just fourteen, genetic health is the primary consideration governing all wolf pairings.

To date, the WCC has welcomed 10 critically endangered pups. All adorable and all priceless contributions to the recovery of their rare species.



Captive to Wild Release Events

To date, four of the WCC's wolves have received the "call of the wild," – two in 2013. M1804, a red wolf born at the WCC in 2010, flew to the St. Vincent Wildlife Refuge to be paired with a resident female for whom he is an excellent match genetically. Additionally, one of our Mexican gray wolves, M1141 who was also born at the Center, was transferred to a USFWS management facility in New Mexico to meet a potential mate – a step that is expected to lead to release in spring of 2014. These lucky canids follow in the steps of a two WCC Mexican gray wolves released into the Arizona landscape in 2006 and 2008.



Our participation in SSP captive breeding and our ability to accommodate endangered wolves is essential for these animals to resume their rightful place in the wild.

Looking ahead, we are currently in the early stages of developing plans for the upgrade and expansion of our Species Survival Facilities for both our Mexican gray and red wolf residents.



The WCC would like to extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to the dedicated volunteers who work so hard to help fulfill our mission.

Cheyenne Alberti
 Marlene Bauer
 Renee Bayha
 Diane Beigler
 Diane Bentivegna
 Dana Bernbach
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 Norman Vedder
 Kathy Welsh
 Angela Zappavigna



 **IN-KIND DONATORS**



The WCC would also like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their in-kind donations. We sincerely appreciate their contributions.

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AWARENESS AND ACTION

The value and importance of conserving species and ensuring biodiversity is an accepted axiom of the 21st century. The importance of a keystone predator such as the red wolf to a balanced and resilient ecosystem is undeniable. That our policies should be motivated by these basic scientific principles is a must.

Every voice raised in support of wildlife and wild places can make a difference. And when we all work together we can make big things happen. The WCC educates tens of thousands of supporters annually via education programming about (1) the issues that impact the future of fragile populations of wild wolves in the USA and Canada, and (2) the tools that will enable them to become active and authentic voices that advocate for responsible decision-making. We also facilitate a myriad of robust social media campaigns that help raise the visibility of wolf and wildlife conservation; these initiatives have attracted over two million supporters worldwide. Coupled with personal meetings, phone calls, writing letters and emails to elected representatives and others, such measures are essential and can have an enormous impact on potential policies that can affect wolves in all 50 (fifty) states and Canada.

"Science and environmental law can help us learn to share landscapes with fierce creatures, but ultimately, coexistence has to do with our human hearts."

~ Cristina Eisenberg,
The Carnivore Way

"Only if we understand can we care. Only if we care will we help. Only if we help shall they be saved."

~ Jane Goodall

With both the natural and political challenges continuing to face wolves, our work ahead has never been more important. We are confident that we are making a difference. We remain committed to mobilizing support and advocating for these essential species which cannot speak for themselves.

THE NORTHEAST WOLF COALITION


NORTHEAST
WOLF
COALITION
WWW.NORTHEASTWOLF.ORG

With those words, conservationist Aldo Leopold began a serious dialog about the state of wild lands and wildlife in the American landscape. For those of us who live in the Northeast, this conversation has never been more critical. For more than a century, the northeastern United States has been regaining its wildness. Where forests had been largely cleared in 19th century, the woods have returned. Where wildlife such as moose, bear, beaver – even deer – had been eliminated, these animals have rebounded. While this is cause for hope, this remarkable recovery seems incomplete.

The decline of large predators and other apex consumers at the top of the food chain has disrupted ecosystems all over our continent, and it is arguably human-kind's most pervasive influence on the natural world. For our region, the wolf is the missing component of our regional ecology and one of the top predators that once called the Northeast its home.

Recognizing the need to explore the need for this apex predator and the potential for its recovery in the Northeast USA, the Northeast Wolf Coalition was established in March, 2014 as an alliance of conservation organizations in New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut and beyond. The Coalition's work is guided by some of our nation's best and brightest conservation

scientists to ensure the foundation of its work is based on the application of the best available and most current scientific principles. The Coalition believes the return of the wolf will reflect a more fully functional and wild Northeast, with wolves fulfilling dynamic and evolving ecological functions in the changing environments that comprise our region.

As conservationists in the 21st century, we are faced with the challenge of helping nature continue to heal and flourish for future generations. Thus, the need to explore the critical factors that affect the wolf's return and its potentially positive impact to the natural biological diversity of the Northeast has never been more important. As co-founder of the Northeast Wolf Coalition, the Wolf Conservation Center continues to take a leadership role in this mission.

"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free."

Aldo Leopold, Foreword to A Sand County Almanac (1949)





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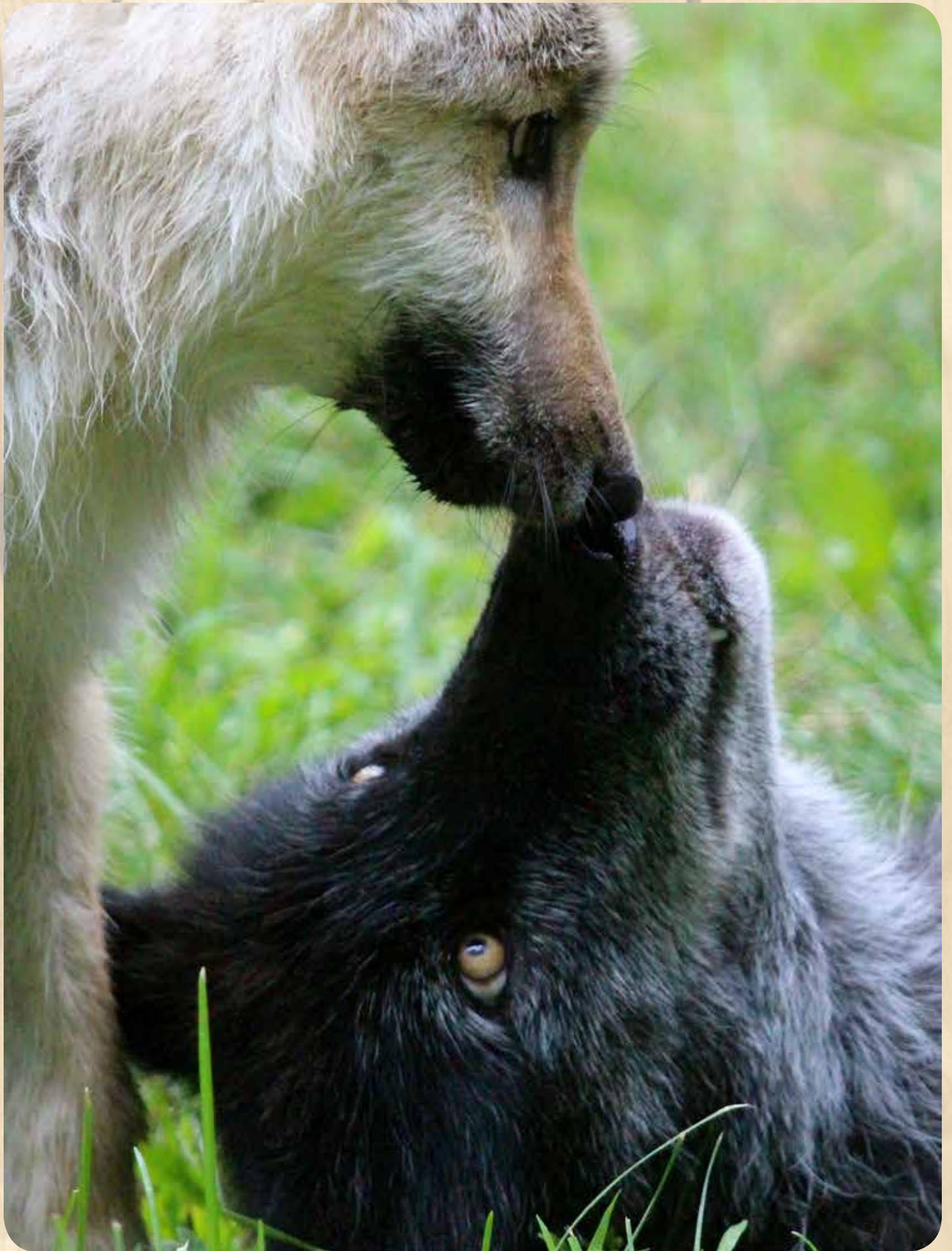
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The WCC is home to ambassador wolves that visitors can observe in spacious natural enclosures. We also have over 20 wolves as part of our participation in Species Survival Plans for critically endangered Mexican Gray Wolves and Red wolves. To learn more about us or to arrange a visit, please go to our website and follow us on Facebook & Twitter.



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