



National Museum of Forest Service History Newsletter

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Protecting the Eastern Timber Wolf Superior National Forest, 1970

By David Stack

The first Endangered Species Act (1966) presented new challenges to the Forest Service. The Superior National Forest faced several challenges -- the law and wolves were controversial and actions to protect the wolves needed to be coordinated with State wildlife managers as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

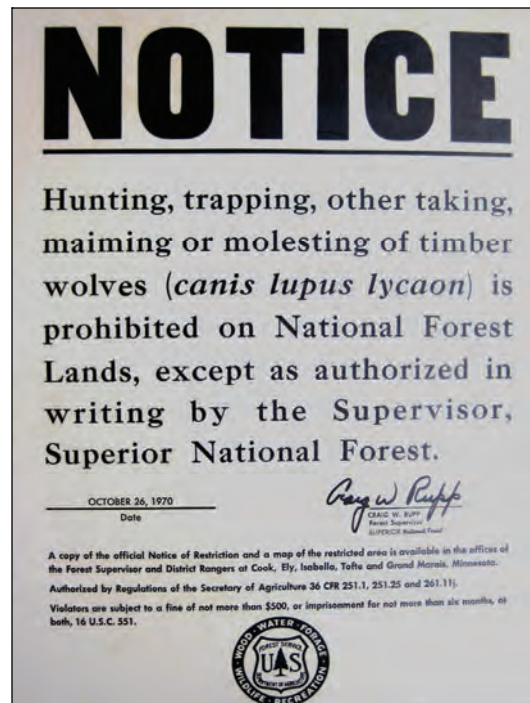
History of past issues are often helpful in suggesting possible solutions to current management issues. This article describes how the Forest Service worked with the other agencies and public interests to arrive at a decision to protect the Eastern Timber Wolf in Minnesota.

Wolf Population and Range (1)

The Eastern Timber Wolf (*Canis lupus lycaon*) once occupied approximately one-third of the area of the United States including all or parts of 26 States from Minnesota east to the Atlantic and south to Florida. In 1970, this subspecies is apparently confined primarily to about 12,000 square miles of habitat--principally the forested areas of northern Minnesota, including the Superior National Forest. There is, in addition to its primary range, a peripheral range where occasional animals are found adjacent to the primary range. This includes about 12,000 square miles more for a grand total of perhaps 25,000 square miles out of the subspecies' former area in the 26 states. This is a tremendous shrinkage of its habitat. It represents only three percent of the former range for the subspecies in the United States, and less than one percent of the former range of the species as a whole in the contiguous 48 states.

Forest Service policy is to preserve endangered or rare species by special management. The Forest Service Manual further states: "Endangered wildlife species occurring on National Forest System lands, shall be given special protection and management commensurate with their individual needs."

The Eastern Timber Wolf (*Canis lupus lycaon*) is classified as an Endangered Species in the "Red Book" of



"Rare and Endangered Fish and Wildlife of the United States," Revised Edition. December 1968, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior, issued pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Threatened with Extinction Act of October 15, 1966. The purpose of the Act was to provide a program for the conservation, protection, restoration and propagation of selected species of native fish and wildlife, including migratory birds that are threatened with extinction.

Looking at wolves from the narrow perspective of one state, might indicate that there are plenty of them. Looking at timber wolves from the broad perspective that for all intents and purposes they only exist in one state, as compared to a previous range of 48 states, points up quite vividly that the animal is endangered in the continental United States. If, in fact, the often made estimate of 300-

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**National Museum of
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Membership Dues

Student	\$15
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Lifetime	\$1,000

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Museum News

By Dave Stack, Executive Director

I am pleased to report continued development of Museum programs since our last newsletter in August. Our efforts, supported by our members, are saving and sharing forest and grassland conservation history with people across the country.

Staff Assistant Hired — Tom Petersen was recently hired for an initial six-month period to assist the museum in raising funds to support our efforts to share Forest Service and conservation history with the public and hiring, in the future, an executive director. Petersen will also assist the Capital Campaign Committee with prospective donor research and with strategy. For the last 17 years Petersen served as a Development Director for a Missoula non-profit. Petersen follows Jane Hanson who provided wonderful support for the last five years.

Board of Directors approved bylaw changes to add a President-elect and Past President positions.

New Members — 38 new members joined in 2014. Five new members joined in January 2015.

Mineral Traveling Exhibit — We received positive comments from the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, Leadville, Colorado. They are hosting the exhibit until September 2015. Curator Sarah said the exhibit is of such great quality and it really completes the room. We're so pleased to have it here. I'm excited for our high season so that more visitors will be able to interact and learn from the display!

2015 National Forest Service Reunion October 11-16—Albuquerque, New Mexico Register Now

The 2015 Forest Service National Reunion is in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The reunion is the week after the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta! The Museum is a co-sponsor of the Reunion.

We are anticipating 1,000 retirees from all over the United States to attend. Reunion events will feature cultural and historic presentations about the U.S. Forest Service. This is an opportunity for attendees to renew friendships. "Rally on the Rio," the next national U.S. Forest Service reunion, is **only seven months away**, and now is the time to register early to receive the discounted room rate of just \$105 per night (plus tax) at the hosting Marriott Pyramid in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

You can call Marriott Reservations at 1-877-622-3056 now and ask for the U.S. Forest Service Amigos Reunion room block to receive the discounted room rate. You can also make hotel reservations now by clicking on the "Lodging Tab" the Reunion Home Page.

Reunion registration and hotel reservations are now Open!

Reunion website: <http://www.2015.fsreunions.org/>

Forest Service Families, the Untold Career

A FEATURED REUNION PROGRAM

By Roger and Nancy Deaver



To review the chronicles of the work and achievements of an earlier period of Forest Service history you would have to marvel at the bravery and undaunted will of the men that were called to duty to face the challenges and lonely lifestyle of this vocation. The bravery and undaunted will of the men, you say? Granted there were not very many women on the payroll in field assignments prior to the seventies, but is that to suggest women were not there and not contributing to getting the job done?

Inspired by a few women that lived in that era and having attended several previous Forest Service reunions, they responded when the organizing committee called for a critique and asked what they would like to see in the next reunion---and they made their voices heard. They reminded reunion organizers, past and future, of the demographics of who are inclined to attend our FS Reunions. The sizeable majority are from that period of the 50's, 60's, 70's, and 80's when an entire career was spent in the Forest Service. For the wives, it was about their husband's job (the good and the bad), the pay, the moving, the housing, raising children, changing schools, the times left home alone, wild animals, angry loggers or ranchers, rounding up "the men" to fight a fire, and making sure they were fed hearty meals. Being a wife in that period was a career in itself. So these women critics suggested having something on the program that addresses the "untold story" of the families that accompanied these men, endured the same challenges, and were a big part of the effort to get the field work accomplished.

This feature presentation will entertain as well as enlighten the audience with a glimpse back to an earlier time in Forest Service history. This will be accomplished by having a few select family spokespersons share stories with pictures that depict the life and times of a Forest Service wife with actual events and experiences. You might hear a tale about a brand new bride driven to their first field assignment and hear her reaction to being ushered into the bunkhouse as her first home with only cloth curtains separating this newly married couple from a gaggle of young men. Or you might enjoy hearing of the harrowing tale of a young mother stranded in a mountain pass and trekking through deep snow carrying her baby girl. Then again, you might be equally entertained by another young bride fording a stream with a pack string headed to her summer Guard Station only to witness the diamond hitch on the pack mule give way, spilling her personal items into the river and how she dealt with that ordeal. Or how about the wife of a new ranger that overcame the boredom of riding and inspecting a range fence and decided to lasso a mountain lion.

But to hear how these tales turned out, you will have to show up at this reunion and attend this Family Feature presentation. So go to the Web Site: www.2015.fsreunions.org and get signed up right now.



Did You Know?

Since 1905, over 518 billion board feet of timber has been harvested off of our national forests. Total revenue generated from the sale of this timber is over \$26.1 billion based upon the dollar value at the time harvested.

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400 wolves in northern Minnesota is near accurate, then the situation may be critical.

It appears that we have very little factual evidence, at present, to support the estimates of 300, 800, or 40,000 wolves. We do know that some other states - Wisconsin and Michigan - enacted full protection laws, but too late to save the wolves. We do know that Mexico has protected their wolves but the numbers are decreasing. We also know that in Canada and Alaska there is heavy pressure on the wolf populations.

Decision to Prohibit Taking of Wolves (1)

David Mech, (Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Interior) an authority on timber wolves, recently had to pay a trapper \$100 to "buy back" one of his research-marked wolves, only slightly injured by a trap. Another timber wolf was trapped and shot, despite the presence of a radio collar on the animal's neck. Another wolf met the same fate with brightly colored tags.
Minneapolis Tribune, November 3, 1970

Because the Timber Wolf was unprotected in the State of Minnesota and trappers were setting unusually large numbers of traps in 1970 which disrupted valuable research projects, Craig Rupp, Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest, on October 26, 1970 signed a Supervisor's Order closing the large majority of Federal lands within the Superior National Forest to the taking of timber wolves.

Public Response as Reported by the Media

Minnesota Conservation Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources Jarle Leirfallom said "I'm a little bit disturbed by the Forest Service coming into the state and stepping over the Minnesota Legislature and administrative agencies on a matter of its concern."
Minneapolis Tribune, November 3, 1970

Endangered Species Act

The first federal Endangered Species Preservation Act was passed in 1966, and in 1967 gray wolves were classified as endangered and provided limited protection. In 1974, four subspecies of gray wolves in the lower 48 states were afforded full protection under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. In 1978, the gray wolf was listed as endangered at the full species level (C. lupus) throughout the conterminous 48 States and Mexico, except for Minnesota where it was reclassified as threatened.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>



Eastern Timber Wolf

Compliments of Dr. David Mech, U.S. Geological Survey

Newspaper Editorials:

- "Saving the Timber Wolf," "Out of failure to take action when it was necessary, the state has given up another piece of its authority to the federal government, this time on doing its job protecting the timber wolf from extinction." *Duluth News-Tribune, November 4, 1970*
- "Unjustified Criticism" *St. Paul Dispatch, November 4, 1970*
- "State Should Protect Timber Wolf" *Minneapolis Tribune, November 6, 1970*

Newspaper Letter to Editor:

- "Sir: Your editorial crusade to save the timber wolf is absurd. Currently you laud the silly federal regulation allegedly promulgated for that purpose. These snarling, sneaking, snapping hydrophobic woodland critters kill for the joy of it." *St. Paul Pioneer Press, November 9, 1973*

Forest Service Response to State of Minnesota (2)

Graig Rupp sent a memo on November 3 to Jarle Leirfallom, Minnesota Conservation Commissioner to assure him that the Forest Service has no intention of attempting to usurp general State responsibilities with regard to the management of wildlife, including the timber wolf. Second, the restriction placed on the taking of timber wolves on most of the Superior National Forest is an interim measure, designed to protect the wolf and ongoing wolf research programs until the Forest Service and the State can mutually agree on a plan for the management of the wolf and its habitat.

Rupp and Leirfallom talked on October 7, and again on November 1, at which time Rupp notified Leirfallom of the Forest Service plan to post an order on November 2

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against the taking of wolves, this current state of affairs was brought about by a set of incidents involving wolf trapping for commercial use. This interference with U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and University of Minnesota research projects, due to the trapping and killing of subject research animals, was both unfortunate and intolerable.

The threat to the general wolf population, due to an apparent new market for wolf pelts, is of serious concern to the Forest Service. The research being conducted is important to the State and the Forest Service for the future management of the wolf and its habitat. The animal's welfare is important to all the people of the United States because, in part, of its endangered status.

Minnesota Requests Reclassification (3)

Robert Herbst, Commissioner Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, asked the U. S. Department of Interior to reclassify the eastern timber wolf (*Canis lupus lycaon*) from "endangered" to "peripheral" status and the rationale behind the decision to place the wolf on the "endangered" list. Earl B. Baysinger, Assistant Chief, Office of Endangered Species; Fish and Wildlife Service, memo of May 19, 1971 stated it was the U.S. Department of Interior's decision to maintain the "endangered" status of the eastern timber wolf:

Although Minnesota's prohibition of the poisoning of all wildlife, aerial hunting, the general use of snares, and the removal of bounties perhaps were directed at other species, the eastern timber wolf undoubtedly also benefited. Despite these progressive steps, Minnesota's 1969 restoration of a modified bounty system, the generally adverse public attitude toward wolves, the incomplete state of our knowledge of the wolf's ecology and population dynamics, and the failure of local governmental agencies to implement an active management program for this animal, combined with these hazards mentioned earlier, present too great a threat to warrant reclassification at this time.

Cooperative Agreement (4)

Cooperative Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service was signed by the State of Minnesota on April 12, 1971. The purpose of the agreement is to recognize the timber wolf as a desirable animal, to assure its perpetuation and preservation in the area and to assure a closely coordinated approach to management of the wolf and its habitat within Minnesota and the Superior National Forest.

Timber wolves in Minnesota may be both an asset and a liability. They take deer as their main food and occasionally kill livestock, placing them in competition with the farmer and possibly the deer hunter. Nevertheless,

there is a strong interest in Minnesota and the United States to provide protection and management to them. Management of the wolf, therefore, necessitates recognition of both positive and negative values of the wolf, emphasizing the needs of today's society while also providing the flexibility to adopt to the needs of the future.

Author David Stack

David worked for the Forest Service over 30 years and retired as District Ranger, Missoula Ranger District, Lolo National Forest. He started as a seasonal for two summers on the Stanislaus and Malheur National Forests. After three years of service in the U.S. Navy, David returned to the Chequamegon National Forest, later transferring to the Superior and Monongahela National Forests. David retired in 1999.

Since 2004 David has been the Executive Director and Vice President of the National Museum of Forest Service History.

References

1. Craig W. Rupp speech Presented at the Minnesota Academy of Science 39th Annual Meeting, April 30, - May 1, 1971, at Saint Mary's College, Winona, Minnesota. NMFSh Archives 2004.57.339
2. November 3, 1970 memo from Craig W. Rupp, Superior National Forest, to Jarle Leirfallom, Minnesota Commissioner of Conservation. NMFSh Archives 2004.57.339
3. May 19, 1971 memo from Earl B. Baysinger, Assistant Chief, Office of Endangered Species; Fish and Wildlife Service to Robert Herbst, Commissioner Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. NMFSh Archives 2004.57.1
4. April 12, 1971 Cooperative Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service, Superior National Forest. NMFSh Archives 2004.57.16

Eastern Timber Wolf Research

There has been extensive research on wolves in Minnesota, resulting in a wealth of information on the ecology of wolves. Sigurd Olson's field studies of wolves in the 1930s were some of the first in Minnesota. Milt Stenlund studied wolves in the Superior National Forest during the late 1940s and early 1950s. In the mid-to-late 1960s, L. David Mech began his studies in the Superior National Forest, research that continues today.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

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Repository News

Bradley Baker Collection

Bradley Baker graduated in 1912 from the Michigan Agriculture College (now Michigan State) in forestry. Baker joined the Forest Service probably soon after graduating and resigned late 1919 to return to Michigan to his family's homestead. Doris Baker, Bradley's 97 year old daughter living in Virginia Beach, VA, donated their family photograph album covering the period they lived in Kalispell, Libby and Missoula, MT. Doris Baker wrote a short story about her parents Christmas 1916 experiences:

In late December 1916, my parents-to-be, Bradley and Carrie Baker, and another couple climbed off a train at night in the middle of the forest near Radnor, Montana (present-day Kootenai National Forest). A bonfire blazed near the tracks to mark the train's stopping point for the engineer. As they piled off the train, knee deep in snow, their friends, Wally Weber and his wife, Gertrude, stepped out of the circle of firelight. They stacked baggage on a sledge and started a mile-long hike down a trail to the Weber's cabin. The stars were so bright they seemed to be shining just above the tree-tops. There was no room in the small cabin for six people so my parents slept in a tent with a wooden floor and a stove. After the fire went out, their breath frosted the covers with ice so thick they had to keep pulling the blankets up under their chins and folding the top one back. Christmas morning the thermometer read 42° below zero.

For months the Webers had been looking forward to their friends' Christmas visit and Gertrude had tried to think what she could make for presents out of materials at hand in their wilderness home. One day as she walked through the woods a pine cone still on its stem caught her eye. The shape reminded her of her husband's pipe. My father never smoked anything so she thought it would be a good joke to paint the pine cone gold for his Christmas gift, and she fastened it to a gold string to hang on the tree.

During hard times on the farm, I grew up on wistful stories of my mother and father's early married years in Montana. In 2014 the pipe is still shiny and the original gold thread still holds it on a branch of my Christmas tree.



Weber's Forest Service Cabin & Tent

NMFSH Archives 2015.1.26

Honor Roll Nominations Add to Forest Service History

John and Betty Wernham were nominated by Butch Maritia. John began working for the Forest Service in 1930 and served in many positions in the Eastern Region, retiring in 1972 as Assistant Regional Forester.

Betty had just one request of her husband when he was sent in 1936 to be the new District Ranger at Rosiclare, Illinois on the Ohio River: "Try to find us a house on the hill." John's Ranger Station office was on the first floor of a store building on main street, just two blocks from the river. When the 1937 Ohio flood waters threatened the Ranger's office, the furniture was moved to the second floor. When flood waters threatened the 2nd floor, the office furniture was moved to the Wernham's house. The Ranger's warehouse supplies were also moved into the Wernham's basement.

John brought his Assistant Ranger, Bob Obrist, his wife, Helen, and their little girl, Georgia, to our house and said they'd have to live with us for awhile. The Obrists' house was already partially under water. My little four-room house on the top of the hill served a lot of people too!

Nominations to the Forest Service Museum Honor Roll

The Honor Roll recognizes those who have contributed to the mission of the Forest Service. Anyone is eligible, including current, former and retired employees of the Forest Service, and people or groups whose work has supported the Forest Service mission. A \$100 donation is requested for Honor Roll nominations. To obtain a nomination form and to view the Honor Roll list visit the Museum's webpage link below: <http://www.forestservicemuseum.org/involved/memorial.html>



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Membership Categories Annual Dues

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Individual	\$30 or more	Organization	\$100 or more
Family	\$55 or more	Life	\$1000 or more
Contributing	\$150 or more		



Members Provides Information

Clack pack frames were small, flat, lightweight wooden frames to which cargo could be tied. Named for Jack Clack, an early Flathead National Forest ranger.

Kent Mays and Steve Ricketts reported that Clack pack frames were used in Region 6. After retirement, Steve returned to the Olympic as a volunteer and documented two Clack pack frames. One pack had "Snider" written on it for the Snider Work Center on the old Shelton District. The Clack pack frame was patented October 29, 1918 (1,282,756) by John H. Clack, a Forest Service employee, residing in Kalispell, MT. Patent application was filed April 21, 1916.