Mission: Wolf is a solar-powered nature center that provides a sanctuary for unwanted captive-born wolves and horses. We offer experiential education to inspire the public to become stewards of the earth. Since 1988 we continue to provide lifelong care for wolves, facilitate experiential wolf education with over 1 million people, and preserve hundreds of acres of pristine alpine habitat.

**New Arrivals: Faelen & Maeve**

Introducing Mission: Wolf’s newest residents: Faelen, Maeve, and Moira!

Faelen and Maeve are rare and unlike many of Mission: Wolf’s resident animals—they come from a very happy home; so much so that they brought their home with them. Their human caretaker, Moira, is Mission: Wolf’s new Animal Caretaker. She assumes the role as we say a fond farewell to staff member Madelyn White (for now...). Moira has worked in wolf and wolfdog care and education for years and is excited to be a part of the team at Mission: Wolf.

Faelen is a four-year-old black-phase wolfdog; a naturally shy but curious boy. Like most wolfdogs, he takes time to warm up to new people but deeply loves his chosen family. Once you get to know him it’s clear how goofy and sensitive he truly is. Some of Faelen’s favorite things are playing with Maeve, going on wilderness walks, and napping in the sun.

Maeve is a two-year-old gray wolfdog; a playful, outgoing, and energetic girl. Maeve is quickly accepting of new people and loves giving affection. She adores her adoptive brother Faelen and is always by his side. Some of Maeve’s favorite things are running in the playpen, meeting new human friends, and wrestling with her brother.

All three new residents have settled into life at the refuge nicely and everyone seems happy to be part of the Mission: Wolf family. We look forward to a future of devoted animal care and education together. Join us in a welcoming howl to Faelen, Maeve, and Moira!

We wish to share the experiences and achievements from summer that are helping us secure a bright future with the amazing reality that wild wolves will soon roam the Colorado Wilderness again. One of the best parts of life at Mission: Wolf includes the many comments stimulated by wildlife sightings. Moira and her pack during morning exploration in the playpen included sightings of one of three resident bears, and everyone will remember one of them strolling past the kitchen window during staff meeting.

Daily sightings of deer, elk, pronghorn and coyotes above the wolf enclosures have made us all smile. Several bobcat sightings occurred on the drive in or out from the refuge, along with several badgers and the ever-present neighborhood porcupine. A rare sighting of yellow bellied weasels and a mountain lion got eyes to open wide. Eagles, hawks, falcons, vultures, songbirds, woodpeckers, owls and every corvid (raven, crows, jays...) you can imagine fly over daily. Staff have had lots of fun saying “look!” to each other and visitors all summer.

We are here! Mission: Wolf's newest residents, Faelen & Maeve, take a walk in the playpen and share a sunset howl to the valley below.

We Celebrate a Successful Summer of Education, Wildlife Sightings & Land Conservation Growth

We are here! Mission: Wolf's newest residents, Faelen & Maeve, take a walk in the playpen and share a sunset howl to the valley below.
**Animal Updates**

**Another Successful Trip to Vet for Zeab**

Last year, Zeab developed a growth on one of his back toes. It was soon removed and we were hopeful that was that. Unfortunately, the growth came back and turned into an open sore. The M:W team agreed it was best at this point to remove the whole toe to prevent future recurrence and ensure any cancer in the area might be removed.

In early August, Zeab rode to North Powers Animal Hospital (NPAH) in Colorado Springs, where the sanctuary’s new USDA veterinarian, Rachel Gaarde, has long volunteered. Zeab successfully underwent procedures to remove his abscessed toe as well as several bad teeth found during his examination. After a very long day, Zeab returned home and had a happy reunion with Rosie.

Over the past months, we’re thrilled to say Zeab has fully recovered. He’s happily eating, running around his space with Rosie, and greeting visitors like the old pro he is. The two of them are growing together into a dynamic Ambassador Wolf duo, meeting new human friends every week but still very much on their own terms.

-M. White / M. Schein

**Batman Reunited with Brothers Oreo and Buku**

We are happy to share that Batman, one of the “pit-wolves,” is now living happily with his two littermate brothers, Buku and Oreo. For the past 4 years, Batman had lived with Fenris, another senior wolfdog. After Fenris passed away this summer, Batman was clearly lonely. He could be heard calling to his brothers, Buku and Oreo, across the ravine. Naturally, we decided to see if the three boys wished to share a home again.

Although Batman had not lived with his brothers since they were young puppies, their reunion was happy and undramatic. Mission: Wolf's animal care team slowly made the introduction, first allowing Batman nose-to-nose through the fence with Buku and Oreo in a neutral space under careful supervision. Over a couple weeks of slowly moving them closer and carefully monitoring their body language, it was clear they were all happy to be reintroduced.

All three boys are living peacefully together now, enjoying one of the quieter parts of the sanctuary at the bottom of the ravine. Here’s to hoping they enjoy each other’s company for a long time!

-M. White / M. Schein

**Ydun Gains Confidence With New Home, Shows a Wolf’s High Sensitivity to Surroundings**

Here’s a stumper: how to keep a wolf happy in captivity? A wolf’s range in the wild might stretch from the horizon of Sangre de Cristo Mountains, two dozen miles away. From the start at Mission: Wolf, the ethic has been “if you have to have a wolf in a cage, might as well make it a big one.” By now, more than 125 animals have had such a space here at the sanctuary. Still, sometimes their “big” enclosure isn’t enough to keep them happy and staff have to get creative.

This summer, staff were saddened to see four-year-old Ydun become more shy and less willing to greet visitors. By now, it’s safe to assume Ydun has reached maturity. In the wild at this stage, wolves become more concerned with their surroundings while they begin raising their own families and patrolling their territory. In captivity, these instincts can result in anxious behavior or animals becoming more wary of previously familiar things. While we’re unsure of exactly why Ydun felt less confident, staff saw the opportunity to switch things up for her and introduce her into a new space in hopes it would help.

Dubbed the “Driveway 5” for the original M:W pack of 5—Kawh, Beorn, Tierra, Porini, and Skinwalker—Ydun’s new home is a long rectangle shape running along the sanctuary driveway. The big space and a large brush oak grove at the bottom give her much more room to explore (and hide if desired) compared to her home before. Over the years, Mission: Wolf has found that the more space and hiding places the wolves are given, the more secure they feel, which often results in confident behavior. Staff have been overjoyed the last few weeks to see the “old Ydun” back greeting new human friends with a smile on her face. She certainly seems happy to us.

-Y. Aria

-Y. Aria

Ydun’s smile (below) expresses her satisfaction with her new territory (right), including playful sent rolling (bottom right).

-Y. Aria

-S. Renk / M. Schein

**Mission: Wolf, the ethic has been “if you have to have a wolf in a cage, might as well make it a big one.” By now, more than 125 animals have had such a space here at the sanctuary.**
Oregon Officials Agree to Transfer 10 Gray Wolves to Colorado

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will allow Colorado’s Parks and Wildlife Department to trap and transfer up to 10 gray wolves from northeastern Oregon to Colorado. Oregon officials agreed to the trap and transfer. They accepted concerns from the states of Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and Idaho that wolves could pose an threat to their livestock. However, they declined to help Colorado over concerns that a growing wolf population could migrate to their states...

[...]

In 2020, Colorado voters approved a ballot measure to restore the population by a narrow margin. The reintroduction plan was finalized in May, and includes the release of 10 to 15 wolves each year for up to five years. When 50 or more wolves are in the state, the population could go from being “endangered” to “threatened” under the state and federal Endangered Species Act, according to the plan. Animals listed under the acts receive special protections meant to preserve their habitat and prevent unlawful killing. The wolves could be delisted and removed from the acts if their populations reach 150 or more in Colorado for two years, or 200 wolves at any point, according to the plan. Oregon has agreed to let Colorado officials capture and transport the wolves between December and March. Colorado will pay any associated expenses. Oregon Fish and Wildlife will share wolf location information and methods for best capturing the animals. Once trapped, the wolves will gradually be introduced to Colorado’s Western Slope, encompassing Vail and Aspen.

[...] Michelle Dennehy, a spokesperson for Oregon Fish and Wildlife, [said] in an email. “The intent is for Colorado to take wolves 1- to 5-years old from a mix of larger established packs. This is the age that wolves normally disperse anyway, striking out on their own to find new territory and a mate.” Oregon Fish and Wildlife will not allow the transfer of known breeding males and females from any pack, which should keep Oregon packs stable, according to Dennehy.

Wild Wolf News

Oregon Officials Agree to Transfer 10 Gray Wolves to Colorado

from The Oregon Capital Chronicle, Alex Baumhardt; 10 October, 2023

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In Memory

Zuko
Zuko came out of the Boise Idaho dog shelter, rescued by Moon Song Malamutes and adopted by Tracy for Kent's birthday. Zuko was mostly Alaskan Malamute but also suspected of having some wolf in him. He lived with Kent, Tracy, and the pack of dogs and aging wolves.
Zuko arrived with anxiety, independence, and mischievousness. When left alone in the house, he would get into anything and everything. His favorite activity was mauling the library's computer screens. Mischief aside, Zuko was an excellent and friendly companion to the aging animals and a goofy playmate to the younger dogs. However, his best friend was Kent and he would follow him everywhere he could. A camping trip to Greenhorn Mountain last fall was a real treat for both.
In the fall of 2022, Zuko started limping on his left front leg. It took several months and multiple vet visits to discover the cause. A slight bump on his leg quickly grew into a cancerous tumor that deteriorated the bone. He was too big for a front leg amputation, and it was likely that the cancer would spread even with an amputation. After several months of managing his pain, it became too much. He was too big for a front leg amputation, and it was likely that the cancer would spread even with an amputation. Thanks to a few friends (Cynthia Solar and Heating, Solar Solutions, and NAZ Solar Electric), the staff upgraded the newest technology this summer.
Now one building remains: Jane’s Studio. Installed in 2018 with a five-year lifespan, the lead-acid battery system is awaiting an upgrade soon.

Sanctuary News

Solar Upgrade for Staff Village
1986 saw the sanctuary buy the first solar panels commercially available. They managed to power a lights bulb and a 12v car stereo. Man, we were stylin’! As solar technology continued to grow in leaps and bounds, we piece-meal added to the system for 30 years to the point where most of the gear was outdated and needed to be replaced.
In the last year, we were able to upgrade the staff homes to include a lithium-ion storage system and high output solar panels. The first panel three decades ago was 25 watts. The new one is 400. Solar equipment has dropped in price by 90% since then, making it more readily available. Thanks to a few friends (Cynthia Solar and Heating, Solar Solutions, and NAZ Solar Electric), the staff village was upgraded to the newest technology this summer.
Two new buildings are built: Jane’s Studio. Installed in 2018 with a five-year lifespan, the lead-acid battery system is awaiting an upgrade soon.

Fenris
Fenris had a pretty rough start in life. While his mother was pregnant with him and his siblings, she was confiscated from her owner in a violent drug and gun raid. The puppies ended up spending a few months in a small animal society in Michigan with their mother until Mission: Wolf was able to take in two of the puppies, Fenris and Amulet.
In their early years, both animals suffered due to the traumas of the start of their life. Fenris was the most apprehensive and spent almost all of his time hiding in a den. The only time he was visible was around feeding time, when he would poke his head out to grab a piece of meat tossed outside his front door. He was soon paired with a female wolf-dog named Daisy who gave him companionship and helped boost his confidence. They lived together happily for 10 years until she passed away.
In his later years, he formed companionship with a female wolf-dog named McKeeley, and then a male wolf-dog named Batman. He and Batman would often be seen walking across the hillside, laying in the shade, or even walking over to observe visitors during a behavior session with his neighboring enclosure. We are happy and honored that Fenris found confidence and courage in his role at Mission: Wolf. He will be forever missed and remembered for his soft, gentle spirit.

Out With the Old, In With the New (Tractor!)
In 2013, the wolves got their first tractor and boy did it make a world of difference. Projects that would break backs of staff were taken care of in no time. The power of the backhoe saved labor and time to a point previously unattainable. Starting with a five-year warranty, staff managed to push the tractor for 10 years and 2,000 hours fixing roads, pulling out vehicles, digging construction lines, plowing snow, pushing fence post holes, and hauling materials up and down the sanctuary’s steep terrain.
Thanks to solid maintenance and care by a decade of staff, it was sold used at a good value this summer. A replacement tractor was purchased with another five-year warranty to carry the wolves for another decade plus.

Other Noteworthy Achievements for 2023:
Vehicle maintenance is at a high thanks to 4-H intern Keller Johnson & caretakers Derek Baddock and Parker Rehmann. Gates, fence and tools are ready to launch a massive rebuild of flood damaged wolf enclosures this spring.
Fire and invasive weed mitigation occurred across 30 acres of wolf playgrounds by a heard of 38 goats.
Cords of Firewood are cut, stacked and ready for long cold days ahead.

The “Bluff” at Mission: Wolf. With an additional 37 acres—& five waterers—secured this summer, the sanctuary now encompasses more than 450 acres of preserved land in the Wet Mountains of Colorado. The new property (seen above) provides a home for Executive Director Mike Gaarde & USDA Veterinarian Rachel Gaarde, an opportunity for a future expanded horse pasture, and continues the sanctuary’s goal to preserve as much natural habitat as possible.

New Executive Director, Mike Gaarde, “Living the Dream”
I have had a huge fascination with wolves and wanted to have a wolf sanctuary of my own ever since I was five years old. Everything in my life, either directly or indirectly, revolved around having one. I worked 10 years toward an acting career not to become famous, but to be able to fund a sanctuary. That didn’t really pan out so I decided to pursue a major in college to help. The only problem was I had no idea what major. I decided the only way to figure out what I wanted to be was to visit a handful of sanctuaries and see how they operate. I planned a road trip to visit a few.
Two days before I was supposed to leave, I broke my ankle and had to cancel the trip. I stayed in contact with one of the sanctuaries I intended to visit, Mission: Wolf. Once the doctors said my ankle was healed, I got in my car and drove to Colorado the next day. I arrived in July 2013 and planned to stay for two weeks as a short-term volunteer. I tried to soak up as much information as I could and was amazed at how much there really was to learn about us (and not just about being a volunteer). I definitely felt like a place where I belonged.
During my two weeks, I heard a staff member for the upcoming winter wasn’t going to be able to make it so I quickly volunteered. I wouldn’t be where I am without you of you and I am excited to help Mission: Wolf grow for another 35+ years through education, animal care and rescue.
I think five-year-old me would be pretty proud. I can honestly say I am living my dream!
Mission: Wolf was created as a way to assure the wolves would always have a home regardless of “human errors”. The idea was to establish large habitats and create a feast/famine environment to allow resident wolves a life as close to wild as feasible. This was best achieved by creating a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We judge our success by working to grow and achieve goals with minimal funding. The motto is: wolves first, education second, and business needs last. For 35 years, we continue to generate our own energy from solar technology, grow as much food as we can, build with re-claimed material, and avoid wasting resources of any type. Although we build large habitats, provide the highest quality animal care, and have set a high bar for “experiential education” to develop compassion and empathy for all that is wild—we still need funds. Our insurance policy alone eats up over $40k a year.

Join us along with these amazing organizations and know your support will be well utilized.

**Colorado Gives Day: “Easily the Best Day to Give”**

In 13 years, Colorado Gives Day has raised $415 million for Colorado nonprofits. Last year alone, $53 million was raised for 3,340 registered organizations, including Mission: Wolf. The average donation was $103.

Give on **Tuesday, December 5** & find your donation boosted by a $1.4 million Incentive Fund—possible thanks to the Community First Foundation, FirstBank, and support from many other Colorado businesses stepping up to finance the Fund.

find out more & visit coloradogives.org/organization/MissionWolf to schedule your donation ahead of time:

**Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation Spirit Campaign** - Ends December 31

In 2022, 61 nonprofit organizations received donations totaling over $434,000 during the 18th annual Spirit Campaign. Since the Campaign’s inception, over $5.3 million has been donated and shared by virtually every nonprofit headquartered in Custer County. Over 700 donors from Custer County, throughout Colorado, several other states and a number of foreign countries contributed to the future success of our county’s charitable organizations.

To participate:
- mail the form below to the address listed
- visit wmvcf.org
- scan the QR code

Don’t forget to name “Mission: Wolf” as your non-profit of choice!
Wildlife Land Conservation Efforts On a Roll. Several Adjacent Lots For Sale

The wolves have nearly doubled their land holdings in just a few years. This season, we find ourselves with the potential to tie many isolated lots together. A big step forward was the acquisition of the M:W “Bluff” (page 5) including a flowing spring, pond and creek which expands the potential for horse pasture adjacent to the original M:W Farm. This parcel was too important to pass up. Thanks to Kirkpatrick Bank, the wolves secured it with a major loan ($3k/month). Additional available lots along Sheep Creek provide an opportunity to make major gains in water conservation and provide miles of stream improvements. In only two years and with minimal work, a test patch has managed to “grow” over 200 feet of surface water, taking a tiny channel of water and turning it into habitat for many amphibians, ungulates and other mammals & wildlife. Five lots are available as we go to print.

\[\text{If you would like to participate, please contact us at info@missionwolf.org or call Kent at 720-320-7410}\]

**Mission: Wolf Wish List**

In-kind donations are a huge help in keeping our daily operations going. Here is a list of items we can use. Please call us (719-859-2157) if you have questions, or if you would like to ask about our current needs. Thank you for your help!

For USPS, our mailing address is: PO Box 1211, Westcliffe, CO 81252

For UPS/FedEx, our mailing address is: 80 Sheep Creek Road, Westcliffe, CO 81252

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Sanctuary Operation Vehicle</strong></th>
<th><strong>Horse Panels</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our ‘05 4x4 ATV and trusty side-by-side UTV are aging quickly. Both are used daily to feed &amp; water wolves. Any running ATV/UTV will help. An electric powered one is ideal to achieve our sustainability goals.</td>
<td>Our round pen panels of 20 years are finally falling apart. A new 40’ round pen is needed &amp; any horse fence panels are helpful.</td>
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**Mission: Wolf Team**

At Mission: Wolf, we operate on solar power, grow food in geodesic domes, and build with recycled materials. We value education, sustainability, and improving relationships between people, animals, and the world around us.

Around 5-10 on-site staff give their time to the sanctuary and in turn are provided with a roof over their head, food to eat, and a multinational community to be part of. We live together in a 3-acre eco-village designed to be an inspiring example of sustainable living.

The sanctuary is in particular need of skilled, competent individuals to join our dedicated team of Sanctuary Caretakers.

The wolves don’t need a lot other than food, water, and a clean space to live. Maintaining the facility & vehicles, operating the office, and educating the public are full-time jobs.

visit missionwolf.org/staff or email info@missionwolf.org for more information & to apply for a staff position

**2023 Financial Report**

- Income - $774,983
- Expenses - $635,824
Mission: Wolf operates on contributions from Wolf Caretaker members

With roughly 25 hungry canines to feed, we go through around 500 pounds of raw meat each week.

Please consider becoming a member of the Mission: Wolf family today and help keep the wolves happy, healthy, and well-fed! Your contribution goes directly toward the care of the animals as well as the education of thousands of visitors.

Wolf membership packets make GREAT GIFTS for birthdays, holidays and memorials.

We send you a tax-deductible receipt and your friend or loved one receives a wolf membership packet as a gift from you in the mail.

Visit mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com to order, or use the form below to sponsor a canine of Mission: Wolf

included in a Mission: Wolf membership packet:
- Personalized certificate honoring your annual membership
- Sample of naturally shed wolf fur
- 8x10 color photo of your wolf
- Subscription to Wolf Visions
- Mission: Wolf decal/sticker
- Biography of your wolf

Take a Wolf to Dinner! Become a Caretaker at Mission: Wolf

Which wolf would you like to sponsor? (please circle) Apollo, Aria, Arrow, Artemis, Batman, Buku, Cephira, Faelen, Farah, Flash, Illiamna, Maeve, Marty, Minigan, Nashira, Obsidian, Oreo, Rosie-Valkyrie, Saurya, Ydun, Zeab

Annual Membership
☐ $25 Student/Senior
☐ $40 Individual
☐ $100 Family, Group, or School
☐ $250 Contributor
☐ $500 Patron
☐ $1,000 Feed a Wolf for a Year
☐ $3,000 Feed a Pack for a Year

or Sustainable Membership* at $___ per month ($5 minimum)

Please send this form with cash or check to:
Mission: Wolf
PO Box 1211
Westcliffe, CO 81252
Visit mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com for credit card orders

*If you would like to become a Sustainable Member, visit missionwolf.org/donate-now or call/email us and we can help process your credit card

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Email: info@missionwolf.org
Phone: 719-859-2157
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