

January 20, 2000  
LCMR Work Program Update Report

FEB 07 2000

Date of Next Status Report: none  
Date of Workprogram Approval: December 1997  
Project Completion Date: December 31, 1999

LCMR Workprogram 1997

I. PROJECT TITLE: STATE WOLF MANAGEMENT: ELECTRONICALLY  
MODERATING THE PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Project Manager: Linda K. Aylsworth, Information Resources Coordinator  
Affiliation: International Wolf Center (IWC)  
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Web Page Address: <http://www.wolf.org>

Total Biennial Project Budget:

\$ LCMR:	\$ 100,000.00	\$ Match:	\$ 20,000.00
- \$ LCMR Amount: Spent:	\$ 100,000.00	- \$ Match Spent:	\$ 20,000.00
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= \$ LCMR Balance:	\$ 0.00	= \$ Match Balance:	\$ 0.00

A. Legal Citation: ML 1997, Chapter 216, Sec. 15, Subd. 13(g).

Appropriation Language: This appropriation is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the International Wolf Center to provide a public electronic forum and information on wolf management. This appropriation must be matched by at least \$20,000 of nonstate money.

B. Status of Match Requirement:

Match Required: \$20,000.00  
Amount Committed to Date: \$20,000.00  
Match Spent: \$ 20,000.00

Matching funds have been secured from Valarie Gates, Northern States Power Company and Nancy Gibson.

## II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

Soon the wolf will be removed from the Federal List of Endangered Species in the State of Minnesota. With its removal responsibility for wolf management will be returned to the state. Anticipating an imminent debate over wolf management, the IWC will provide a public electronic forum for moderating the debate and the information necessary to ground it in fact. Stakeholders will be able to exchange updates, position statements, comments, questions, and responses through a specialized e-mail delivery system (**listserv**) and an **electronic bulletin board**. These vehicles will be moderated by both IWC's wolf biologist and its information resources coordinator. The IWC will also add a **wolf management section**, including perspectives from around the world, to its web site found at <http://www.wolf.org>. Finally, in conjunction with the National Biological Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), the IWC will develop a **public information package** addressing frequently asked questions and common misconceptions pertaining to wolves and wolf management. These endeavors will help the public and key stakeholders of the wolf management debate make informed opinions and decisions regarding wolves and wolf management in the State of Minnesota.

## III. PROGRESS SUMMARY:

**January 20, 1998**

**Result 1:** Guidelines were researched for the Electronic Bulletin Board (BB). SEEK (Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge) has agreed to collaborate with us by housing the BB on their server during the grant period. Pilot period for this project began on November 30, 1997. The BB is currently accessible to the public as part of the new wolf management section of our web site. On our web site the BB is labeled as an "information exchange." Browsers are able to review comments or post their own in response to several questions posted in the BB section.

**Result 2:** We have begun to compile names and addresses of potential free subscribers to the listserv. Two organizations have been contacted for a list of available software/listserv options. Another use of the listserv that has been considered would be to provide that service to the members of the MN DNR wolf management roundtable to begin in February.

**Result 3:** Several brainstorming sessions were conducted to list all potential topics for the Wolf Management web page. Out of the potential topics, a core number of essential topics were identified for the pilot period which began November 15, 1997. At that time, the page underwent several reviews by IWC staff, DNR officials, wolf biologists and Internet designers. We asked for reviews on both the design and content of the new section. Other topics will continue to be added during the grant period. We are also seeking "position statements" from different individuals and organizations. Position statements will be available on our site beginning January 20. The new wolf management section was open to the public on January 5, 1998. Initial meetings were held to collaborate on content between the *International Wolf* magazine and the web page.

**Result 4:** Four fact sheets and a resource flier were developed for use at the DNR public meetings on wolf management which began January 5, 1998. These fact sheets may be included in the final public information packet and will help to provide good factual information at the public meetings. Our biologist, Bill Route, was in attendance at the majority of the meetings.

July 20, 1998

**Result 1:** Over 950 postings have been placed on our Information Exchange since January 1. We have changed the questions periodically to motivate new discussion. When new questions are placed on our web site the old questions and posted responses are archived for viewing by browsers.

**Result 2:** The idea of creating a listserv for the wolf roundtable members was not acceptable for the following reason. Not all roundtable members have e-mail available and therefore would be left out of the discussion on the listserv. An informal listserv has been created with wolf biologists around the world in order to answer inquiries by the roundtable. Information is being directed through our wolf biologist. We are currently looking at ways that we could solicit subscribers directly from our web site. We will be working with a consultant to help set up a registration page. Those subscribing would receive press releases, new data or articles pertaining to wolf management.

**Result 3:** The spring 1998 issue of *International Wolf* is now on-line. We had some delays in getting the project on the web site due to several review periods. We included a review by the advisory committee for the magazine in order to represent the printed piece appropriately on the web site. We are also listing the table of contents for the 1997 issues with short description of each article. We are currently working on the summer 1998 issue and have plans to put 4 more quarterly issues up by the end of the grant period. Our biologist continues to be an advisor and attend the wolf roundtable meetings. Briefings of each meeting are posted on our web site. Revisions to existing information has been made during the last six months. New information includes three new position statements, archiving postings to the Information Exchange, Yellowstone updates, and methods of estimating wolf populations.

**Result 4:** The International Wolf Center was represented at all of the DNR public meetings on wolf management. Fact sheets were distributed to attendees of the meetings. A second printing of fact sheets was required as the number in attendance at the meetings was more than anticipated. A meeting was held with our communications director to discuss design and material costs for the public information package. Several ideas were discussed, but nothing concrete can be planned until we get closer to the end of the grant period. At that time, the needs for public education and information will be more apparent.

January 20, 1999

**Result 1:** Over 250 postings were added to the information exchange from 7/1/98 - 10/31/98. Ninety-one postings were added during the last two months of the year. The current question asks the public to comment on the method of estimating the wolf population in Minnesota.

**Result 2:** The information listserv with wolf biologists around the world answered inquiries by the wolf management roundtable through the end of September. Information was coordinated through our wolf biologist. Lack of technical support at TIES, our web site host, slowed down efforts to configure the listserv. As indicated in the workprogram, the completion date for this result has been extended. We are currently seeking another Internet Service Provider for our web site. This is an exciting step for us since it will give us more support in developing the listserv and other web site features.

**Result 3:** Quarterly issues of *International Wolf* continue to be put on the web site. The winter issue is currently in the works. Bill Route, our biologist, wrote an article for our fall issue titled, "No Easy Answers: Effects of Wolf Population Expansion on Deer Hunting in Northern Minnesota." This article is included in our on-line fall issue. Briefings of the wolf management meetings were written and made available on our site. We purchased a digital camera to help our education efforts on the web site. Test pictures of our resident wolves are available at: [www.wolf.org/images/ourwolfs.html](http://www.wolf.org/images/ourwolfs.html). Other new information on the web site includes wolf management issues in Canada, methods for estimating the wolf population in Minnesota, human perspectives about losing a pet to wolves, commentary on trapping wolves in urban areas and new depredation statistics. Updates continue to be posted on gray and Mexican wolf management news.

**Result 4:** Additional wolf management fact sheets and maps were reprinted. A small discussion about the public information packet was part of the quarterly education committee meeting held December 7. Some examples of other education packets were presented by committee members.

July 20, 1999

**Result 1:** Over 440 postings were added to the information exchange between 1/1/99 - 6/30/99. The current question asks the public what course of action they might choose, concerning wolf delisting, if they were the Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Result 2:** We are still in the midst of switching to a new internet service provider to help accommodate the current average of over 7,000 visitors per week to the web site. We had a preliminary list of 50 listserv participants which now numbers over ninety. The first time we transmitted information with our listserv, it included an introduction message to introduce members to the potential topics and frequency of the listserv messages. A standard footer is attached to the bottom of each message so that people can 'unsubscribe' at any point. We are currently maintaining the list of members in-house, but are still seeking alternate methods to automate signing on and off the listserv.

**Result 3:** Quarterly issues of *International Wolf* continue to be put on the web site. New information on the web site includes different documents for the draft Minnesota wolf management plan, i.e. executive summary, downloadable files of the entire plan, and the process of developing the plan. News articles about the debate over the Minnesota wolf management plan were posted, excerpts from an International Wolf Center sponsored Minnesota public attitude survey, history and timeline for the red wolf reintroduction, and information and links for tracking the wolf bill in the legislature. We also had a press release up for a Great Minnesota Wolf Debate held in Minneapolis. Updates continue to be posted on gray and Mexican wolf management news.

**Result 4:** The wolf management fact sheets and maps have been updated as new data is made available from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. We have had several meetings recently about what the final information product will look like. We have made preliminary contact with a consultant that may help us condense the volumes of information about wolf management in Minnesota.

January 20, 2000

**Result 1:** About 65 postings were added to the information exchange between 7/1/99 - 12/31/99. The number of postings decreased after our Web site was redesigned and the information exchange was no longer directly accessible from our home page.

**Result 2:** We currently have a list of about 100 listserv participants which we maintain on a list at the Center. We have used the listserv to update various publics on wolf management issues.

**Result 3:** The fall and winter quarterly issues of *International Wolf* were put on the Web site. New information put on the Web site includes the 1999 World Wolf Status Report and education materials to help teachers with wolf management issues. In the latter part of this year, emphasis was made to update information about the changing status of the delisting process for the wolf. Continual updates were posted on gray and Mexican wolf management news.

**Result 4:** Steve Grooms was commissioned as the author to write the Public Information Package. Steve is also the author of *Return of the Wolf*, a new book expounding on wolf recovery in the United States. The text was edited both for technical and grammatical accuracy. Final text and images went to the graphic designer at the beginning of November with publication of the 8-page booklet complete by mid-December. The on-line version of this publication is available in the Learn About Wolves section of our Web site. The 1999 World Wolf Status Report was also produced as an insert in the fall issue of *International Wolf* which discusses the status of international wolf management.

**IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

**Result 1:** An **electronic bulletin board** will provide an interactive vehicle through which the public can ask questions and share comments about wolves and wolf management. **Three thousand postings are anticipated during the project period.**

- A. Initial Meeting with Partners to Plan Interagency Cooperation. Additional meetings will occur on an as needed basis throughout the grant period. Meetings will also pertain to Results 2, 3, and 4. (August 31, 1997).
- B. Establish Computer/Communications System. Note: The system will also be used in achieving Results 2, 3, and 4. (August 31, 1997).
- C. Formalize an Agreement with Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge (SEEK) to House Wolves and Wolf Management Electronic Bulletin Board. (September 30, 1997).
- D. Develop User Guidelines/Instructions. (October 31, 1997).
- E. Begin Pilot Period. (November 30, 1997).
- F. Create Links from IWC and Other Wolf-Related Web Sites. (December 31, 1997).
- G. On-going Operation. (December 31, 1999).

Completion Date: June 30, 2000.

Result 1:

\$ LCMR:	\$ 14,867.00	\$ Match:	\$ 5,000.00
- \$ LCMR Amount Spent:	\$ 14,867.00	- \$ Match Spent:	\$ 5,000.00
<hr/> = \$ LCMR Balance:	\$ 0.00	<hr/> = \$ Match Balance:	\$ 0.00

**Result 2:** Global perspectives and current information on wolves and wolf management will be exchanged among stakeholders and other interested parties through a **listserv**. This specialized e-mail delivery system will benefit schools, colleges, universities, researchers, sports clubs, livestock and farming associations, conservation and environmental groups, state agencies, legislators, the media, and the public. **One hundred "subscribers" are anticipated during the project period.**

- A. Identify Stakeholders. (May 31, 1998). Completed.
- B. Research/Obtain/Configure Listserv Software. (February 1, 1999).
- C. Survey Stakeholders/Invite "Subscriptions". (March 1, 1999).

- D. Develop User Guidelines/Instructions. (March 1, 1999).
- E. Begin Pilot Period. (April 1, 1999).
- F. Report Survey Results. (December 1, 1999).
- G. On-going Operation. (December 31, 1999).

Completion Date: June 30, 2000.

Result 2:

\$ LCMR:	\$	7,321.43	\$ Match:	\$	3,778.57
- \$ LCMR Amount Spent:	\$	7,321.43	- \$ Match Spent:	\$	3,778.57
= \$ LCMR Balance:	\$	0.00	= \$ Match Balance:	\$	0.00

**Result 3:** Several additional features focusing on wolves and wolf management will be added to the IWC web site located at <http://www.wolf.org>. New features will include a **wolf management section** and **quarterly web editions of *International Wolf***. During the project period access hits are anticipated to grow from 800,000 to two million per year.

- I. Wolf Management Web Page:
  - A. Design (September 30, 1997).
  - B. Pilot (November 15, 1997).
  - C. Place On-line (December 31, 1997).
  - D. On-going Operations (December 31, 1999).
- II. Web (Condensed) Edition of *International Wolf*.
  - A. Design (January 31, 1998).
  - B. Pilot (February 28, 1998).
  - C. Place on-line (March 31, 1998).
  - D. New Edition Quarterly (December 31, 1999).

Completion Date: June 30, 2000.

Result 3:

\$ LCMR:	\$	62,829.57	\$ Match:	\$	6,221.43
- \$ LCMR Amount Spent:	\$	62,829.57	- \$ Match Spent:	\$	6,221.43
= \$ LCMR Balance:	\$	0.00	= \$ Match Balance:	\$	0.00

**Result 4:** The synergy created in a partnership of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' wolf management committee, the National Biological Service's wolf study project, and the International Wolf Center, a not-for-profit educational organization, will help ensure that an effective education campaign takes place throughout the state. A **public information package** will be produced to assist Minnesotans in making informed decisions about the future of Minnesota's wolves and to encourage a responsible and articulate public debate on the controversial and highly charged issue of wolf management. **Approximately three thousand copies will be printed, and it will be available on-line.**

- A. Review Postings from the Electronic Bulletin Board and Listserv to Determine Frequently Asked Questions and Common Misconceptions Regarding Wolves and Wolf Management. (May 31, 1999).
- B. Plan/Conceptualize Public Information Package. (June 30, 1999).
- C. Prepare Draft. (August 31, 1999).
- D. Prepare Final. (October 31, 1999).
- E. Publish/Print. (November 31, 1999).
- F. Place On-line (December 31, 1999).

Completion Date: June 30, 2000.

Result 4:

\$ LCMR:	\$	14,982.00	\$ Match:	\$	5,000.00
- \$ LCMR Amount Spent:	\$	14,982.00	- \$ Match Spent:	\$	5,000.00
= \$ LCMR Balance:	\$	0.00	= \$ Match Balance:	\$	0.00

**V. DISSEMINATION:** Information on wolves and wolf management will be disseminated electronically by **e-mail, listserv, electronic bulletin board**, and on the **IWC web site** located at <http://www.wolf.org>. Several **hotlinks** to the IWC web site are also anticipated from cooperators, stakeholders, and other interested parties. Other means of dissemination will include **general and individual postal mailings** for those individuals and organizations which are not accessible on-line. Moreover, cooperators and stakeholders will be given permission for **free reproduction and distribution** of the public information package. Availability of products will be announced through all the aforementioned means. Products will also be announced to **IWC's 50,000 annual visitors**; through **International Wolf (circulation 10,000)**, a quarterly publication airing facts, ideas, and attitudes about wolf-related issues; and by **press releases** to various media. Finally, in order to document completed products, samples will be submitted as part of the semi-annual status reports and as attachments to reimbursement requests.



**VI. CONTEXT:**

**A. Significance:** The tremendous demand for accurate, objective information about wolves and wolf management is outpacing IWC's ability to provide it. Moreover, demands will only increase with the wolf's expected removal from the Federal List of Endangered Species in the State of Minnesota. From the recent controversy stemming from Alaska's wolf management program, it's expected that the interest in Minnesota's wolf management decisions will be immense throughout the state and around the world. This proactive project will be an important tool in helping to ground the media, stakeholders, and the public in a fact-based debate. Indeed, attitudes toward wolves run to all extremes and with great depth of feeling. This project will help characterize the upcoming debate as one that relies on scientific fact rather than myth and rumor.

**B. Time:** The project will commence July 1, 1997 and finish June 30, 2000.

**C. Budget Context:** The IWC is a federally recognized not-for-profit educational organization now in its eleventh year of operation. Moreover, IWC is a non-advocacy organization; thus, it does not take positions on issues pertaining to wolves. Rather its mission is to educate about the wolf's life, its association with other species, and its dynamic relationships to humans. IWC is supported through memberships, donations, program fees, admissions, and merchandise sales. Its current budget is \$1,054,930. The IWC has received state funding (\$2.226 million since 1988) for planning and construction of its education/information facility in Ely, Minnesota. An LCMR grant of \$100,000 was awarded in 1995 (matched by \$30,000 of nonstate, IWC funds) for development, assimilation, and distribution of wolf educational materials.

	July 1995 - June 1997	July 1997 - June 1999	July 1999 - June 2001
	Prior expenditures on this project	Proposed expenditures on this project	Anticipated expenditures on this project
1. LCMR	\$0	\$100,000	\$ 0
2. Other State	\$0	\$ 0	\$ 0
3. Non State Cash	\$0	\$ 20,000	\$80,000
<b>Total</b>	\$0	\$120,000	\$80,000

**BUDGET:**

Biologist	\$ 43,949
Coordinator	\$ 44,149
Software	\$ 300
Equipment	\$ 3,600
Consultants	\$ 5,200
Printing	\$ 6,000
Travel	\$ 4,200
Communications	\$ 7,300
Postage	\$ 1,500
Other Supplies	\$ 2,100
<u>Misc</u>	<u>\$ 1,702</u>

Total \$120,000

**VII. COOPERATION:**

Dr. L. David Mech, National Biological Service

LCMR \$ to Receive: \$0; Commitment to Project: Consultation on an as needed basis.

Timothy P. Bremicker, Chief, Section of Wildlife, MN DNR

LCMR \$ to Receive: \$0; Commitment to Project: Consultation on an as needed basis.

Robert Olson, Coordinator, SEEK

LCMR \$ to Receive: \$0; Commitment to Project: Consultation on an as needed basis.

**VIII. LOCATION:** The focus is on the State of Minnesota, but the project will have a secondary impact on the issue of wolf management throughout the nation and worldwide.

**IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic workprogram progress reports will be submitted not later than January 20, 1998; July 20, 1998; January 20, 1999; and July 20, 1999. A final workprogram report and associated products will be submitted by January 20, 2000, or by the completion date as set in the appropriation.

**X. For Research Projects:** Not applicable.