

WOLF



In Loving Memory of Rajan
The Red Feather Property Update
HumaNature Visits W.O.L.F.



Summer 2018



Letter from the Director

Dear W.O.L.F. Supporters:

Here we are in the “dog days” of summer (or should we say “wolf days”.) This is the time when the Dog Star rises at the same time as the sun, and it is marked by a period of extreme heat, lethargy and inactivity. That may be how our wolves and wolf dogs feel during the long, hot summer afternoons of higher than usual temperatures, but staff and volunteers are busy every day finding ways to keep our animals cool with lots of water for drinking and playing, toys and enrichment in their habitats, and plenty of time for a siesta in the shade of the mountain pines.

In this issue we will also tell you about all the activities that are happening at our new Sanctuary location in the Red Feather Lakes area as we make preparations for the move in 2019-20. We are delighted to share pictures, plans and our dreams as they come to fruition through the coming months. We hope you will be as excited as we are. Stay tuned for our announcement of a major Comprehensive Fund Raising Campaign launching this fall to raise funds to make the move possible!

Summertime at the Sanctuary also means annual medical examinations for our animals. Our veterinarian Dr. Valerie Johnson and our A-team of staff and volunteers keep the animals calm and comfortable during the examination process. Because of these annual wellness exams in the field, we can assess each animal for any early warning signs of disease or infection and provide the needed treatment to keep them healthy and happy. It is far less stressful for the animals to undergo an exam at the Sanctuary right in their own “homes” than to sedate, crate and conduct the exams at a veterinarian’s hospital. It is part of our mission to provide the best possible care for our wolves and wolf dogs, and we believe these wellness exams are a vital part of that process.

I want to take this opportunity to provide a special thank you to our interns and volunteers who come to the Sanctuary every day – no matter what the weather conditions – and help our staff with animal care, facilities maintenance, meat processing and a myriad of housekeeping chores. This summer has been particularly hot, and we appreciate all the hard work that these dedicated people have done for us, and especially on those days of sweltering heat. We could not do it without them so “Thank You!”

As always, humbly and gratefully yours,

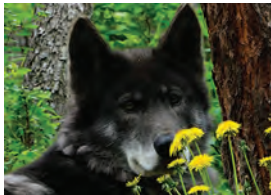
Shelley

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W.O.L.F. has an active volunteer program that has even attracted the attention of the international community.

Cover Photo: Amaris



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Colorado Nonprofit & Tax Exempt Corporation
United States Department of Agriculture, Licensed
Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Licensed
American Sanctuary Association, Accredited
Community Shares of Colorado, Member

Mission: To improve the quality of life for wolves and wolf dogs through:

- Rescue** - Save captive-born wolves and wolf dogs who need sanctuary in order to survive;
- Sanctuary** - Provide a lifelong home at W.O.L.F. in a natural habitat that takes into account each individual's physical, medical & emotional needs;
- Education** - Provide the public with education about the plight of wolves and wolf dogs (both captive-born and wild) to help foster a greater understanding of them and their value.

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HumaNature Visits W.O.L.F.

By Susan Weidel

Early in July, Wyoming Public Radio visited W.O.L.F. to interview staff and volunteers about the High Park Fire in 2012, and how the fire affected W.O.L.F. – the wolves, the people, and the land -- for the nationally acclaimed podcast HumaNature. The podcast features real stories about human experiences in the natural world.



On a sunny summer day, HumaNature's staff Micah Schweizer, Caroline Ballard, and Erin Jones traveled to W.O.L.F. to audiotape the episode. After a tour of some of the fire scarred landscape and an introduction to some very

special wolves, the team interviewed W.O.L.F.'s Executive Director Shelley Coldiron, Director of Animal Care and Education Michelle Proulx, and Rescue Coordinator and Volunteer Susan Weidel.

According to Coldiron, "It was an intense experience to relive those early days of the High Park fire when we were consumed with the safety of our animals. Because we were unable to evacuate all 30 animals at once, we were forced to leave over a dozen animals on site for several days. It was an incredibly scary time until we were able to bring all the wolves and wolf dogs out of Rist Canyon to safety."

Proulx and Weidel also have vivid recollections of the fire. Proulx remembers seeing the huge plumes of smoke coming rapidly over the ridge lines and feeling an impending sense of doom as she began the emergency evacuation preparations. "We learned so much from that day.



Now we have a highly detailed evacuation plan, an off-site evacuation center, and evacuation trailers that can remove all 30 animals at once. We will never be that vulnerable again." Weidel recalls loading two of the most elderly and frail animals into her SUV and heading for her rural home far from the horrors of the fire. At midnight, she converted her garage into a barn and kept the two animals with her for over a month. "It was a time of intense bonding for me because the two animals were so shy and frightened. I slept on a cot in their enclosure and read aloud to them every evening. We took short walks in my garden, and finally the animals were able to feel safe and calm. It was an extraordinary experience to have two wolves living with me and my five dogs. They got along beautifully, and my dogs enjoyed the bedtime stories as much as the wolves."

The HumaNature podcast about W.O.L.F. will be broadcast in the fall of 2018. You can listen to other podcasts about humans and their encounters in the natural world at: <https://humanaturepodcast.org/>



Wolf Facts & Tracks

By Michelle Proulx

CASTIEL - Male

Birthday: February 4, 2016

Given Sanctuary: July 3, 2016

Companion: Tenali

Guardian Angel: Sandy Dickson

Likes: Being with Tenali

Dislikes: Being looked at by his caretakers

Favorite Food: Beef

Fun Fact: Castiel does a little happy dance whenever his caretakers bring him food.

Personality: Castiel is an extremely timid boy who usually heads for the hills whenever anyone enters his habitat. He is very good at hiding and is often only observed up close if you are outside of his habitat. He is also deeply bonded with his companion Tenali. Whenever Tenali is taken for a walk, Castiel will watch down the road for her to come back. When he sees her coming back, he will brave getting close to his caretakers to greet her upon her return.



CREE - Female

Birthday: April 6, 2005

Given Sanctuary: April 5, 2013

Companion: Denali

Guardian Angel: John Rowe

Likes: Laying on top of her fire den

Dislikes: Coming down for evening meds

Favorite Food: Crunchy Chicken

Fun Fact: When being fed meat, Cree will fit as much of it in her mouth as possible before racing up to the top of her habitat to eat.

Personality: Cree is a quiet and aloof older female who spends most of her time perched on top of her fire den where she has a good vantage point of her entire habitat. She prefers to stay there unless food is offered and usually just watches her caretakers unless they approach a little too close. Then she will often get up to circle around her caretakers while they work, grumbling quietly to herself until they move a suitable distance away.





In Loving Memory of Rajan

By Michelle Proulx



Bella & Rajan



Rajan's story starts the way many do. His owner purchased him in an area where owning wolf dogs is illegal and in an effort not to get caught, kept Rajan chained in a 5' x 9' kennel in the back yard. When the authorities eventually found out, the owner was given an ultimatum; find immediate placement for Rajan or animal control would seize and euthanize him. Luckily for Rajan, W.O.L.F. was able to accept him.

Rajan arrived at the Sanctuary in February of 2008, just under two years of age and as happy and energetic as only a young wolf dog can be. He was placed with an older female named Kiki and immediately bonded to her. They were always seen playing together even though Kiki was many years older. Rajan also enjoyed human attention and was always up for a good paw massage, ear rub or butt scratch. He soon became one of the Sanctuary's star ambassador animals, traveling all over the Colorado Front Range to help educate the public about wolf dogs and the captive wildlife crisis.

After Kiki's passing in early 2013, W.O.L.F. brought in a slightly younger female named Bella Roux, and while Rajan did have a strong connection with Kiki, it became immediately clear that Bella was his long awaited soul mate. They immediately hit it off and even though Rajan was already 7 years old it was as if the clock had turned back, and he became a puppy again. The two would rough house and play constantly, often right in the laps of their caretakers, and together they continued Rajan's travels as an ambassador.



Rajan at a campground educational event



In early 2017, Rajan began having small seizure episodes and many tests (blood work, infectious disease tests, CT scans and even an MRI) were done to try to determine the cause but ultimately the conclusion was that he had developed epilepsy. The MRI did reveal a mass in the sinus cavity that was removed and biopsied in August of 2017. Initial results came back benign but when Rajan continued to have problems, further diagnostics at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital identified the issue as a fungal infection. The infection was treated but, unfortunately, that was not the end of Rajan's problems as he was later diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer in May of 2018.

While the last two years have been an emotional roller coaster ride for all the caretakers and volunteers who have come to know and love Rajan over the years, he remained happy and engaged with life, not to mention very spoiled. Bella doted on him as much as his caretakers, and he continued to make everyone's days brighter.

In late July of 2018, Rajan's physical condition deteriorated to an unacceptable level, and the heartbreaking decision was made to help him pass. On July 29th, with Bella and the people who loved him by his side, Rajan was helped to cross the Rainbow Bridge. The absence of his bright, outgoing personality leaves a hole in everyone's hearts but we are truly blessed to have been able to spend so much time with this amazing wolf dog. We know he has touched the minds and hearts of hundreds of people from all over. He will be remembered forever.





Trigger & Tundra





Red Feather Lakes Property Begins to Come Alive!

By Susan Weidel

W.O.L.F.'s new Sanctuary property in the Red Feather Lakes area is beginning to come alive. In January 2018, Larimer County approved the Special Use Permit that would allow W.O.L.F. to move from the Rist Canyon location to the new location. During the winter months, the planning work began in earnest to prepare the property for the 30 wolves and wolf dogs who will call it home.

Ever since the High Park Fire in 2012, W.O.L.F. had concerns about the safety of the property for animals and people. The fire highlighted some of the problems with the property. There is only one road in and out of the current Sanctuary location which makes evacuation a challenge if a fire impedes access to the road.



Road to W.O.L.F. after the September 2013 flood

The flash flooding that occurred after the fire was a result of the fire-glazed earth on the hillsides that could no longer absorb the torrential rains. W.O.L.F. currently resides at the bottom of a steep ravine where water cascaded down to the valley floor. While the animals remained safely removed from the water in their mountainside habitats, the Sanctuary infrastructure was vulnerable to the flash floods which destroyed the pond's dam, and waterlogged work spaces, storage, and power connections. In addition, the access road became impassable for several days. On site staff remained in place to care for the animals, but additional staff and volunteers were unable to travel on the access road until the flooding receded.

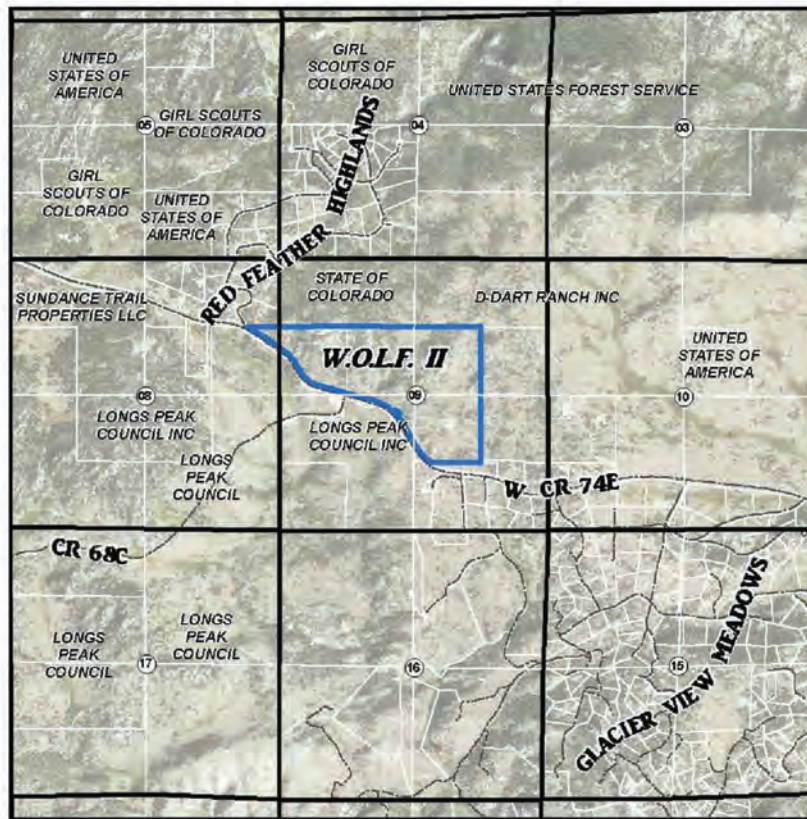
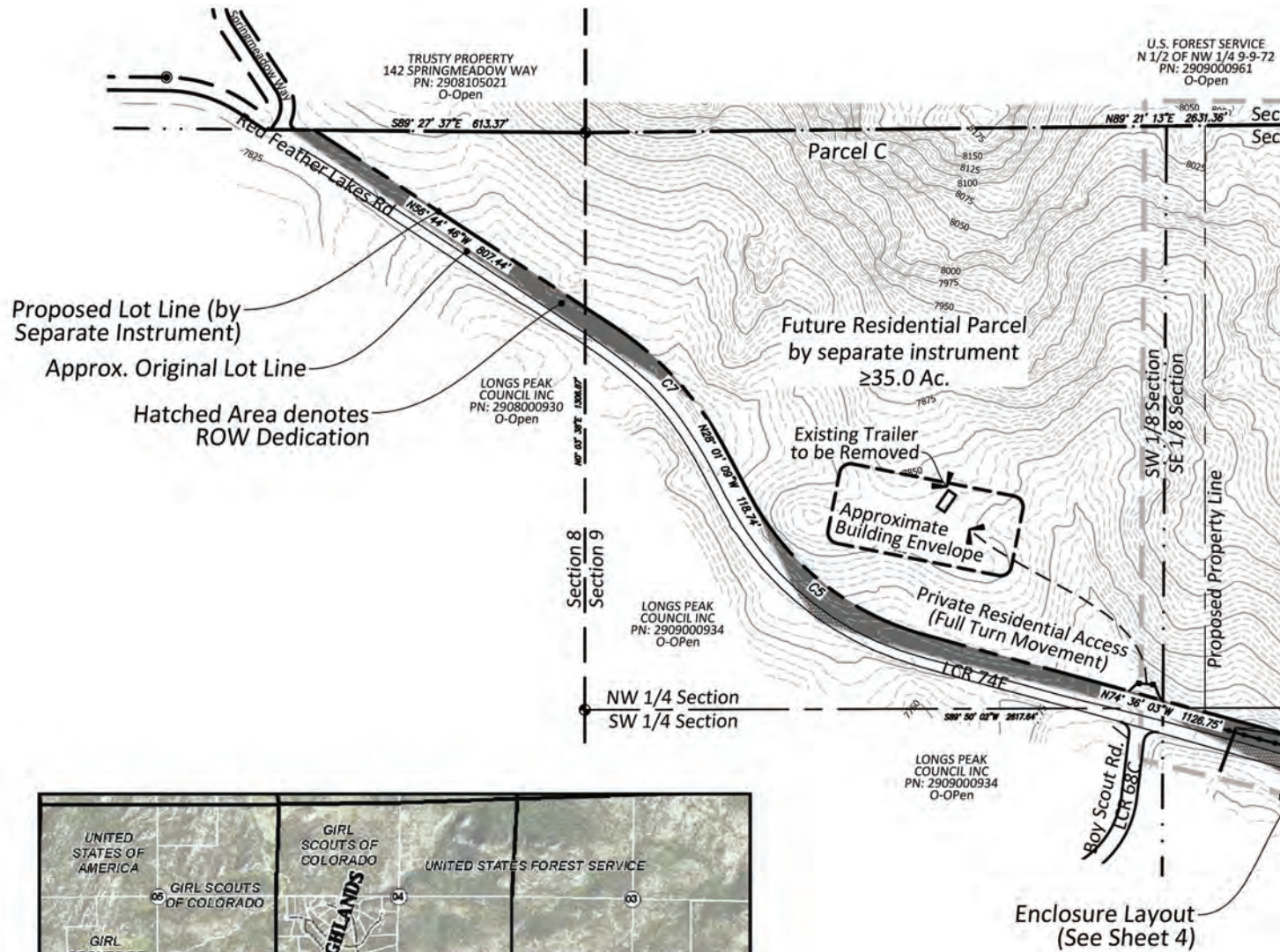


Snowed in during the May 2017 snow storm

In addition to the natural disasters, the Rist Canyon location is a rugged, off-grid site that does not allow for efficient facility operation, has limited telecommunications options, and is challenging for staff and volunteers, especially in the winter.

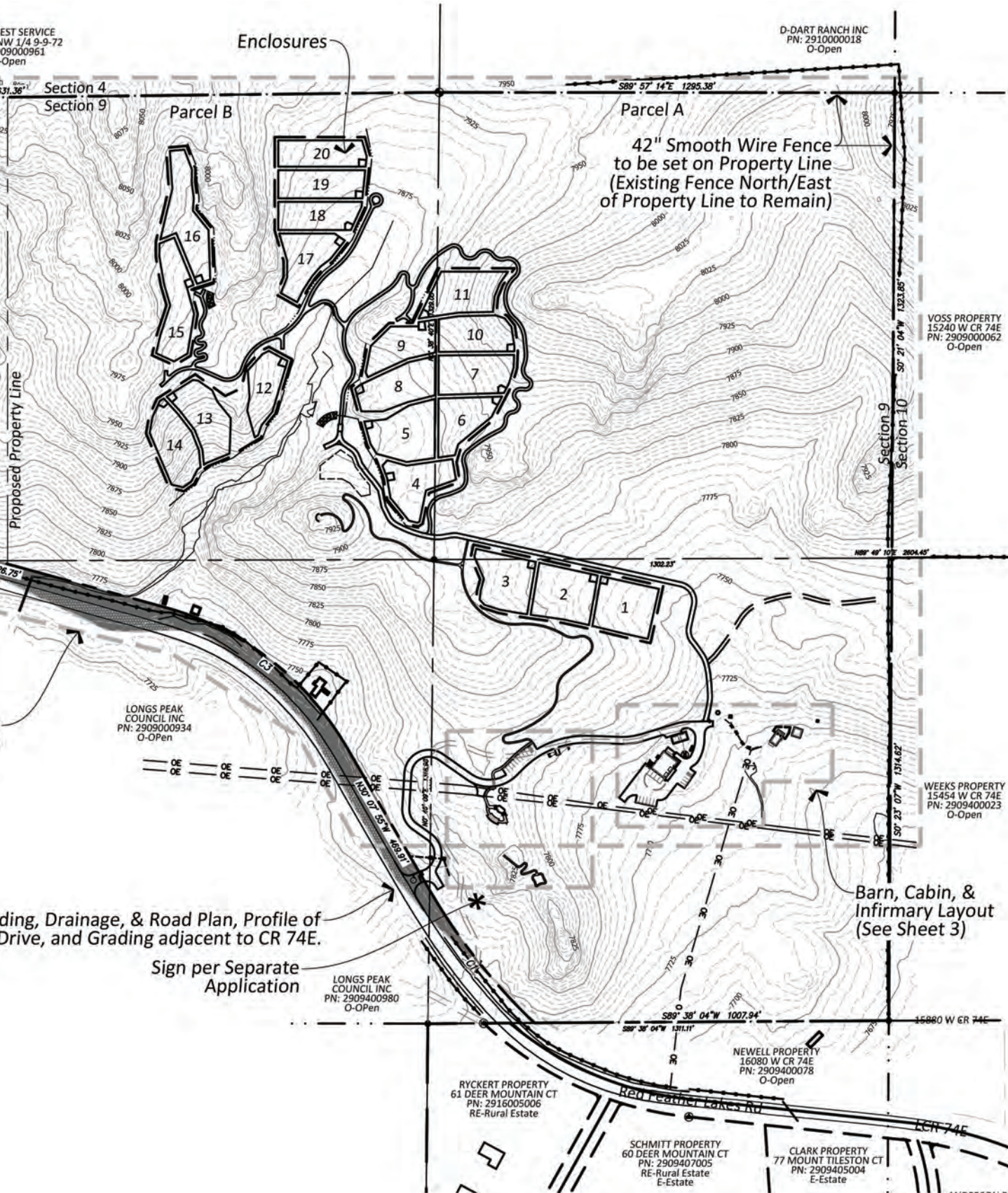
In 2013, W.O.L.F.'s Executive Director Shelley Coldiron began the search for a new and safer location for the Sanctuary. After several potential properties did not meet all W.O.L.F.'s requirements, Coldiron found an ideal 160-acre property located near Red Feather Lakes which is only a 45-minute drive northwest of Ft. Collins, CO. The property is bordered by 80 acres of National Forest, and the terrain will nearly eliminate the fire and flood hazards that are present at the current Rist Canyon location.





Refer to Engineering Plans for Grading, Driveway, and Entry Drive, and

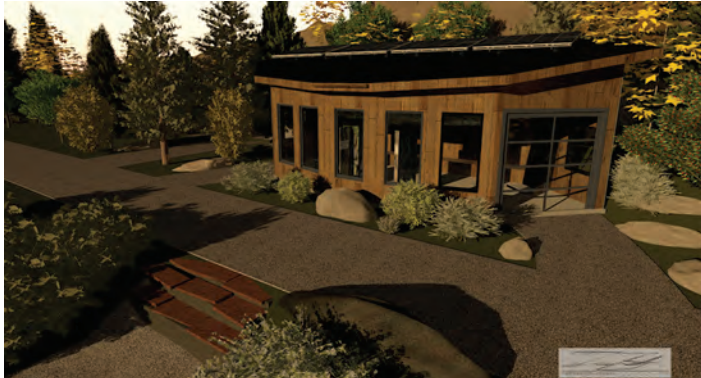
Overall Site Layout



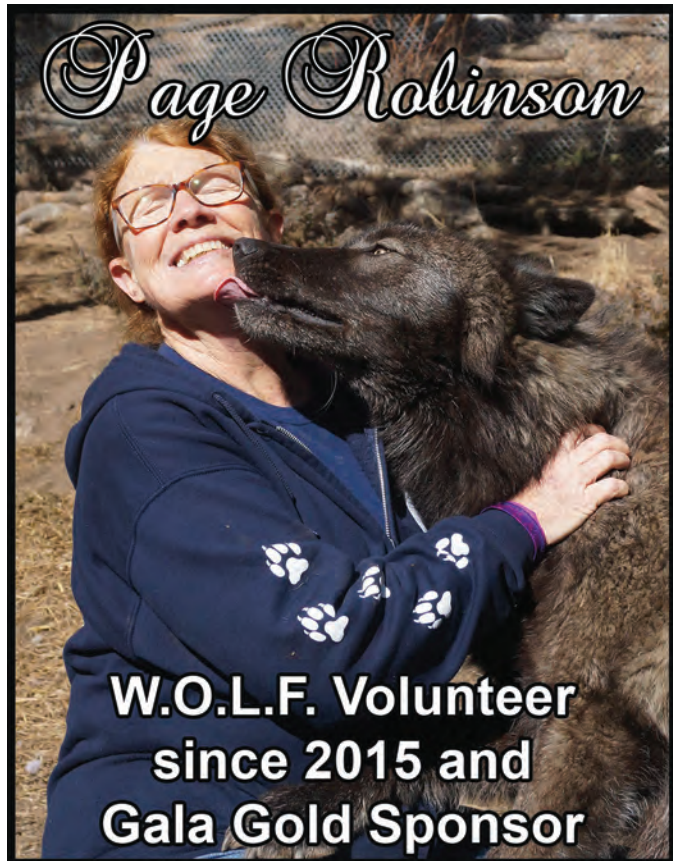
Scale: 1"=300'



The vastly improved infrastructure will make for a much-improved experience for animals and humans.



One of the most exciting features for Coldiron is the beautiful, new Visitors' Pavilion which will be located near the Sanctuary entrance and visitor parking. According to Coldiron "The new Pavilion will help visitors learn about wolf biology, behavior and ecology using educational materials, photographs and interactive displays. We are also thrilled to be able to offer on-site tours for visitors and schoolchildren who will have an intimate, up-close experience with our amazing resident wolves and wolf dogs."



"I was born with an innate love of animals and have spent much of my life in engaged in animal welfare. I have been honored to work for W.O.L.F. for eight years. I strongly believe that the next eight years will secure the physical and financial well-being of the wolves and wolf dogs in our care so that they will always have a home and place of safety and peace. The animals are the reason we do this vital work, and we will not fail them."

Shelley J. Coldiron, Executive Director



The new Sanctuary is centrally located off a major highway and will provide easy access for visitors. "We are looking forward to doing collaborative projects with our neighbors at the Delatour Boy Scout Camp and the nearby Shambhala Mountain Center. Also we will be

available to accommodate tourists heading to the popular Red Feather Lakes area."

Coldiron's vision for W.O.L.F. is rapidly becoming a reality. The planners, architects, water specialist and engineers are already hard at work developing the infrastructure and design for the animal habitats, buildings and roadways. However, the "Dream Facility" does not come without the challenges of fundraising. W.O.L.F. will launch a major fundraising endeavor this fall. "We believe we can raise the needed funds from our loyal supporters and from new supporters who share our vision for the future" said Coldiron. The move to the new Sanctuary facility is on track to be completed in late 2019-early 2020.

Volunteer Spotlight

By Mark Speth

W.O.L.F. has an active volunteer program that has even attracted the attention of the international community. For the last few years W.O.L.F. has been able to host a number of international volunteers, and though they usually can only spend a few months volunteering at the Sanctuary we are so grateful for their help. We are delighted to introduce one of these special volunteers --- Kirby Lancaster.



Tell us a bit of background about yourself.

I travelled to Colorado from my home city Perth, Australia - the most isolated city in the world. I spend most of my time getting out of there however. My love for travel is only rivaled by my love for animals and volunteering gives me the opportunity to get to know and learn all about a variety of different species. The 9-5 was never my deal, and I get bored very easily. I love the outdoors, adventure, wildlife and photography and one of these days I hope to find a career amongst these passions.

What interested you in working for W.O.L.F?

I've always been intrigued by wolves, and living in Australia I never had a chance to see them, let alone interact with them. This was my opportunity to get up close with these amazing creatures and learn a lot about their behaviors and what makes them so special. I wanted to work with an organization that had the animals' best interest at heart, and so I found myself at W.O.L.F. As a bonus I've gotten to see and explore one of the most beautiful places I've ever been to in the world, Colorado.

What is one of your favorite and least favorite chores?

I like to change things up so even if I dislike a chore as long as it's not the same daily I'm happy. On the lower end of the scale however would probably be doing the dishes. My favorite would be anything involved in interacting with the wolves, poop scooping, feeding them or taking them for walks.

Who is your favorite animal?

I feel like it changes every week, there's so many different personalities. I feel like Pax would be the one I would want to take home though. He makes my heart melt every time he looks at me with those big brown eyes, and he's the ultimate man's best friend. In terms of the high content wolves, I've always been captivated by Jake. He's stunning, and he doesn't give too much away. The day I got to go in his enclosure was my favorite day by far when I was blessed with a bit of a lick and nibble.





W.O.L.F. Sanctuary

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Summer 2018

W.O.L.F.

YES!

I would like to become a member of W.O.L.F. and help to care for abandoned captive-born wolves and wolf dogs. I understand that by becoming a member (which can be renewed yearly), I will receive a quarterly newsletter, window decal, annual calendar and additional gifts (depending on my member level) unless I specify otherwise.

☐ \$50 Member

☐ \$200 Supporter

☐ \$500 Advocate

☐ \$1,000 Protector

☐ \$2,500 Champion

☐ \$5,000 Phoenix Rising

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Please make checks payable to W.O.L.F.

For donors \$50+, please indicate if you **do not** want to receive: ☐ Print Newsletters ☐ Calendar ☐ Member Gifts

Check if you would like an: ☐ e-receipt *Donations under \$50 receive e-mailed donor acknowledgements



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