

WOLF.



WINTER 2023

Looking Back on 2022
and Forward to 2023

Red Feather Update
and An Interview with the Welder

Plus! Meet This Year's
Gala Speaker: *Carter Niemeyer*



Howling for Mother Earth *Gala 2023*

On April 22, 2023 at the Hilton Fort Collins, W.O.L.F. will be hosting our annual fundraiser to raise money for the wolf dogs in our care. This year's theme *Howling for Mother Earth* is in honor of the day on which it will be held, Earth Day. We will be celebrating this one and only planet on which we live and the species that share it with us.

Our guest speaker this year will be Carter Niemeyer! You will hear about his journey from lethally removing wolves confirmed to be livestock killers as a Federal Agent, to being a part of the reintroduction of wolves to the Northern Rockies in the mid-1990s. He is now one of the biggest advocates for wolves and works to dispel the unfounded myths. You will get the opportunity to meet and speak to him as well as purchase one of his books.

The evening will also feature music by Lucas Wolf, vegan and vegetarian dinner options, a visit by one of our ambassador animals, and live and silent auction items found nowhere else! This year, we will have one-of-a-kind experience packages designed just for this event!

Get your tickets today!

Tickets are **\$85/person** or **\$680 for a table of 8**.

Reservations are encouraged to be made online at wolf2023.givesmart.com, but may also be purchased by phone (970-416-9531) or mail using the form on **Page 6**. An email address for each guest is required to secure reservations and receive the mobile bidding link.

Send your reservation to:
W.O.L.F., PO Box 1544, Laporte, CO 80535

Choose Your Entrée

Both entrees include a fresh house salad and dessert.

#1 Vegetarian Option*

Vegetarian meatballs with cheese, green lentils and broccolini, topped with a roasted tomato relish.

#2 Vegan Option (GF)

Stir fry with tofu, vegetables, and jasmine rice in a teriyaki sauce.

**If an entrée is not chosen, guests will receive the vegetarian option.*

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ON THIS COVER: *SAPPHIRE*

- IRS Tax Exempt Status Under Section 501(c)(3)
- Colorado Nonprofit & Tax Exempt Corporation
- United States Department of Agriculture, Licensed
- Pet Animal Care Facilities Act, Licensed
- American Sanctuary Association
- Accredited Better Business Bureau Charity, Certified
- 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 in need and find them appropriate placement at a sanctuary or other qualified site;
- 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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Dear Supporters:

Hoping your New Year has been off to a fabulous start!

This will be an exciting year for W.O.L.F. as we are planning to move to our property near Red Feather Lakes this summer! A long-time dream is becoming reality! We can't wait to see our fur babies exploring their new habitats and playing on the rock formations in their habitats. And we are so excited for when we will be open to the public and you can see firsthand how your support is helping to provide wonderful, happy, carefree lives for our animals. An update of our progress is given in this newsletter.

We have designed and are implementing features to make it even easier to care for our beautiful charges so we can spend even more time enriching the lives of our wolf dogs, such as our new feeding and water stations being constructed by metal artist Courtney Alexander. Staff Hannah Heath's interview of Courtney is provided later in the newsletter. We are so grateful to Courtney for her creativity in the design to make it easy for staff and volunteers to feed and provide fresh water to the kids.

Please follow us on social media to see videos and posts of our beautiful new home.

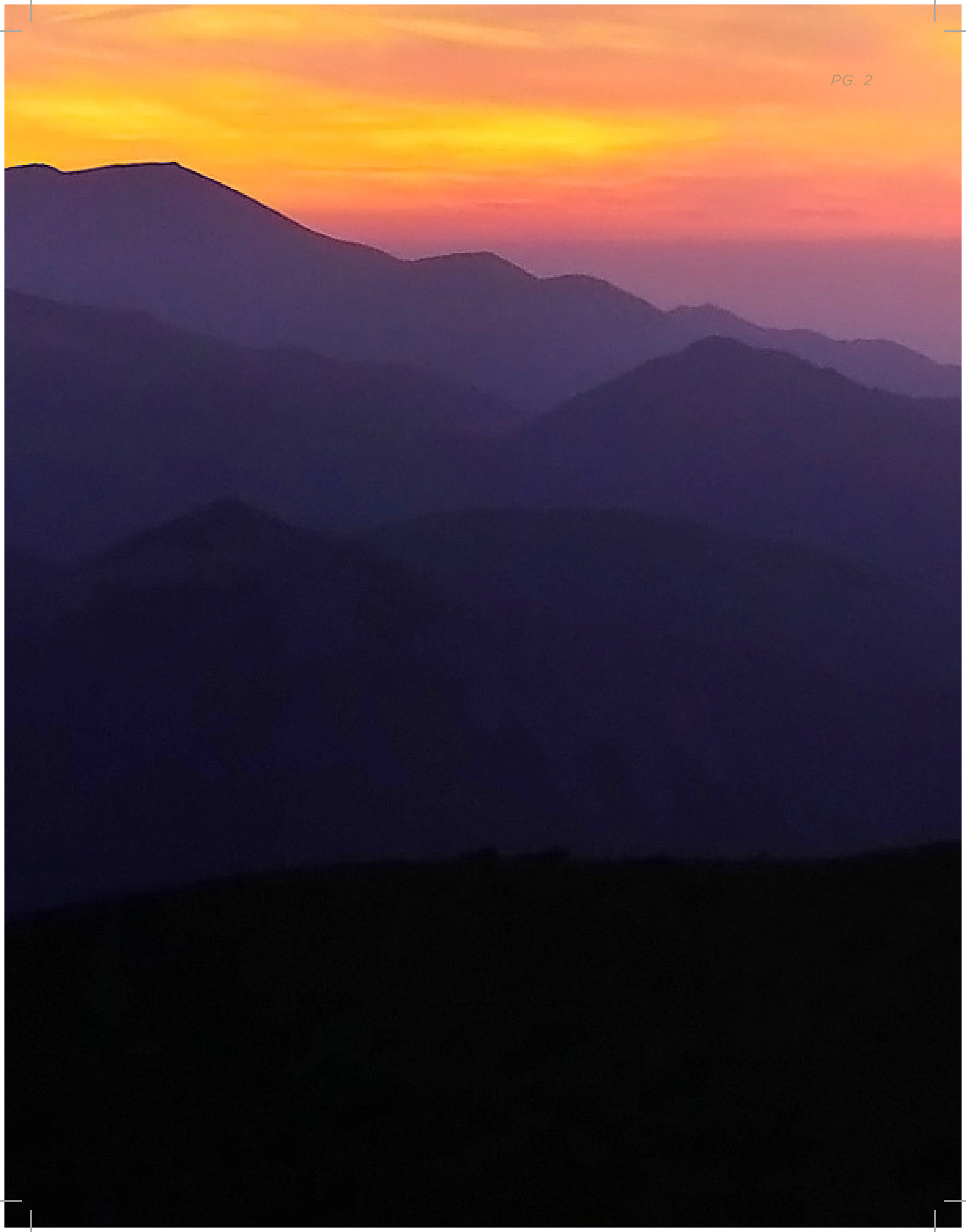
Our annual fundraiser gala is on Earth Day April 22nd and themed *Howling for Mother Earth*, see details inside to join us for this festive night. We will be decorating the ballroom with the theme and providing posters of what we can do help our home, Mother Earth, stay healthy for all of us. The posters will also list some of the conservation features of our new home, such as solar powered bucket sleeves that will keep the water buckets free of ice (which has demonstrated to work at -34° and below 0° temps for 4 days) and the same solar systems will power the bear-deterrent perimeter wiring in the warmer months.

Carter Niemeyer is our Guest Speaker for the gala. Carter is a retired wildlife biologist who has been involved with wolf reintroduction in the Northern Rockies, recovery and management of wolves in Idaho via USFW and now an advocate voice for wolves. He has also served on the CPW Technical Advisory Group for the reintroduction of wolves in Colorado. Carter has worked with livestock ranchers on implementing non-lethal management of wolves. In the newsletter is an interview by Delia Malone, President of Colorado Wild, of Carter. He provides insight into the hazards of the path taken by other states with human 'management' of wolves in the West that hopefully Colorado will avoid.

I look forward to seeing you at the Gala on April 22nd!

As always, gratefully and humbly yours,

- *Shelley*





ON THIS PHOTO: *TRIGGER*

2022 UPDATE - Kendra Kellogg

As we wrap up 2022 and head into 2023, we wanted to share some of what we have accomplished last year and some things to look forward to in 2023.

In 2022:

- We have started to attend more educational programs and tabling events after COVID forced us to completely stop our educational program. Since education is a large part of our mission, we are thrilled to be able to participate in those programs again. We attended 6 tabling events and 6 educational programs. We hope this number continues to increase in 2023.
- Our amazing rescue team responded to over 375 inquiries with over 100 successful rescues. All of our rescue team work on a volunteer basis and do some of the hardest work of all of us. Not all rescues are successful, yet they continue to work through the heartbreak. Thank you so much to all of our rescue team!!
- We have completed over 10,500 hours of volunteer work! This includes on-site hours, gala planning, education events, and more. Thank you to all of our volunteers for keeping us running and for taking such good care of our animals!
- We welcomed one new rescue, Kyah, to the sanctuary. She and her companion Kieran are loving their mountain home and getting to constantly play with each other!

In 2023:

- We will move to our new facility in Red Feather Lakes! We are waiting for the weather to cooperate to install the final pieces for the habitats. When it gets a bit warmer, we can finally move! There will still be pieces that need to be built — such as the meat processing center, public restroom, office renovation, education pavilion, etc. — but those will come after we move.
- We have launched a tool with our new partner, FreeWill. This is a tool that allows our supporters to create their own will for free. If you use this tool, you will also be given the easy option of including W.O.L.F. as a beneficiary. Find out more at www.wolfsanctuary.net/freewill/.
- Our annual fundraiser gala will be held on Earth Day, April 22. In honor of the day, it is themed *Howling for Mother Earth*. We hope to see you there!
- There will be many other opportunities for you to connect with us and show your support this year so stay tuned!

It is because of each and every one of you that we have been able to achieve what we have and can make these plans for the future. We look forward to seeing what we can do together in 2023!

Happy 2023!

All of us at W.O.L.F.



RED FEATHER UPDATE - Laura Davis

WOLF continues to get closer to completing the tasks necessary for the move to our new home at Red Feather Lakes. There are multiple tasks that have been completed since the last newsletter was published. These items include:

- The well pump, including the electrical portion, pressure tank, and water supply lines have been installed and are functional.
- The deck pens were purchased and delivered to our site at Red Feather. These deck pens serve as a 'den' for each animal, and it is where they will be fed and provided with water. As part of the deck pen configuration, a solar powered generator will be placed near each of the habitat enclosures so that the water bowls can be heated in the winter time to prevent freezing.
- Finally, progress has been made in the design and fabrication of the feeder/watering stations. Courtney Alexander, who is featured elsewhere in this newsletter, is a design welder that is making these units and designing and fabricating the deck pen panels so that feeding and watering the animals will be secure for the animals and convenient for staff and volunteers to access them.

The tasks that remain prior to moving include assembling the deck pens and installing a roof for each one. Courtney Alexander is working diligently to complete the feeding/watering stations as well. The goal is to move our wolves and operations to Red Feather in late spring/early summer! Again, we appreciate the support of our contractors, donors, staff, and volunteers.



View of Feeding/Watering Stations and Access Hatch



Access Panel and Feeding/Watering Station Detailed View



CHOOSE YOUR ENTRÉE

Both entrées include a fresh House salad and dessert.

#1: Vegetarian Option*

Vegetarian meatballs with cheese, green lentils and broccolini, topped with a roasted tomato relish.

#2: Vegan Option (GF)

Stir fry with tofu, vegetables, and jasmine rice in a teriyaki sauce.

name: _____
address: _____
city, st, zip: _____
phone: _____
email: _____
(Required to secure reservations and receive the mobile bidding link)
credit card: _____
(American Express, Discover, Visa or MasterCard)
exp date: _____ **security code:** _____

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

x \$85 per Guest \$ _____
 \$680 Table for 8 \$ _____
 Silver Table **Phone Only**
 Gold Table **Phone Only**
Total \$ _____

Number of Guests: _____
Number of Meals: #1 _____ #2 _____
 Please provide the names for all of your guests with your reservation or email them to gala@wolfsanctuary.net

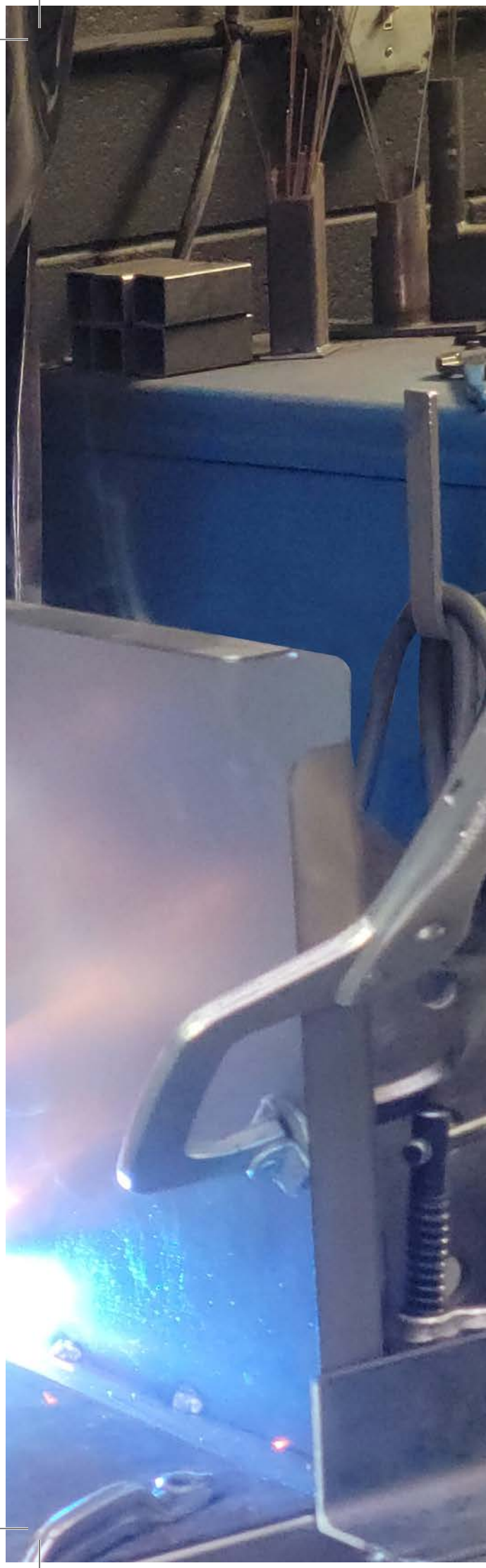
Reservations are encouraged to be made online but may also be made by phone (970-416-9531) or using this form and mailing it to the address listed below. An email address for each guest is required to secure reservations and receive the mobile bidding link.

**Send your reservation to W.O.L.F.
PO Box 1544 - Laporte, CO 80535**

For online reservations go to: wolf2023.givesmart.com

***If an entrée is not chosen, guests will receive the Vegetarian Option.**





MEET COURTNEY ALEXANDER - Hannah Heath

Red Feather Lakes, the new home of W.O.L.F. Sanctuary. Moving a sanctuary is no easy task. Working from the ground up, so many people from different walks of life have joined together to help give 30 wolfdogs the best new home possible. From construction crews to work groups, to Courtney Alexander, a welder working on the feeding and watering stations to be installed at the new habitats.



Courtney grew up in Illinois, working as a probation officer in Chicago for 11 years. She moved out to Boulder County in 2016 where she soon realized that while she had enjoyed her work, she was getting burnt out and needed a career change. She knew she wanted something fulfilling, involving manual labor and probably not some clean desk job. While talking to some of her clients, she asked one what he did for a living. "He always came in with a smile on his face," she recalls. Turns out, he enjoyed his job digging. So, Courtney set out to follow his example. She dug. She joined construction, working in the dirt and mud, high up on buildings and scaffoldings, and finally ended up in welding. She described her first welding job as dirty, but she fell in love. To her, the metal "just came alive". Welding was the perfect mix of a creative outlet and tough manual labor that she was looking for.

Today, she works at a fabrication shop in Boulder. The feeder project for W.O.L.F. Sanctuary represents her first big solo fabrication project. Having to create 36 contraptions from a singular prototype, she described her process as akin to an assembly line where she works on one step across all the contraptions before moving on to the next step. Every step of the way, she was met with challenges and complications; every complication, she was able to rise above and overcome. Courtney described how she typically works: she creates a plan, mapping out each step and envisioning how she would complete her work. Before she even starts creating, she has a game plan prepared. This project, however, was not so simple. Nuances started to pop up, causing her to alter her methodology. She soon learned that her best technique was to take it one step at a time, markedly different from her usual approach.

While the feeder project is something new to her, Courtney is used to thinking outside the box. At the shop where she works, they combine machinist tools and welding to create an environment where they can create the types of custom pieces another welding shop might not be able to. She showed off some of their work, like bridge railings and a glass balcony with a built-in planter. As she pointed these projects out, she mentioned how much effort goes into creating something as simple as a railing, counting the days it takes to build and install something most people just take for granted. As with the feeders, she says, "It turns out something so simple is actually a complex piece." Fabrication is not an easy job, but the idea of the finished piece is to make it look like it was easy.

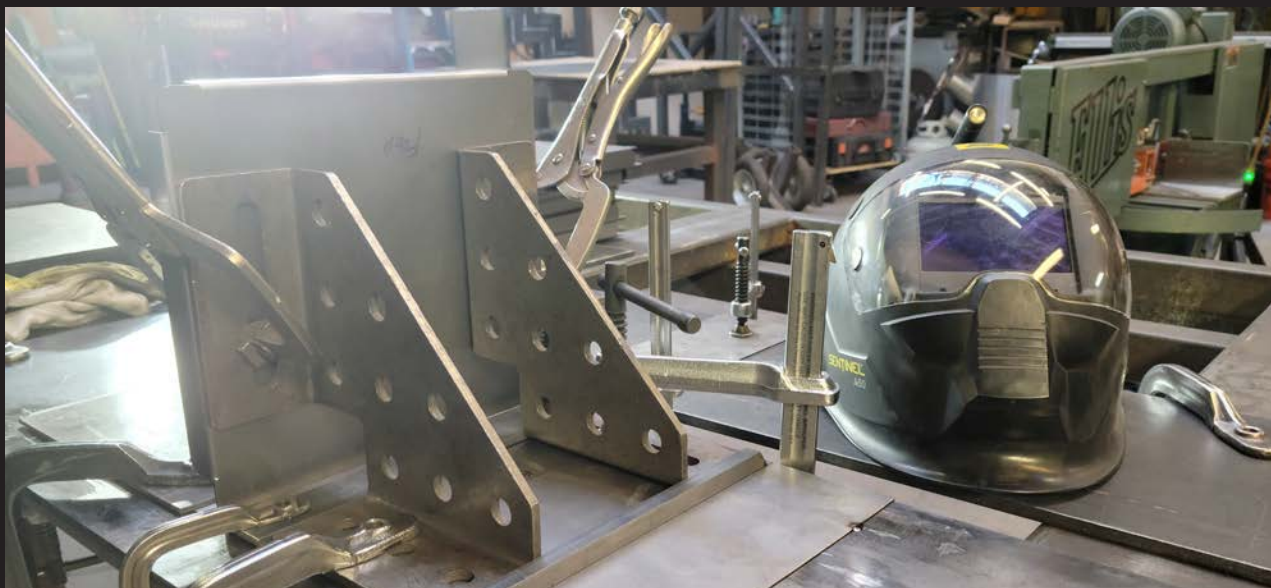
While welding and wolves seems like two very different things, to Courtney, it's a surprisingly natural connection. But how does a former probation officer-turned welder end up connected

with a wolf sanctuary? For Courtney, it all started when she was young. She'd always felt a very deep connection with wolves, commenting on how she feels that she shares a lot of qualities wolves have. When she moved to Boulder County in 2016, she ended up on a trip to Mission: Wolf where the trajectory of her life was irreversibly changed. There, Executive Director Kent Weber took her into an enclosure to safely meet some of the animals. Courtney described her experience with those animals, stating that "it felt like I came home".

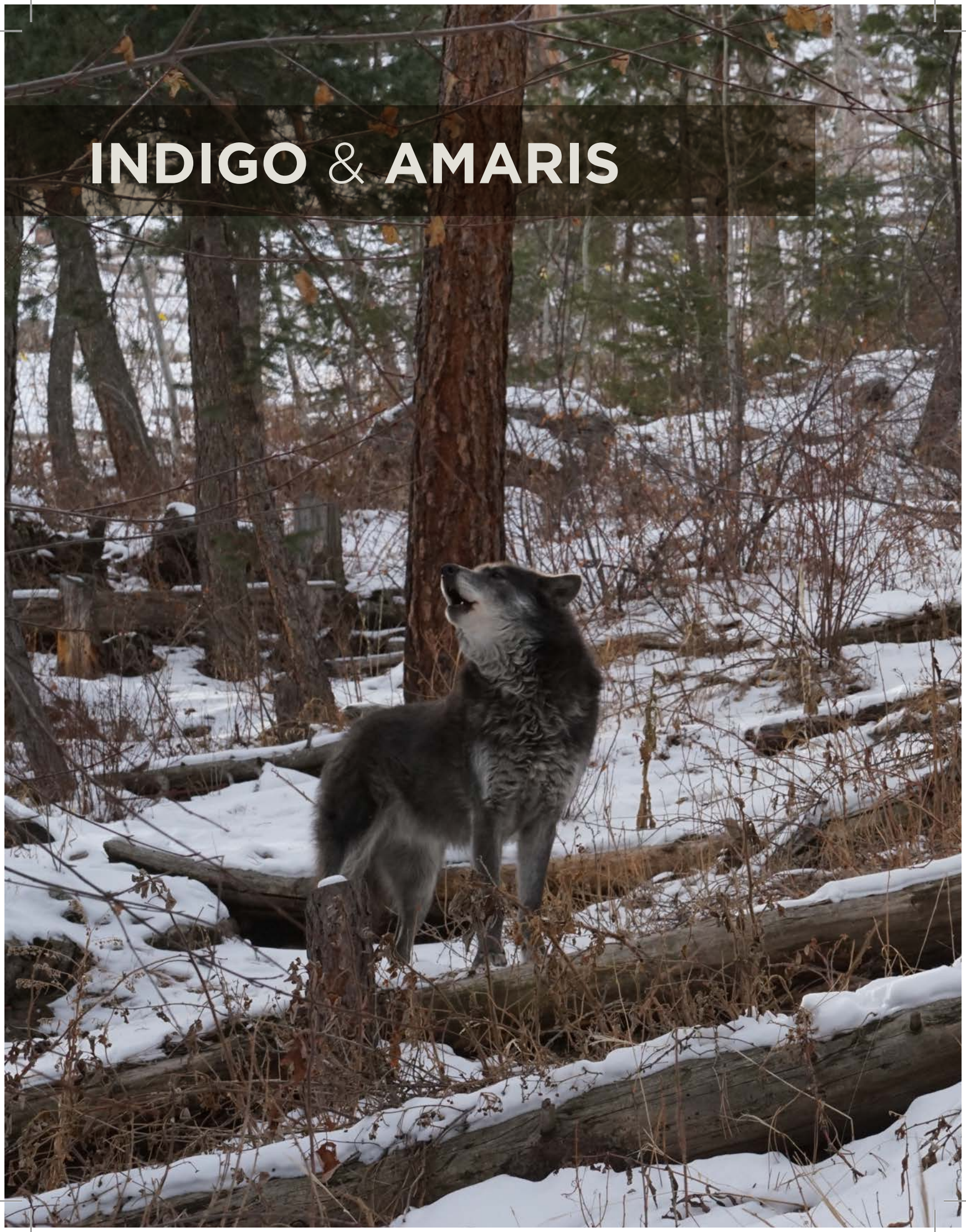
After her experience at Mission: Wolf, she ended up switching careers, which led her to welding. At her current shop, she often spends time with Dennis, one of the people who works next door. They share a love for all things wolf and would often talk together about wolves. Dennis happened to be friends with Keith Laposh, W.O.L.F. Sanctuary's Rescue Coordinator. Courtney would often see Keith's vehicle around but never got the chance to talk until one day, she was leaving work while Keith was still around. She dashed over and was introduced to Keith, where she offered, "If you guys ever need any help with welding, I would love to help out with that!"

Keith put her in touch with Laura Davis, Project Manager at Red Feather, who jumped at the opportunity.

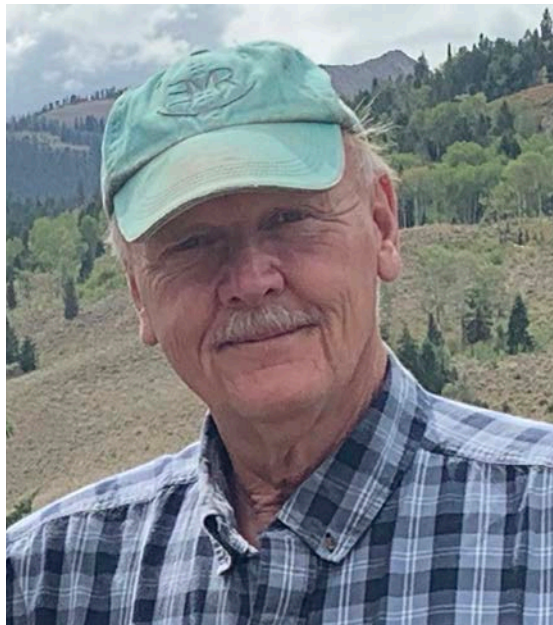
While this project has been challenging, overall, Courtney finds it very fulfilling. She is ecstatic to be able to give back to the community in a meaningful way. Wolves have always been her fascination, and now she is able to make a tangible impact serving one of the populations she really cares for. She also believes deeply in sanctuaries and supports their missions, and is grateful to be a part of something that holds deep meaning for her. She has poured all her blood, sweat, and tears into this project, creating a meaningful, functional work of art that supports a community she is so invested in. As she said, "It's now coming full circle. The wolves had led me to welding, and welding has led me back to the wolves."



INDIGO & AMARIS







PREPARING FOR WOLVES IN COLORADO - PROP 114

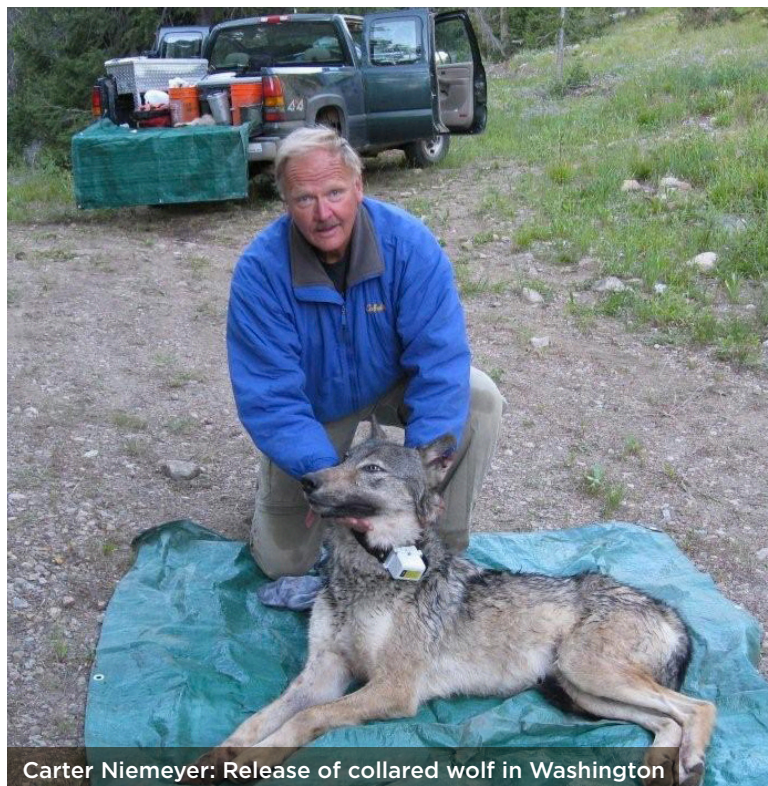
*Interview by Delia Malone, President
Colorado Wild, of Carter Niemeyer
Gala Guest Speaker*

Delia Malone: I'm Delia Malone and I'm talking today with Carter Niemeyer. I asked Carter to give us his perspective from 26 years of working with wolves in the Northern Rockies and how that work informs his perspective on what we should or should not be doing in Colorado to restore a sustainable wolf population. Before we jump in, I'd like to provide a little context by saying that I think most of the folks that supported Proposition 114 thought we had really clear language that would result in the restoration and protection of a sustainable wolf population in Colorado - specifically, language in Proposition 114 states that we must use best science and that wolves would be managed as a non-game species. And so we thought we were going to be different from new Mexico and Arizona, and we thought we were going to be different from the Northern Rockies. And so, I guess I would just ask Carter to launch from there, given his many, many, many years working in and watching wolves.

Carter, thank you for taking the time to talk with me about your perspective

that comes from 26 years of living and working with wolves - a perspective that most don't have.

Carter Niemeyer: Well, I appreciate you asking me. I have watched this development of wolf recovery for over 26 years since about 1987. And I will say that the wolves given a chance to live and not being killed - they're a pretty hardy species - and once you establish their numbers on the ground, they're very capable of taking over and doing the job. I think humans must position the wolves in the appropriate habitats and lay some ground protections for them and minimize human killing. Mostly that's what's going to be the biggest risk and danger to them. The wolves will do the rest - they can reproduce and expand their range quickly. Up here we reintroduced 66 wolves in 1995 and 1996, and by 2002 we were just about to what was determined appear to be the recovery levels - 300 wolves and 30 breeding pairs equitably distributed. That was only about six years that it took them to get to that point. The problem is, and I guess, always been that problem, it all goes political almost from day one - that's why my response is going to be probably less specific and more strategy. Rather, what are you going to do and what should your state do and what kind of playing field are you going to create? I think that starts day one. When we reintroduced wolves up here, I don't think anyone, even including a biologist, quite knew what to expect and the livestock industry didn't know what to expect. If you fast forward to today, I think the politics are going to be down and dirty and people are going to be actively strategizing on how to either support it or resist it. The state of Colorado will likely bring speakers and experts from both sides, from both viewpoints, into the state and try to sell their approach to the public.



Carter Niemeyer: Release of collared wolf in Washington

If you look at what's going on in Montana and Idaho and to a lesser extent Wyoming, the resistance has been building. The danger politically is who's in the legislature and what is the composition of the legislature. If you look at the composition of the House and Senate up here, Democrats are kind of an endangered species, especially in Idaho. Montana has taken that course and resistance to wolves is a conservative's platform.

I think it's indisputable that the conservatives, the Republican Party, those who support rural communities and who rural communities support have become more and more powerful to the point that now it's retribution. There were expressions of resistance from day one up here 26 years ago, and before that the rural communities, the ranching industry did not want these wolves, and of course, for the most part, the legislatures and the agencies were not supportive. There's a lot of good biologists within the agencies who wanted to do everything they could to support wolf recovery. But the legislature, at least in Idaho, forbid them to even be involved at the time. So, this whole thing is politics and it's going to be politics and it's going to be whose side is most active and most influential. All these decisions about are we going to manage wolves - will they be classified as protected, non-game? There's going to be people constantly chipping away, trying to make them a game animal. And if you look at the end road and all the states, Washington and Oregon included there, there's almost this immediate jump. Once wolves start to appear and start to reproduce and start to expand, you will immediately see politicians in these legislatures influenced by outside forces, whether it's the Livestock Grazing Association or like that as soon as they're showing progress and becoming more abundant. There's going to be those who already have got to talk about hunting season. I heard from advocates back say ten years ago in Washington and Oregon "It's not going to happen here. It's not going to happen like what's going on in Idaho or Montana". But it is.

Delia Malone: So my hope, and obviously hope is useless unless you do something about it, is that I thought that we had learned a lot of lessons from Idaho and Montana and Wyoming, both good and bad, and we would use those lessons to ensure that Colorado was a welcoming place for wolves. We saw the experience of learning co-existence strategies with livestock. I thought we had learned about the importance of wolf packs being intact and not destroying pack structure by hunting them from the important research that came out of Yellowstone and other National Parks. With CPW's current draft management plan, it seems like the good lessons have often been ignored and the negative lessons have been embraced.

Carter Niemeyer: I agree with you totally. That's exactly the evolution of what's gone on up here today. Livestock loss certainly is significant to the individual. Certainly, wolves will kill livestock now and then. But for the most part, if you look at the big picture, there's coexistence and there has been. But the wildlife agencies have chosen sides because they're doing the politically expedient thing. When wolves cause a problem, everybody wants that problem to go away. I don't hear the fish and game agencies showing any care or concern about the composition of a wolf pack - the composition of adults and pups and the social behaviors and social relationships in those packs. That science is well known, and advocates promote it, but the science has gone political and ignored. What then becomes the focus is how are we going to solve this problem and keeping your constituents happy? And to me, that's where the train runs off the tracks and always has.

Delia Malone: There's very little acknowledgment, and even less support, regarding the importance of maintaining the wolf pack and all the members of the wolf pack. Conversely, there's a lot of discussion about compensation for livestock losses. There's very little in CPW's draft document about supporting strategies to avoid conflict. What would you do if you had had the ability to write the livestock-wolf management decisions? In Colorado, we're politically opposite Idaho. Our legislature is heavily Democratic in the houses as is our Governor. However, we've got this divide in Colorado, a physical Divide of the of the Rocky Mountains and a demographic divide - most folks on the Front Range are fairly progressive while most folks over where I live on the West Slope not so much. Given the divide, in your opinion, what should be changed in CPW's plan that would make Colorado wolf restoration successful?

Carter Niemeyer: We have learned, along with everything else, that there are non-lethal ways to minimize loss. There are preemptive strategies. But you've got to base that on working with the local ranchers. I went to Colorado to share some of this information (about prevention), but I felt we were rejected from the start. I talked to some ranchers who came to the meetings and asked them what's going on? "You guys don't show up, only one or two of you do, and the two that do come in to be confrontational." I've had them tell me, "I resent people like you coming from out of state telling me how to raise my cattle." But I also think there's a couple of kinds of producers. There are livestock producers that we've talked to that want to know what they can do to take care of their livestock and prevent a wreck. We have answers

for them. We have a lot of experience. But then there's other livestock producers who are going to fight this thing and they're the ones that are going to invite conflict. I hope we could be able to tell them what to do on public land, but even that is political. There are those who want to just invite conflict to say, I told you, that doesn't work. But most of the livestock producers haven't tried prevention and don't want to try it. What it boils down to, is, will Colorado Parks and Wildlife provide funding for conflict prevention strategies for ranchers? And how much effort is going to be put into this preemptive response. When you've got a pack of wolves like in the Walden area, when you get a pack of wolves, move in, you've got to take action to prevent livestock loss - which I don't sense people did. The response was business as usual. If the response of livestock producers in Colorado is "I've been doing this for generations, it's my private land, it's my livestock, I have legal rights to graze on public land, and I reject having wolves in my backyard," there's going to be a wreck. Ranchers must do things differently. They've got to be aware to do certain things to minimize the possibilities. You're going to have to watch your livestock closer, you're going to have to be riding more often, you're going to have to notice that a wolf is being attracted to a carcass. There're all these things that you do if you're responsible. You're going to have to change your ways if this Colorado experiment is going to go forward. If people don't change their ways, and prepare for wolves, there's going to be wrecks. If people don't do something to prevent or minimize the wrecks, the wrecks are going to grow and grow. And then here we go down that path of lethal management.

Delia Malone: So it sounds like, in your opinion, one of the factors critical to a successful wolf restoration is CPW providing the funding to at a minimum get livestock producers off the ground with changing how they manage livestock.

Carter Niemeyer: That's especially true in places where these wolves set up housekeeping. Once the reintroductions happen, or even where a natural recolonization that's happening, it's my opinion sitting up here looking down there at Walden, that it was a wreck waiting to happen. It seems to me there was no attempt to really get in there and make people aware. We had at least three or four Working Circle meetings there but had a minimal turnout. I did ask some people sitting in the room, you know, what's the problem? The reaction was "don't come here telling me how I got to live with wolves". But you got to live with wolves if you're going to put wolves in Colorado. And that's a

problem that I really see as a stumbling block. And I'll just toss in here to a footnote on this whole thing in Meeker. In the end, I think Meeker is a perfect example of kicking the political can down the road. From the best of my information, it wasn't wolves that killed the cows. They can't connect wolves to the incident but nobody's even willing to say that it's not wolves. That's a dangerous precedent to start, where you're leaving the door open for speculation. There was even one of their folks down there who said "unfortunately, we can't tie this to wolves." Those are the problems that really keep this thing polarized.

Delia Malone: One of the strategies that several wolf advocacy groups are proposing is tying compensation for livestock loss to the implementation of conflict prevention methods - a strategy that is not included in CPW's draft management plan. I would like to hear your thoughts regarding if you think this is important to successful livestock-wolf coexistence. In other words, if a rancher is using guard dogs or range riders or whatever the appropriate method is, if they still lose livestock, they should be compensated. On the other hand, if they conduct business as usual, and they haven't been doing anything to prevent conflict, our position is that there shouldn't be compensation for losses. Do you think that that is a reasonable or effective way to encourage ranchers to implement conflict prevention strategies?

Carter Niemeyer: Oh, I think conditionally, you're just going to be buying a lot of dead livestock if ranchers don't modify and change what they're doing. Mitigating the relationship between wolves and livestock those first days, weeks, and months that wolves are near is really critical. That's the time you get started with prevention. So yeah, conditionally, I think the state or whoever is going to have to really emphasize getting out front. For instance, I just felt like Walden was playing catch up every step of the way - they should have been doing that with fladry, but I saw him put up fladry, and then next thing I heard, well, the wind's blowing it down or the elk are running it over. If the situation is not conducive to making the fladry function as it's supposed to, then don't play that card. You've got to apply the method strategically with precision and with the sole purpose of making it work. Not checking the box. And that to me, is a danger.

Delia Malone: CPW is also proposing that when the population gets up to 200 that they would consider reclassifying wolves from their current non-game status to a game status. How would this impact the ability of wolf packs to survive and the population grow and how would the ability of wolves to disperse be impacted by trophy hunting?

Carter Niemeyer: Well, I think this is back to that old



politics again. I see Colorado Parks and Wildlife doing this like the states up here did. There's this tolerance that you're concerned about constantly. It's all about giving a certain component of society what they want. Because people up here believe wolves have to be controlled but I don't necessarily believe that to this day. CPW is going to be under huge political pressure - they will have to decide how many of these 'damn' wolves do we need? Some folks say 700 because you don't want to scare the ranching industry away by telling them there's going to be a thousand or they're not going to be on board from day one. I just think that's really where Colorado is too - we promise you when you get a couple of hundred, we're going to look at changing the playing field a little bit. I think that's inevitable.

Delia Malone: Something I hear frequently is that "there are wolves in Yellowstone, why do we need them here? You can go to Yellowstone to see 'em."

Carter Niemeyer: The Director of Fish and Game here in Idaho, who just retired, said, "why don't you people be satisfied with some wolves in Yellowstone instead of out here on the working landscape where they're bothering people?" I think politically you must be aware of the evolution of what happened up here to the point that now we're paying bounties for wolves. These are the things to be aware of as you begin this experiment in Colorado.

Delia Malone: A big lesson that I hope we are in the process of learning is that politics do change.

Carter Niemeyer: Absolutely they do. The environment today up here politically compared to the thrill and excitement of, say, my first 15 years in wolf recovery was all for one and one for all. Everybody busted their heiny for wolf restoration. We kept working positively toward achieving change and learning things that work and things that don't work. The advantage Colorado has is we've made about every mistake or assumption that you can. There's no reason to make the same mistakes.

Delia Malone: You've given us some important advice and essential insights on how to return wolves to Colorado to enable a restorative coexistence. In closing our talk, what policies would you recommend that Governor Polis and the CPW director put in place to make Colorado's wolf experiment a success?

Carter Niemeyer: I'm not sure what hasn't been done already, but I think the Governor and the Director should look at this as a huge experiment, a huge change, and a huge step forward to reestablish wolves. I think they should put a lot into who the people that are going to make this thing work. I think it's essential that you identify people who are gifted at forming alliances. You need a personality where you can get into the bunkhouse or into the house and have coffee and get someone's ear and assure them that, "hey, look, if you work with us, we'll work with you". But not, "you work with us, and I promise you I'll kill every damn wolf that looks cross-eyed at your cow". That's not what you want. You want somebody to work with the producers because a lot of them are going to be the ones living with wolves. There's a lot of steps you can take in between having a wreck and pulling out the guns and start shooting wolves. The things we're doing up here, the hunting and trapping seasons, are known to break up these wolf packs. They're killing adults and pups are growing up without their parents. This socialization feature is what wolves are all about, you break up that social pack, you're creating as many problems as we think we're solving. You have guys out hunting and trapping packs that have never bothered livestock at all - probably making those packs become a problem. That to me is a danger. I just hope Colorado takes it serious from the start and makes the state a more friendly than combative environment. But it's going to take some couple of sharp individuals. I think I will always believe the success of wolf recovery up in this country with those first ten years of good

people on the ground. You're talking Doug Smith and Mike Phillips over in the park or Ed Bangs and Joe Fontaine up there in the Helena office or Carter running around fixing broken spokes in the wheel. All of us were a team and everybody worked together - we were 100% committed to doing what we were doing and that's why wolf recovery worked.

Delia Malone: Carter, thank you for being willing to share your perspectives! I hope to see you when you're in Colorado to give a talk at W.O.L.F. Thank you for all that you've done over the many years to successfully bring wolves back to the Northern Rockies and to help us in Colorado make our grand experiment a success.

Carter Niemeyer: My pleasure. I hope you, as advocates, never back down. Everyone's got to stand for something, or you fall for everything. It's important that you keep advocating over the years. I believe it comes down to the individual - just because you're a hunter doesn't mean you're a wolf killer - just because you're a rancher doesn't mean you dislike wildlife. Success is going to boil down to individual relationships. I think that's what the big focus should be, trying to mend fences and not be adversaries from the start. Work every way you can to find individuals who will work with you and work together and start associations who will give that a chance.

Delia Malone: Great advice for wolf advocates and for life.

Carter Niemeyer: Alliances are always the best if we can form them. Good luck to y'all.



ON THIS PHOTO: NALA

Thanks to YOU Colorado Gives Day was a Howling Success!

On December 6th, 2022, Colorado's Community First Foundation once again partnered with FirstBank to host their annual Colorado Gives Day donation drive. Each year, this event is one of W.O.L.F.'s most significant fundraisers, helping to cover the cost of annual operational expenses including vet care, habitat maintenance, enrichment, infrastructure at the new property, and more.

We are pleased to share that we not only met our goal for 2022—set at \$75,000—but far surpassed it! Because of your unfailing support and generosity, we raised \$89,000!

The passion of our supporters made this happen through donations and spreading awareness across social media, event attendance, and more. Without each and every one of you, we would not be able to continue our mission of Rescue, Sanctuary, and Education, and help the wolves and wolf dogs we love immensely.

- Thank you, from all of us at W.O.L.F. Sanctuary!

THANK YOU TO OUR PROUD SPONSORS



Coloradoans, Remember You Can Support W.O.L.F. with ReFUND CO

Did you know that Coloradoans who receive a state income tax refund will have a chance to donate some or all of it to a local nonprofit they trust like W.O.L.F. Sanctuary? Imagine if all state taxpayers chose to donate just a portion of their refunds; this outpouring of support would re-energize local community causes across Colorado and make a massive positive impact on our state!

The ReFUND CO campaign provides a way for you to directly support a local nonprofit that is doing important work in your community by putting you in control of deciding to donate some or all of your state income tax return to a Colorado-registered charity.

For W.O.L.F., this provides a new way to fund our ongoing mission of Rescue, Sanctuary, and Education to help captive-born wolves and wolf dogs that need a second chance.

How to Donate Through ReFUND CO

1. When you are filing your Colorado state tax return, simply look for where you can “Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund” and enter our name as W.O.L.F., our CCSA registration number 20033001711, and the amount you wish to donate. It is that easy!
2. If you are using a tax preparer, let them know that you would like to contribute to the ReFUND CO program and give them our name, registration number, and the amount you wish to donate when you submit your documents.

If you would like more information or more help on how to donate your state tax return, you can visit our website at <https://wolfsanctuary.net/get-involved> or the ReFUND CO website at <https://refundwhatmatters.org/>. You can also find our registration information by searching for W.O.L.F. Sanctuary using the search bar on the ReFUND CO website.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the Sanctuary and we hope you’ll consider continuing your support in this way!



KYAH - FEMALE

Birthday: April 14, 2020

Given Sanctuary: May 29, 2022

Companion: Kieran

Guardian Angel: TBD

Lifetime Defender: TBD



Likes: Racing around her habitat with Kieran.

Dislikes: Waiting for food or treats.

Favorite Food: EVERYTHING!

Fun Fact: In the summer, she always indicates she is done eating (which only takes about 10 seconds) by jumping in her water trough.

Personality: Kyah is a highly-energetic young wolf dog who loves to play. She also loves human attention and will always roll over for a belly rub, whether caretakers are inside with her or outside the fence. She and Kieran both love the water and are always in their troughs in the summer. She is the perfect companion for Kieran!





CREE - FEMALE

Birthday: April 6, 2005

Given Sanctuary: April 5, 2013

Companion: Kovu

Guardian Angel: Keith Laposh

Lifetime Defender: Sharon Sharp



Likes: Lounging on top of her fire den.

Dislikes: Caretakers disturbing her.

Favorite Food: Chicken drumsticks or wings.

Fun Fact: Despite her age, Cree still plays with the much younger Kovu, but caretakers can only observe this behavior on the trail cameras.

Personality: Cree is a very opinionated older wolf dog who prefers to be left alone by caretakers. Most days, caretakers will only get a glimpse of her at the top of her habitat but when she is feeling in the mood to be excited about lunch, she will race down the hill with the exuberance of a much younger animal.



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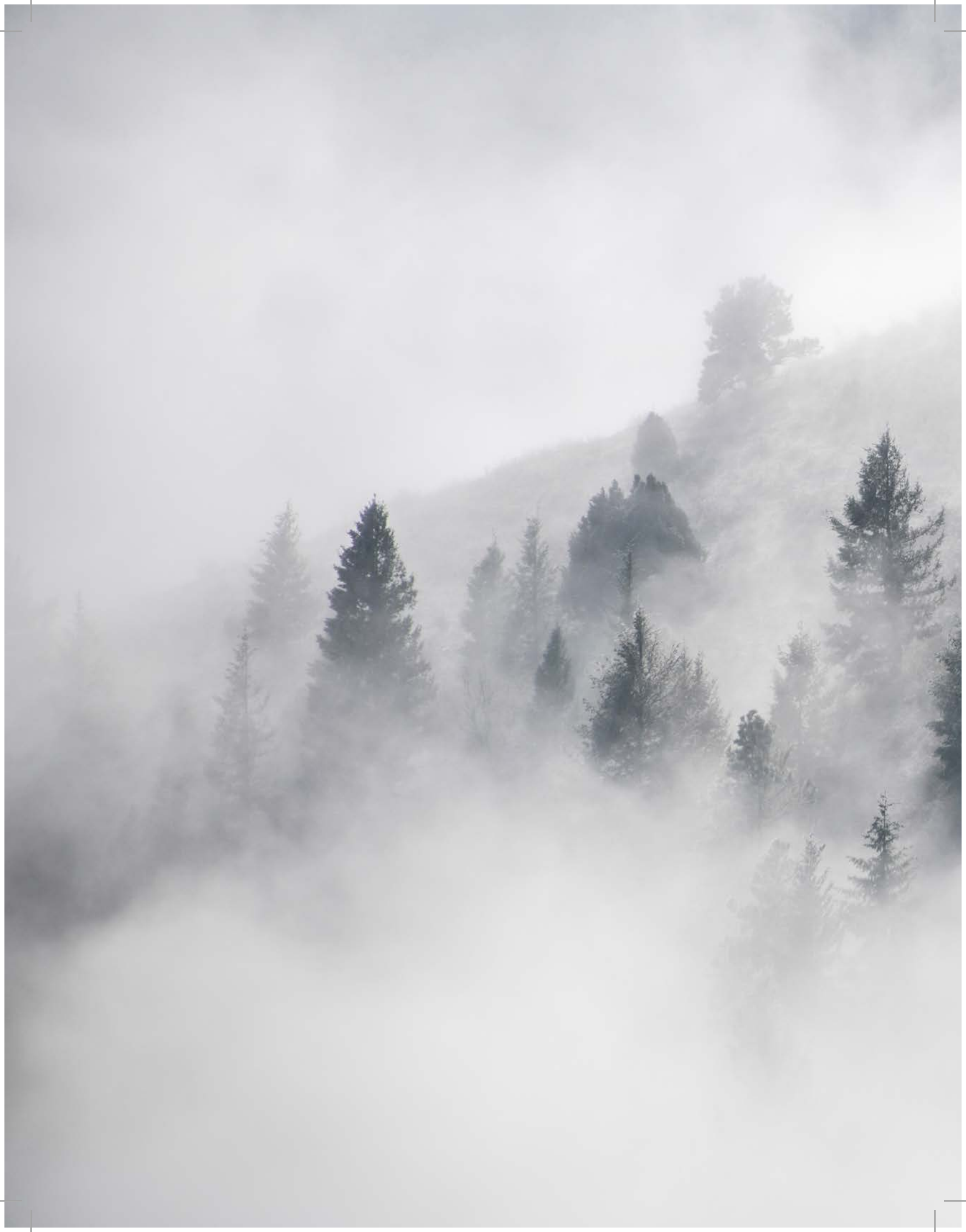


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