

Sybil Joins Her Mate

Judy Loeven, Animal Care Department

Just a few short months after Nero's death, his mate Sybil has now gone to join him.

She was born with Nero, who was also her brother, in May, 1983, and remained with him all of her life. Although he was a dominant male and could be very rough with her (leaving her with the scars on her rump to prove it), it was obvious that Sybil was entirely devoted to Nero. When his sight failed, and then his

Photo by Pat Colton



hearing as well, Sybil became his eyes and ears.

Sybil had a reputation for being especially intolerant of women. When I first started as a keeper for Wolf Haven, I could not go to her enclosure without her lunging at me through the fence. I certainly felt privileged therefore when, after working with her for six months, she finally began to accept me and eventually became very close.

Sybil died on December 29, and now lies where she always wanted to be - next to Nero.

News from the World of Wolves

Brought to you by Tuesday Serra, Education Coordinator

Northern Rockies
The 1997 Downes decision, stating that the Yellowstone and Idaho reintroductions were illegal, has been appealed by several environmental organizations. The fate of the nearly 250 reintroduced wolves in and around Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho will probably be decided by fall, 1999.

Wolves from the Canadian Rockies have also been naturally recolonizing Montana's Glacier National Park and are doing well.

Pacific Northwest
In spite of the gruesome nature of snaring, an Alaska state initiative to ban all wolf snaring was defeated in November. Residents are also allowed to use the controversial method of saturation snaring, which involves multiple wire-loop snares along established wolf trails.

Eastern States
There have been a few wolf sightings in Maine and Vermont. Some biologists, including David Mech, have suggested reintroducing a small population of wolves into Maine. A New York citizen's advisory committee has reached a consensus on the extent of future feasibility studies for wolf reintroduction into the 60% privately-owned Adirondack State Park. While approximately 80 red wolves continue to thrive in North Carolina's Alligator River and Pocosin National Wildlife Refuges, the few that remained in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park were removed due to high mortality. Biologists are in search of a more suitable habitat for continuation of the program.

Great Lakes
There are currently 150 wolves in Michigan, 18 in Wisconsin and 2,200 in Minnesota. Perhaps the biggest wolf news is the possibility of the Great Lakes wolves being downlisted and delisted from the Endangered Species Act. This presents a number of challenges to wolf restoration as state policy makers and wildlife managers prepare to take over wolf management. The gray wolf delisting possibility may have major implications for wolves throughout the U.S. 🐾



Little John