



TRIBUTE: IONE

Pamela Maciel, Sanctuary Manager

HONORING A WOLF, WOLF-DOG, OR COYOTE who resided at Wolf Haven and has passed away usually involves sharing their rescue stories and their individual expressions or peculiarities that we have learned while doing our animal care work around them. However, it is different with Ione, as she was born in the wild.

Known as the Ruby Creek pack, Ione and her sister were traveling together in 2014 after splitting off from their larger family group. The next winter would find Ione roaming the land by herself, following the sudden death of her sole companion. Ione settled on the outskirts of a ranch, and when she was seemingly becoming habituated to the surrounding human activities, Ione was captured and brought to Wolf Haven as the only option WDFW saw to save her life.

Born into the Smackout Pack in 2012, Ione experienced the wonders and challenges of freedom for almost three years, before finding sanctuary at Wolf Haven. Her first year in captivity was a very difficult adjustment, but the company of her lively new companion, Luca, offered Ione a new beginning. The two of them remained tightly bonded until the very end when, due to acute seizures, we helped Ione find her final rest.

Named after the town bordering her territory, Ione had a striking dark coat and inquisitive eyes. Her natural weariness kept her most precious secrets hidden from us, but her wild spirit shone through every time she joined a sanctuary howl.

Run free again, beautiful wolf. 🐾

Ione. *Julie Lawrence.*