

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 2008

CONTACT: California Wolf Center
Wolf Center office – (760-765-0030)
WEB SITE: www.californiawolfcenter.org

Credentialed Media Are Invited to Attend



Press & Media Release

WOLF AWARENESS WEEK 2008
KEYNOTE SPEAKER – MAGGIE DWIRE – ASSISTANT WOLF RECOVERY
COORDINATOR FOR USFWS MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY PROGRAM
CELEBRATING THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF MEXICAN WOLF REINTRODUCTION

JULIAN, Ca. – On Saturday, October 18, 2008, the California Wolf Center will be celebrating Wolf Awareness Week with two special programs featuring Maggie Dwire, Assistant Wolf Recovery Coordinator for the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program.

The day will consist of two events including an afternoon program from 12 – 2:30 p.m. and an evening event from 4:30 – 8:30 p.m. The evening celebration features delicious catered fare, live music, an exciting live auction, and a tour of the Wolf Center that includes rare evening observation of the historic Denali pack.

INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE. Maggie Dwire, US Fish & Wildlife Service Assistant Wolf Recovery Coordinator for the Mexican Wolf Program will be on-hand for both day and evening programs to answer questions and discuss the biological and political aspects of wolf recovery, including recent proposals to amend the management protocols for Mexican wolves released into the wild. Mexican wolves are a critically endangered subspecies of gray wolf. Extirpated from their entire home range, they came within seven individuals of being extinct and are considered one of the rarest land mammals in the world. The Mexican Wolf Recovery Program has had great successes helping these animals recover but has also faced major challenges. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the first reintroduction of Mexican wolves into a portion of their former range. From the date of those original releases, the wild population has grown to about 50 individuals today. As we celebrate this landmark achievement, we will also focus on moving forward into the next phase of recovery to ensure that Mexican wolves remain in southwestern ecosystems for years to come.

##MORE##

The California Wolf Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit education, conservation, and research center located in Julian, California and dedicated to increasing the

understanding of all North American wildlife by focusing on the role of the gray wolf in ecosystems. In addition to being a participant in the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan, the California Wolf Center offers educational programs to the general public and dedicated programs called Wolf Encounters for students K - 12. The Center also supports on-site behavioral research as well as field research in wolf behavior, biology, and ecology. For more information about the California Wolf Center, visit our website at www.californiawolfcenter.org.

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