



May 29, 2006

The
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PARK
FOUNDATION**

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Ms. Gina Schrader
Defenders of Wildlife
1130 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-4604

Mr. Ralph Maughan
Wolf Recovery Foundation
Post Office Box 44238
Boise, ID 83711

Dear Gina and Ralph:

On behalf of the Yellowstone Park Foundation, I am pleased to inform you that Yellowstone Wolf Project staff have successfully fitted the VHF collar inscribed, "In Memory of Jane Ferguson," to wolf 534M, the six-year old, gray alpha male of the Leopold Pack.

Wolf 534M is an intriguing animal for many reasons. As an alpha, he has led the Leopold Pack since 2003 and yet Wolf Project staff are still unsure of his origin. Together with 209F, he has sired many litters about which staff are also curious. To learn more about 534M, Wolf Project staff have tried for the last two years to place a tracking collar on him and to collect a blood sample for genetic analysis. It was not until this past winter, however, with support from Defenders of Wildlife and the Wolf Recovery Foundation, that staff were finally able to accomplish this goal.

During the collaring operation, Wolf Project staff weighed 534M at 110 pounds and found him to be in good physical condition. He did exhibit some tooth wear which is not uncommon for a wolf of six years. Staff also drew a small amount of blood from 534M which will help identify the pedigree to which he belongs as well as to clarify which wolves 534M has fathered.

When biologists collared 534M, they took several pictures of him and I have enclosed these for you to review. If you would like additional information regarding 534M or have any questions, please let me know. Once again, thank you both for your ongoing support of the Yellowstone Park Foundation's Wolf Fund.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chessie Thacher

Chessie Thacher
Grants Manager

Enclosures

cc: Douglas Smith, Yellowstone Wolf Project, Yellowstone National Park
Gary Ferguson, Red Lodge