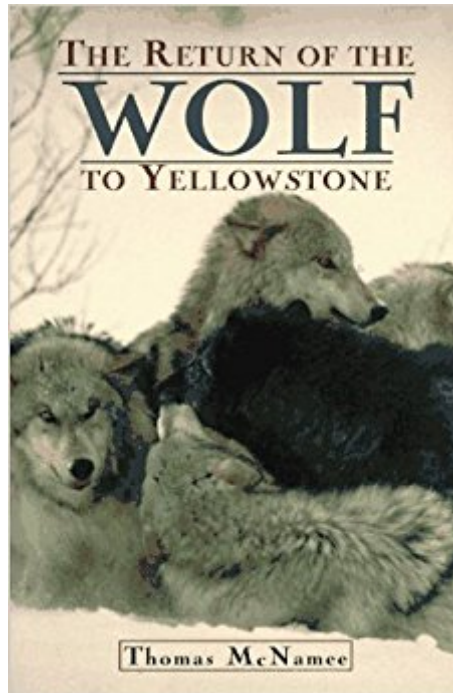




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# The Return Of The Wolf To Yellowstone



## Synopsis

By 1926, U.S. government agents had trapped, poisoned, or shot every wolf in and around Yellowstone National Park. In January of 1995, after a generation of struggle between the wolf's friends and foes, the wolf was returned to Yellowstone. The wolf's return has brought far-reaching changes to the cultures of the modern West and the meaning of conservation. Thomas McNamee, former president of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, chronicles the drama of the environmental story of the decade.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"It has been sixty years, thirty wolf generations, since the last wolf pups were poisoned in the Yellowstone," writes McNamee. With the passage of time, the world is a safer place for the beleaguered wolf, so that, when the Interior Department conducted hearings on whether the wolf should be reintroduced to Yellowstone, some 160,000 letters came pouring in to Washington from across the country--the largest official citizen response to any federal action in history. Even so, the reintroduction effort was not without its divisive politics, and environmentalists squared off against so-called Wise Use movement activists in court and on the streets. Those political debates heated up even further when fewer than a dozen wolf individuals were finally released in Yellowstone National Park two years ago. McNamee tells this story knowingly--and very well.

The recent reintroduction of the gray wolf to Yellowstone Park after an absence of 70 years is

considered by many to be one of the true conservation highlights of this century. This richly detailed and colorful account of the restoration project covers all the bases: the history, the politics, the characters (both human and animal), and the events including the trapping in Canada, the problematic release, and the illegal shooting of Wolf Number Ten near the town of Red Lodge, Montana, and subsequent manhunt. McNamee (*The Grizzly Bear*, 1984) has a gift for storytelling and characterization. His excellent writing and wry sense of humor make this book a delight and a fine complement to the equally excellent but primarily photographic *The Wolves of Yellowstone* (LJ 1/97). Recommended for most libraries. ?Lynn C. Badger, Univ. of Florida Lib., Gainesville Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I liked this book for the information it provided. I was very interested to learn about the reintroduction about the wolves, the problems they faced, the planning and process of reintroducing them and how the initial wolves fared. I thought the book was a little wordy at times and I didn't feel the need to have a list of every person and every organization that was opposed or for the project at every step of the way. Having an idea of who was involved was interesting, the opposition stories were interesting....there was just a little too much detail for what I wanted. I wanted to know about the wolves in the park and what they were doing. Overall though a decent book.

Great book. Read it before and gave my copy away. Wanted to read it again so bought again. Such a good book especially the story of the wolves.

Pray for Seven.

Residents this reason have heard lots about wolves, but Thomas McNamee brings a fresh perspective to the story. He was a part-time rancher himself while writing this captivating book, but was also drawn to the wolves more deeply than he had first realized. McNamee himself is a character in this book, giving it an inviting and personal air, but does not force his views on the reader. He shows the reader a federal wildlife agent tracking a wolf-killer outside of Red Lodge and even opens the window on curious rivalries and tensions between agencies involved in various chapters of the wolf story. Parts of the book are almost dramatic in their intensity, while others slow the pace as the wolves romp and play.

This is an absolutely wonderful book. I could not put it down. Thomas McNamee is a wonderful

writer - the tale is exciting and takes the reader on a rollercoaster ride occurring from February 1994 through Fall 1996 which was the period of the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone. I was hoping for a sequel ... will be reading more of his work!

This is an in-depth look at the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone. Everything is described in detail, from the politics to some of the individual animals. Even described are some of the experiences the author had, such as the cold of Alberta or the emotion of the introduction's first day. You can even get to know some of the wolves themselves and how wild they truly were. Any wolf-lover will cherish this book that brings you into the reintroduction.

Thomas McNamee is a passionate writer as well as a consummate naturalist, and what he has done in this book is a remarkable feat; to tell the story of the Yellowstone wolves from the perspective of a denizen of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem/one who owns a ranch within the wolves' new domaine/and an enviro who questions his own, in addition to other's, emotional involvement with the issues raised by the their re-introduction. To do this all in a book as readable as this one is is a great feat. If you love the West, love Nature, or just want a surprisingly suspenseful story of the animals survival, the political and social implications of the wolf and, by extension, the ideals of the Endangered Species Act, you must read this book -- You won't be disappointed. It's a personal journey with implications for all of us who care about the imperiled natural world.

This is another boonie dog book review from Wolfie and Kansas. We thoroughly enjoyed Thomas McNamee's "The Return of the Wolf to Yellowstone". The problem with books by tree-huggers is that their prose is often wooden. Thomas McNamee's prose is meaty, not wooden. This book is very readable, and McNamee maintains suspense throughout concerning the fate of individual wolves, packs, and the entire gray wolf reintroduction project. "The Return of the Wolf to Yellowstone" discusses not only the actions of wolves, but also the political and legal machinations of noncanine animals of primate derivation. The anti-wolf humans do not want anything as feral as canis lupus running loose in national parks. Pro-wolf humans believe the parks' ecosystems require something more feral than canis lapdog. We have a modest proposal to prevent similar disputes the next time a national park needs an infusion of canis something. According to local human politricksters, Guam has a surplus of canis boonie. As a result, boonie dogs are rounded up and sent to the euphemistically-named "shelter" to be even-more-euphemistically "put to sleep". GovGuam could

resolve its alleged boonie dog overpopulation problem more humanely (and more caninely) by sending its surplus boonie dogs to a mainland national park. Our jungle survival skills, combined with our disinclination to attack carabao, make boonie dogs the perfect canis compromisus for both environmentalists and ranchers.

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