
information crossfile

Controversy over reestablishment of wolves in the U.S. wild has spilled over into the popular press. A *New York Times* article by Philip Shabecoff was picked up in early November by member newspapers, describing strong Congressional opposition to "an ambitious experimental program to reintroduce Rocky Mountain timber wolves, a subspecies of the gray wolf, into the northern Rockies." Shabecoff credits NPS Director William Penn Mott with "strong support" for the recovery plan, but says that "it has been put on the shelf by Frank Dunkle, director of the (U.S. Fish and) Wildlife Service after vigorous protests by members of Wyoming's Congressional delegation ..."

Director Mott is quoted as believing that "proper management could solve any problems caused by re-entry of the wolf into Yellowstone." But ranchers, according to Shabecoff, "seem to be adamantly opposed to the wolf under any circumstances."

Shabecoff also quotes Wildlife Biologist L. David Mech as observing that wolves and the livestock industry appear to be co-existing reasonably well in Minnesota. "There has been a lot of opportunity for wolves to kill livestock (in Minnesota)," Mech said, "but they haven't. They live on wild prey."