

Dave Mech Receives National Award

Dr. L. David Mech, principal investigator on the Denali Wolf Project, has received the Aldo Leopold Award, given for distinguished service in wildlife conservation – considered by many to be the ultimate recognition of a wildlife professional.

In presenting the award at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Washington, DC in March, Dr. Alan Wentz, president of The Wildlife Society, stated that Mech “stands as testimony that one individual can indeed make a difference in the complex world of conservation and do so without benefit of a large staff. His trademarks are a boundless productive capacity, unswerving dedication, ability to win others to his cause, and above all his willingness to freely work with and exchange views with anyone. He has been called ‘the most prominent wolf biologist in the world,’ ‘dean of wolf researchers,’ and ‘the alpha wolf.’ He has touched practically every wolf project in the world.”

The object of this high praise has been overseeing wolf research in Denali since 1986. This research has become one of the most important field studies of wolves and their prey in the world and is providing major insights on the natural functioning of northern wolf/prey systems. Mech’s knowledge and enthusiasm has been a driving force behind the efforts of all of us involved in this multi-faceted predator/prey study.

Layne Adams,
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