

Media Advisory FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wolf OR-7 Expedition Reaches Wolf OR-7's Home Range

A volunteer team of six adventurers collaborating through the Wild Peace Alliance and sponsored by Sculpt the Future Foundation and Xplore, recently set out to retrace Wolf OR-7's approximate route by foot and bicycle from his origins in the Willamette Mountains down to California and back to southern Oregon. Their aim has been to explore the challenges faced by a wolf traveling into lands unaccustomed to wolves in the 21st century.

"The news that Wolf OR-7 is the father of the first wolf pack in southern Oregon in over 60 years, to me speaks to the possibility that other wolves could also head as far west as the coast within my lifetime," says Rachael Pecore-Valdez, an Oregonian raised in Aurora and Garibaldi. "My hope is that Wolf OR-7 and this expedition spark some conversations in the communities most impacted by an additional carnivore, including agricultural and wilderness areas, about what tools and resources are now available to coexist with wolves in the 21st century."

The team will celebrate the people and places they encountered along Wolf OR-7's route on **June 14th** in Ashland as a Father's Day BBQ hosted by the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center. The event is open to the public and details can be found at www.or7expedition.org. The expedition will end in Wolf OR-7's area of known activity in Oregon on June 14th, not far from Interstate 5, which Wolf OR-7 crossed more than once during his 2011 journey south.

"Wolf OR-7's story is an inspiring story of hope that we can recover wildlife that was lost for so many years." said Morgan Lindsay, Outreach Coordinator with KS Wild (Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center).

"The return of wolves to Oregon is a tremendous - but tenuous - conservation success story. OR-7 has been a great ambassador for his species and we're thrilled the expedition team has been so successful in following in his footsteps, telling his story, and listening along the way. If the story is to have a happy ending it's up to us to honor our highest values and learn to coexist with wildlife and protect the wildlands they call home," expressed Rob Klavins with Oregon Wild.

The stories of the places and people the expedition team encountered, including interviews with wildlife managers, conservation experts, livestock producers and

hunters will be shared via a documentary film, photos, presentations and blog posts. The team encourages people to submit questions about wolf country via their website education page, and will take them to appropriate experts for responses, for example:

What nonlethal techniques can livestock producers use to avoid wolf-livestock conflict?

Ranchers, wildlife managers and conservationists are experimenting with innovative, nonlethal techniques to deter carnivores from livestock including fladry, sheep dogs, range riders and types of cattle more defensive of their young. An Oregon Wolf Compensation Program has also been established to help counter predation losses incurred by livestock producers.

“I was surprised by how few people we saw along Wolf OR-7’s route, he may have managed to find the most people-free wildlife corridor from Oregon into California,” mentions Galeo Saintz, founder of the Wild Peace Alliance. “We did however encounter black bear, cougar tracks, wolf tracks, rattlesnakes, ground squirrels, coyote, elk, deer, antelope and lots of mosquitos in the Cascades.”

“What struck me most when asking people along Wolf OR-7’s route what they thought might be helpful for people to know who are living in areas where wolves are slowly returning to, was to stay open and to listen to different perspectives on all sides of the wolf equation, concludes Pecore-Valdez. “It’s important to step outside and explore modern day wolf country for yourself.”

The Wolf OR-7 Expedition is sponsored by: Sculpt the Future Foundation and Xplore. Gear is sponsored by Osprey Packs and MontBell outdoor gear. The team is also thankful for in-kind sponsorship from Kind Snacks, Methow Cycles and Sports and many organizational supporters.