



Guardians of the Range

Dedicated to the Multiple Use of Public Lands & the American Way of Life



P.O. Box 472
Worland, Wyoming
82401

www.GuardiansOfTheRange.org

Executive Director

Kathleen Jachowski
307.587.3723

guardians@hughes.net

Board of Directors

Dana Kerns - President
307.655.9539
Bill Greer - Vice President
469.2352
Barb Lee - Secretary 366.2450
Dave Fraley - Treasurer
217.0517
Clay Gibbons 388.4145
Rick Magstadt 765.2089
Gil McEndree 347.3215
Rob Orchard 366.2450
Todd A. Rhodes 347.8329
Scott Rogers 684.1547

BLM/FS Advisory Board

(Producer Committee)
Jack Baird - Chairperson
307.864.2069
John Baird 388.2145
Matt Brown 867.2422
Stan Flitner 765.2905
Rob Orchard 366.2450
Dan Rice 366.2571
Gary Rice 366.2273

Resource Committee

(Project / Allotment
Improvements)
Kathleen Jachowski 587.3723
Dave Slover 868.2465

Webmaster

Craig Mead 402.415.6790

Newsletter Editor

Echo Renner 307.868.9232
echo@tctwest.net

Newsletter Printer

Serlkey Printing, Worland

Newsletter No. 119

April 2014

Little Brown Towns: Stand to Defend

~ by Kathleen Jachowski
Executive Director, Guardians of the Range

The descriptive term little brown towns (lbt) always comes to mind as I travel the endless miles around much of the Western landscape. The wind, water, soils and geology have allowed settlement by only the hardiest and those who could see the potential that hard work, risk taking and perseverance could produce.

The drastic changes in both our economy and more importantly in the political makeup of the decision makers in Washington, D. C. leave the little brown towns scattered across the Western landscape at serious risk.

They are at risk for having significant pieces of legislation passed and regulations modified which are driven by the emotions and appetite for control long held in reasonable check by the political composition of the U. S. House and US Senate. This buffer of reason has been lost in the last election cycles.

Changes afoot to the Clean Water Act, new proposals for Wilderness legislation, expansion of wild horse and burro areas, pending listing of the Sage-grouse as an endangered species across 11 western states, designation of special management areas (SMA) which easily marginalize and restrict multiple use on both U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, are just a few of the threats that dot the legal landscape we are now facing.

Beginning immediately, these next years will require all of the inner strength and enduring spirit of the citizens who populate these small but strong little brown towns.

It will be up to us to ensure that our voice, values, economies and cultures are not silenced, replaced, destroyed and abused. We can do this.

*Please see **Towns** continued on page 3*

Powell Veterinarian Warns of Vile Tapeworm Spread by Wolves

~ Courtesy The Powell Tribune
by Gib Mathers

A nasty tapeworm found in Alaskan wolves has turned up in Park County and has infected multiple elk and four dogs, according to a Powell veterinarian.

State and federal officials say the risk of infecting humans is low, but veterinarian Ray Acker, who owns and operates Big Horn Animal Care Center in Powell, said it behooves hunters and dog owners to take precautions to protect themselves and their pets from the parasite.

Echinococcosis granulosis (*E. granulosis*) can infect and kill humans, but there have been no reported cases of human fatalities in Wyoming.

Acker said he fears it is only a matter of time before the tapeworm's cysts invade humans and potentially kill them.

E. granulosis tapeworm can infect all carnivores, but wolves and other canines are the primary host. "You could call it the wolf tapeworm," Acker said.

"We always take any type of situation related to human safety and wildlife very seriously," Dan Thompson, statewide supervisor of the large carnivore management section in Lander said in an email.

Hank Edwards, Wyoming Game & Fish Department laboratory supervisor in Laramie, said don't panic, just be aware of the risk.

"I don't know the prevalence in wolves, but certainly some carry it," Edwards added. "It's very, very rare that it infects people."

*Please see **Tapeworm** continued on page 2*

**"Spring is when you feel like whistling
even with a shoe full of slush."**

~ Doug Larson (1926 - columnist and author)



Female Coyotes Can Have Mixed Wolf-Coyote Pups

Is the Eastern Wolf a Valid Species?

Technical Announcement from US Department of the Interior, US Geological Survey, Office of Communications & Publishing, Contact David Mech 651-649-5231 or Marisa Lubeck 303-202-4765

February 26, 2014 ~ Scientists have successfully produced hybrid pups between a male western gray wolf and a female western coyote in captivity.

By artificially inseminating a female western coyote with western gray wolf sperm, U.S. Geological Survey scientists and partners from the St. Louis Zoo, University of California, Davis, and Wildlife Science Center recently demonstrated that coyotes are able to bear and nurture healthy hybrid offspring.

The results contribute new information to an ongoing question about whether the eastern wolf of southeastern Canada (and formerly of the eastern U.S.) is a unique species that could be protected by the U. S. Endangered Species Act. The findings are published in the journal *PLOS ONE*.

"Our study adds one more piece to the ongoing controversy over whether the eastern wolf is a valid species," said David Mech, USGS scientist and the report's lead author.

During the 2012 and 2013 study, the scientists attempted to inseminate nine captive western coyotes with sperm from eight different gray wolves at the US Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center Predator Research Facility in Logan, Utah. Three coyotes became pregnant, and one successfully birthed and nursed six live, healthy pups, currently housed at the Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, Minn., north of the Twin Cities.

Some geneticists have suggested recognizing the eastern wolf as a new species of wolf, and potentially adding it to the Endangered Species List. This proposal is based on mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)—a type of DNA that can only be passed on to offspring by the mother—that has been found in wolves from Manitoba, Canada, through the Great Lakes into southeast Canada. Those wolves could have gotten their coyote-like mtDNA either from hybridization with coyotes or by hybridizing with the eastern wolf. The latter view is that of the geneticists who claim that the coyote-like mtDNA is from the eastern wolf, which is closely related to the coyote.

Scientists who propose that the coyote-like mtDNA came from female coyotes that bred with male, western wolves long ago believe that the eastern wolf is merely a smaller race of the wolf of the West.

The new USGS study shows that it is at least possible for western wolf sperm to fertilize western coyote eggs and that the mother coyote can bear and raise the hybrids.

"Our findings leave the eastern wolf debate open by adding further merit to the hybrid theory rather than disproving it," Mech said. "However, the findings are applicable to captive animals and are not necessarily true under natural conditions, so the counter-hybrid theory is not disproved either."

For more information on USGS wolf research, please visit the [USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center website](#) ★

Tapeworm continued from page 1

Humans contract the hydatids (cysts) from *E. granulosus*. Hydatid disease in humans is difficult to diagnose and may require surgery to remove them. "It can be fatal," Acker said.

Humans can be exposed to the eggs from canine feces or fur. From there the cysts take up residence in the human's lungs or liver.

"It is a silent killer," Acker said. Humans can unknowingly carry the cysts for 20 years until it becomes critical. When cysts rupture, the person enters anaphylactic shock and dies within 10 minutes, Acker said. "Right now it's rare for humans because it's just emerging."

In Alaska, there have been 300 reported cases of hydatid disease in people since 1950. That is a result of canines, primarily wolves, contaminating the landscape with billions of *E. granulosus* eggs in their feces. The invisible eggs are ingested by wild and domestic grazing animals and occasionally by humans who release clouds of the eggs into the air by kicking the scat or examining the feces to see what the wolf had been eating, according to a December 2009 article in *The Outdoorsman*.

"This is not limited to wolves, and quite honestly we as an agency always stress safety precautions when dealing with wild game and/or fur bearers as it related to ectoparasites and other potential parasites," Thompson said. "This topic seems to flare up every now and then, but it is still important that we (Wyoming Game & Fish Department) make sure people have the facts and are safely enjoying our outdoors. Long story short, the health risk is very low."

In the last four or five months, it has been found in wild ungulates, but not domestic ungulates in Wyoming. It is not a problem for humans, but the possibility does exist, said State Veterinarian Jim Logan.

"It's pretty rare as far as we know," Logan said.

"In northwest Wyoming, hydatid cysts have been found in the lungs of a few moose and elk," according to a 2010 *Echinococcus granulosus* in Wyoming fact sheet from the Game & Fish. "Where the parasite is found in wolves and wild ungulates, most public health agencies consider the public health risk to be very low."

There have been no cases of *E. granulosus* in the Big Horn Mountains, but there are no wolves there, Acker said.

The definitive host for *E. granulosus* where they reach maturity and reproduce are canines and wild carnivores.

Wild or domesticated ungulates, such as elk or sheep and humans, serve as an intermediate hosts where the parasite transitions between life stages. The larval stage results in the formation of hydatid cysts in intermediate hosts.

The eggs form inside the primary host. The eggs hatch into larva and migrate to the liver and lungs to form cysts. The predator, such as a canine, feeds on intermediate host prey and become the definitive or primary hosts, Acker said.

Stock on a national forest grazing allotment could pick up the cysts while grazing. Then the animals are brought back from the mountains to their pastures here. If the stock has the cysts in its lungs, they won't gain weight.

Please see **Tapeworm** continued on page 3

Newsletter

Some of you nice folks probably missed receiving your newsletter in March. That's because we published only an electronic version. We will be doing that periodically throughout the year. However, you can view ALL newsletters from our website. Just go to the webpage: www.guardiansoftherange.org and click on E-Newsletter from the homepage.

If you'd like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, just email me with 'Data Base Update' in the subject line, and provide your name as it appears on your mailing label and your e-mail address. This way we can be certain to remove the correct name from our mailing list, and have the accurate e-mail address.

Please and thank you.

Our e-mail address is:
guardians@hughes.net

Towns continued from page 1

It will require that every age group be involved in different ways. Those who are in their middle years and are now benefiting from the wisdom and confidence that the years of involvement bring will need to lead this defense. Civic retirement is not an option.

This age group will need to lead by example, BUT as importantly they will need to create ways for the younger and older segments of our lbt populations to help with this defense.

The defense of our little brown towns will come from our willingness to not make excuses to remain silent and apathetic. Our defense will come from paying close attention to the 'heads up' articles we read, and then digging deeper for more information. Our defense will come from not reading these articles and than assuming that someone somewhere will take care of that pending problem. Each of us is that someone who can contribute cumulatively to the defense of our little brown towns.

Our defense will come in part from bringing issues to our county commissioners and conservation district supervisors. These are legal avenues, available to everyone, which allow your voice to be heard. This proactive approach can be done one-on-one or by asking to be on the agenda of their meetings which are frequently covered by the press. The media coverage can help expand and deepen the public's awareness of what's happening. ★

Tapeworm continued from page 2

Or, if the stock dies, predators or dogs eat the carcass and spread the disease. If numerous stock are infected it could have a significant financial impact on producers, Acker said.

Hunters should beware. In January a friend of his killed an elk in a Meeteetse hunt area. When the hunter field-dressed the elk, the lungs were loaded with cysts. Something attracted the dogs to the elk's lungs, perhaps an odor from the cysts, and the dogs consumed the elk's organs. He has wormed the dogs twice with praziquantel that kills *E. granulosus* in canines, Acker said.

Game & Fish sent the elk lung tissue samples to the Game & Fish lab in Laramie and the lab verified it as *E. granulosus*, Acker said.

"Do not feed uncooked meat or organs of deer, elk, moose or sheep to dogs," said the fact sheet.

If a hunter notes hydatid cysts in their elk, they should not panic because the tapeworms must pass through a primary host like a dog first, Acker said. Wolf hunters should be cautious handling their kill. Wear rubber gloves and take care handling feces and intestines, Acker said.

"Those hunting or trapping canids (mammals of the dog family) in Wyoming are encouraged to wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing and skinning their animals. Additionally, wild game meat should always be cooked thoroughly," said the fact sheet.

Taking the wolf pelt to a car wash and using the high-pressure hose to blow eggs off the fur is a handy precaution. Taxidermists should also use care, Acker said.

Please see Tapeworm continued on page 4

Join Guardians of the Range

LIVESTOCK OPERATORS

\$100.00 up to 50 head of cattle

\$2.00 / head 51 to 1,500 cattle

40 cents / head for sheep

BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS & ASSOCIATIONS

without federal grazing permits:

\$25 - \$100

WRANGLER

\$250

RANGE RIDER

\$500

TOP HAND

\$1,000

GUARDIAN of the RANGE

You may join on line:

www.GuardiansoftheRange.org

To pay by check, please make checks payable to:

Guardians of the Range

mail to:

Guardians of the Range, P.O. Box 472, Worland, WY 82401

www.GuardiansoftheRange.org

Guardians of the Range

P.O. Box 472
Worland, Wyoming
82401

Address Service Requested

PRSR STD
US Postage Paid
Worland, WY
Permit No. 16



Tapeworm continued from page 2

Watch for white segments around the rectums and in the dog's stool. Initially the one-quarter by one-eighth inch segments will move slightly. Worm your dogs, Acker said. Eggs can survive in excrement for up to one year. "I think they do well in the cold," Acker said. Dogs, with a propensity to roll in feces can collect the eggs on their coat and pass it on to their masters, Acker said.

Deworm dogs regularly. The best methods to prevent infection in humans are practicing good hygiene like wearing rubber or latex gloves and washing hands after handling dog excrement, said the fact sheet.

People should take precautions handling any wildlife. For example, people can contract bubonic plague from handling prairie dogs, Logan said.

Acker believes the disease has just reared its head among wildlife in this area. "We didn't have it down here until they introduced these wolves," he said.

In 1995/96 wolves from Alberta and British Columbia were re-introduced with 31 wolves in Yellowstone National Park and 35 in central Idaho. They were treated for parasites including, *E. granulosus* and it was well documented, Jimenez said.

"All wolves captured in Canada for relocation to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho were treated for lice, roundworms and tapeworms before being released in Wyoming," said the fact sheet.

Some people who dislike wolves returning to the region cite *E. granulosus* as another factor for their disdain for the canines. Acker admits to being anti-wolf, but he said if there are a lot of rabid skunks in the area they are eliminated in the interest of public safety.

"I'm anti-wolf here," Acker said. "I think they belong where they came from."

"People who are not real crazy about wolves see it as another reason to not be crazy about wolves," said Mike Jimenez, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gray wolf recovery coordinator in Jackson.

When he was a graduate student at Kansas State in Manhattan, he dissected two human livers from cadavers brimming with cysts. Action should be taken now, Acker said.

"Are we going to wait till somebody dies or try to keep somebody from dying?" Acker said. ★