



Moving Right Along

by Kelly Burns
International Wolf Center Intern

Have you ever gone for a visit somewhere, then wished you could stay? Maybe you have a summer cottage you like to visit. Lots of animals travel around, too: birds fly south for the winter, monarch butterflies go to Mexico, deer gather in herds during winter, and some fish travel from inland riverways to the ocean. Can you think of more examples?

When animals travel (what scientists call “migrating”), it’s not just to enjoy some new scenery. Certain species of animals have regular routes they travel, migrating back and forth between the same places every winter and summer. Other animals are on the go most of their lives.

When animals travel, they find new opportunities for feeding, breeding, surviving the cold, or protection from predators. Depending on the species, migration could be as short as a few miles, or as far as traveling from one country to another.

Wolves are travelers, too, but they usually stay within a certain home range, known as a territory. In the spring and summer,

a pack will stay close to their pups first at a den and then at a rendezvous site (a meeting place). By wintertime, the pups will travel with the pack to seek food throughout the whole territory. Sometimes a wolf might venture outside of the territory and leave home for good; other times they may wander around and come back.

As animals move repeatedly over familiar travel routes, the landscape may change significantly between visits. Sometimes they even find roadblocks in their path. Humans change the landscape with buildings and roads, which may reroute an animal or stop the trip all together.

Check out the article, “Preserving Corridors for all Species” in this issue to learn how scientists and other concerned people are working to connect wildlife habitats to make movements easier. ■

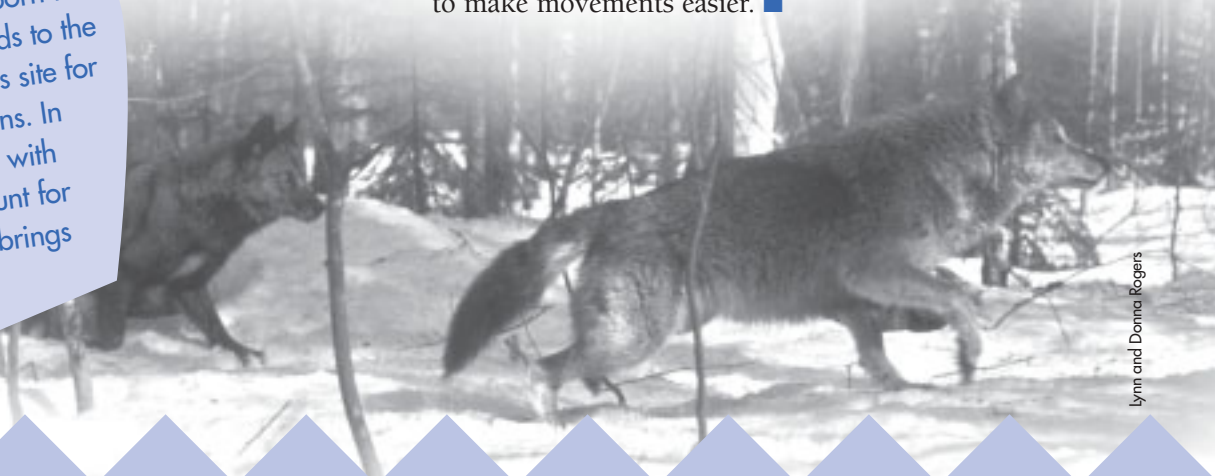
Make a migration to our new exhibit!

Travel through a pup’s first year of life in our new exhibit for kids and families. In one day, you can experience all the seasons of the year, by crawling into the wolf den, donning a wolf tail, and crawling in to care for the “pups” born in spring. The den leads to the summer rendezvous site for food caching lessons. In fall, you can travel with the pack as they hunt for dinner, and winter brings on predator prey games!

Travel Trials:

Humans have a big impact on how and where animals travel. Using the map on the opposite page, do this activity to see how animals must adjust to our presence.

1. **Using a colored pen** or pencil, place an X where human disturbance might interfere with animal migration movements. Are there places where a human’s presence might not affect wildlife movement?
2. **With a second color**, draw arrows to indicate the route a deer might take if traveling from north to south. How does that route change if there are wolf packs in the area?
3. **Discuss with a friend:** How might the deer’s travel be different in summer compared to winter? Which causes a deer more limitations: the presence of wolves, or humans? What other factors might cause deer to go one direction or another?

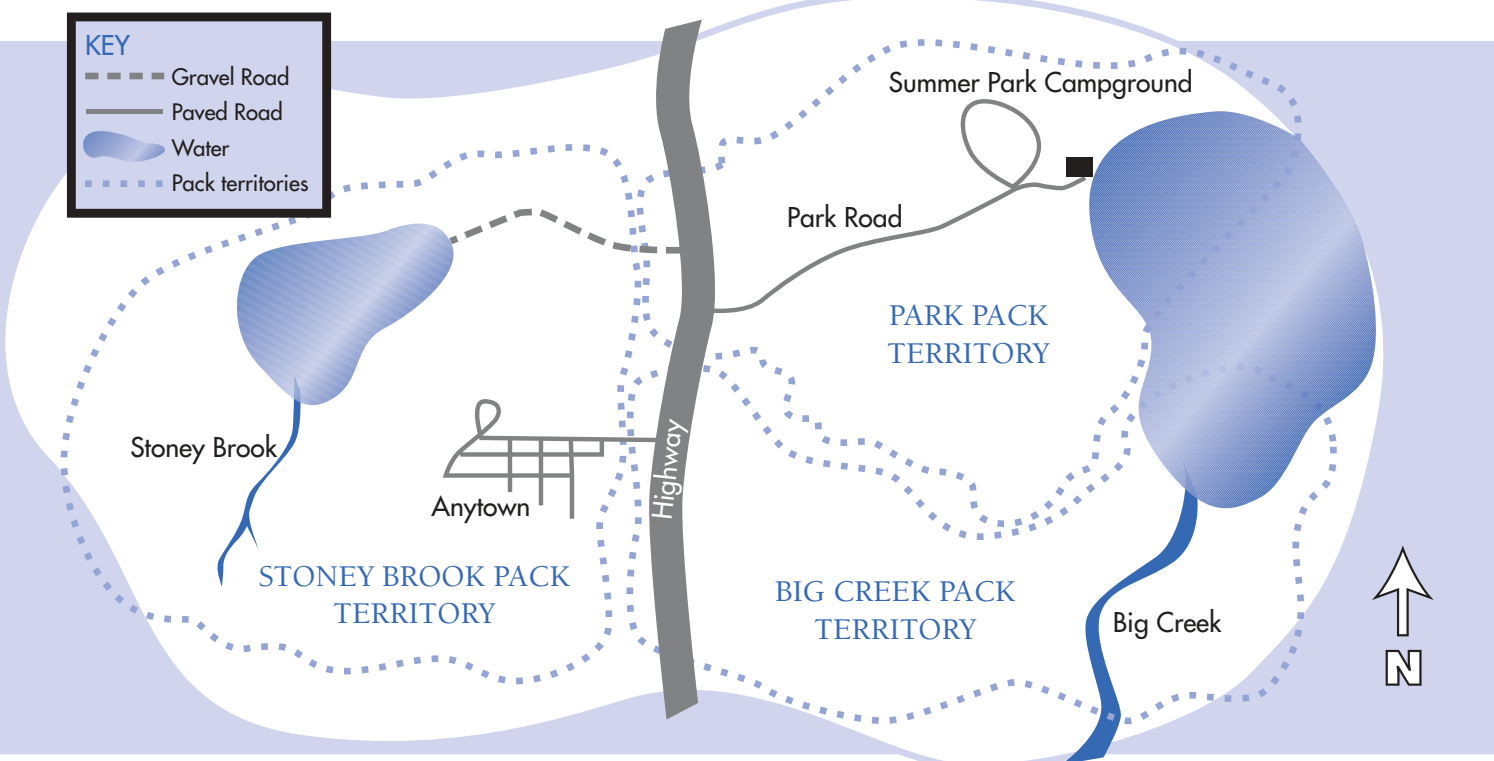


Lynn and Donna Rogers



KEY

- Gravel Road
- Paved Road
- Water
- Pack territories



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