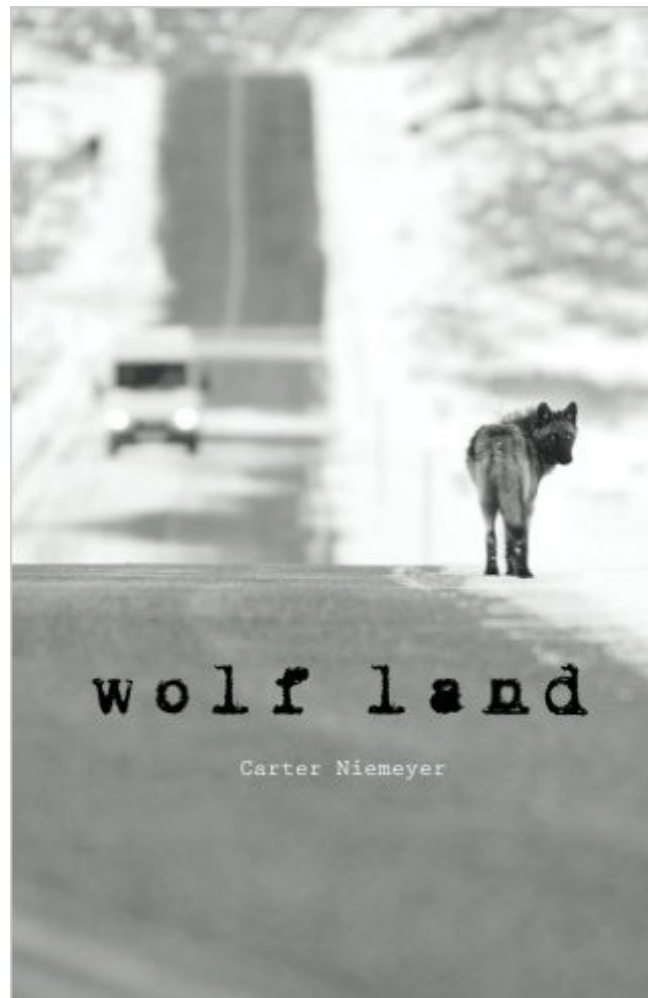


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# Wolf Land



## Synopsis

Carter Niemeyer has followed wolves and captured many since he helped reintroduce them in the Northern Rockies in the mid-1990s. In his second memoir, *Wolf Land*, he takes us across the rugged West as he tracks wolves, shares in their lives, and seeks middle ground for these iconic animals, both on the land and in our hearts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Carter Niemeyer's much anticipated *Wolf Land* does not disappoint. There is just enough background material, without redundant rehashing of information, to provide a reader new to Carter's career a pretty good grasp of Niemeyer's transition from a general hit man for wildlife services to an advocate for wolves in particular and predators in general. "I needed to do whatever I could do to make sure wolves got a fair shake...". A bit choppy at first, a transition to smooth story telling ensues with Carter's Midwest colloquialisms making for easy and enjoyable reading. Perhaps the key figure involved in the capture and movement of wolves trapped in Canada for reintroduction in the Northern Rocky Mountain States, Carter writes that reintroducing many wolves at once was the only way for them to gain a foothold. It certainly did not happen with a few coming in here and there because they didn't appear to be finding one another." Add to this the poisoning of wolves and the shoot, shovel and shut up cadre, viable populations of breeding wolves became nigh impossible. Carter's work with the wolf reintroduction eventually lead to a position of wolf manager in Idaho. The bulk of *Wolf Land* is a series of chapters that deal with his career while in the full time employ of state and federal government as wolf manager, and to his work as an independent wolf trapper/consultant

working for Idaho. Each chapter deals with his interactions particular wolves, wolf packs, and the folks with whom he came into contact with while performing his trapping and radio collar duties. It is evident that Niemeyer was good at trapping, as well as caring for the wolves that he trapped tested and radio collared.

Carter Niemeyer's new book *Wolf Land* is more than just a "good read" – it's a superlative read. An expert wolf biologist retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Niemeyer has eloquently woven the gray wolf's re-introduction, and his primary role within that mission, into the dark past of yesteryear's wolf extermination due to ranching in the West and grazing on public lands. While gray wolves were naturally migrating south from Canada, they were reintroduced into Yellowstone NP encompassing parts of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, along with a separate reintroduction into Idaho's The Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. This was the jumpstart that gray wolves needed to establish a permanent presence that was followed by expansion into Oregon and Washington. What also followed was the age-old "War on Wolves" that exploded within Western states' politics, particularly from cattle and sheep ranching holding generations-old grazing lease allotments on hundreds of thousands of acres of federal and state public lands. But in the decades-long wolf's absence, the West had changed. The romanticized Marlboro Man and John Wayne images of the West evolved to a revisionist, contemporary version of the West that included conservation, restoration and preservation of the sole remaining vast stretches of public land. And the West's public land users included wildly enthusiastic recreationalists of the great outdoors who "wanted to see the wolf back." And Yellowstone NP's wolves became a multi-million dollar cash cow (ironic pun) proving that wolves equaled money for a greater, wider range of recreational businesses and service industries.

One thing is for certain... Carter Niemeyer knows wolves. As far as capturing wolves alive, he may have more experience than anyone in the past 100 years except for the famous "Wolf Man" of Alaska, Frank Glaser. *Wolf Land* can be read independently of Niemeyer's first book, *Wolfer: A Memoir*, but together they present an insightful and unique overview of a rural, midwestern trapper's transition from a proud killing machine to a hard-charging advocate for gray wolves. I'm not calling Carter Niemeyer a Patagonia wearing, fair trade coffee drinking, Greenpeace slogan chanting, peace symbol displaying, gray wolf worshipping environmentalist. He's very proud of his hunting and trapping heritage, his education as a wildlife biologist (with an advanced degree), and the assistance he provided for years to hard-working livestock producers, assistance that included a lot

of coyote killing for ranchers pleading for help in protecting their sheep and cattle. I can't say that Niemeyer loves wolves. And, no, he doesn't hate them. The best word I can choose is "respect." He profoundly respects wolves.

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