

For Immediate Release

Leader of One of the Most Extraordinary Wildlife Conservation Efforts of the 20th Century Comes to Calgary from Arts Commons Presents

March 31, 2025 - CALGARY – After 25 years of running with the pack, National Geographic Explorer Doug Smith is ready to hang up his hat and share the incredible stories of his history-defining career studying the re-introduced wolves of Yellowstone National Park. Join Arts Commons Presents for **Doug Smith: Wild Wolves of Yellowstone** on **Sunday, April 27 at 2pm & Monday, April 28, 2025 at 7 p.m.** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons**. Tickets are available now at artscommons.ca/wolves.

National Geographic Explorer and wildlife biologist Doug Smith worked at Yellowstone National Park for nearly three decades. He was hired in the 1990s to reintroduce wolves into America's first national park. Unsure of the outcome, Smith and his team hoped for the best and watched as balance in the ecosystem was restored. In collaboration with other national parks, Smith conducted groundbreaking research on the impact of human-caused mortality on wolf populations within protected areas including our own Banff National Park. This success led him to spearhead the Yellowstone Wolf Project, one of the most prominent wolf research programs in the world. Current Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly said that the reintroduction of wolves to the park was "one of the most extraordinary American wildlife conservation efforts of the 20th century."

"We didn't know what was going to happen, and what made Yellowstone unique was they were visible from the ground. We could see them in Lamar Valley. We could see them on the Blacktail Plateau. We could see them in Hayden Valley. So, we augmented all the conventional work with this extra groundwork," Smith said. "We probably got more out of wolf research than any other place, ever."

Throughout his career, Smith authored numerous publications and delivered lectures on wolves and beavers. His work was essential in the establishment and protection of the wolves in Yellowstone National Park and has contributed to worldwide re-introduction projects.

"Doug Smith's work in Yellowstone has created ripples around the world. The conservation and management of our own wolf populations in Banff National Park have taken pages from his playbook," says Sarah Garton Stanley, VP of Programming at Arts Commons. "We are so privileged to be welcoming a veteran environmentalist to Calgary who has had such a lasting impact on the way we view the natural world."

National Geographic Live has captured the imaginations of Calgarians, inspiring a love for science and the natural world since its launch in 2012. The series highlights Explorers at the forefront of their fields, traversing the planet with stunning video and photography projected on the high-resolution screen that spans the Jack Singer Concert Hall stage. We began the season with National Geographic Live exploring the treetops with Nalini Nadkarni and venturing to the edge of bubbling lava flows with Andrés Ruzo. Now we welcome **Doug Smith: Wild Wolves of Yellowstone** on **April 27 & 28**, and will be closing our 2024-25 season with **Kakani Katija: Designed by Nature** on **May 25 & 26, 2025**, details at artscommons.ca/ngl.

What: Arts Commons Presents – Doug Smith: *Wild Wolves of Yellowstone*
When: Sunday, April 27 at 2 p.m. and Monday, April 28 at 7 p.m.

MEDIA RELEASE



Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/wolves

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to ACP Signature Series Presenting Sponsor **ConocoPhillips Canada**, student engagement sponsor **Enbridge**, EXPLORE National Geographic Sponsor **MEG Energy**, and EXPLORE National Geographic Supporting Sponsor/Partners **Cabra Consulting**, **geoLOGIC Systems** and **Teatro Fund for Arts Commons Education**, as well as **the Government of Alberta** and our friends at **The City of Calgary**.

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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, Arts Commons Presents programs and presents the signature subscription series: BD&P World Stage, National Geographic Live, and Classic Albums Live, as well as TD Amplify and a number of special presentations. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists on many levels.