

**For Immediate Release, December 20, 2012**

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**'Solstice Prayer and Fasting for Wildlife'  
'Salem Solstice Wolf Fast'**

**Advocates to fast four days at state capitols in Idaho and Oregon for wolves and other wildlife.**

Boise, ID. Mato Woksape, Richard Wise Bear of Lakota, Blackfoot, and Potawatomi nations, leader of Oregon Autonomous A.I.M. chapter has been organizing, demonstrating, walking and praying to protect wolves and other wildlife in Idaho and around the globe for a year. This month, in solidarity with Howl Across America, Ravensong Group and the Northwoods Wolf Alliance, and Howling For Wolves, he will fast in front of the Idaho state capitol in Boise for four days in hopes of drawing attention and support to the need for reverence for the land and preservation of the ecology of the wolf and other wildlife.

He will be joined by Orion Cannon, of Salem OR, who will be fasting in front of the state capitol there. The prayer fasts will begin at sunrise on December 18 and last until sunset on December 21.

Wildlife advocates are alarmed at what they describe as a return to the days in which predators, in particular, were unreasonably vilified and persecuted. Says Woksape "Wolves manage their own numbers as the creator has made them perfectly. I am spreading a prayer for the wolf and other wildlife across the world; to unite nations for the sanctity of the wolf. Like the river with no banks our prayer is unstoppable."

It looks like he might be right. Woksape's efforts are drawing the attention of wild life advocates from the nation, with at least 50, from places like West Virginia, Wyoming, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Texas, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Arizona, California, as well as Austria, British Columbia, Ontario and Germany, who will fast along with Woksape and Cannon.

At least a dozen people are fasting in Minnesota, including Maureen Hackett, MD., founder of 'Howling For Wolves', who says "The welfare of wolves and other wildlife is of concern to everyone, and Howling For Wolves is honored to support this prayer fast in solidarity with Mato, Orion and other advocates across the nation' and who joins the fast today.

Northwoods Wolf Alliance spokesperson Reyna Crow, of Duluth, MN says, "We asked Mato if we could participate early on because we believe there is a need for both urgent and unified action across the nation to protect wolves and other wildlife".

Those interested in joining the fast or otherwise supporting wolf and wildlife protection can call Woksape (pictured) at [208.573.6027](tel:208.573.6027) or Crow at [218.269.2661](tel:218.269.2661).

