

Environmental Projects

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Researchers began annual observations of wolves and moose on Isle Royale in 1958. The project began during the darkest hours for wolves in North America- humans had driven wolves to extinction in large portions of their former range. The hope had been that knowledge about wolves would replace hateful myths and form the basis for a wiser relationship with wolves.

Most studies in ecology last for a few years or less. Afterward, ecologists naturally draw conclusions about the nature of our environment. Scientists did so after observing the wolves and moose of Isle Royale for a few years.

Durward Allen, who initiated the Isle Royale wolf-moose project in 1958, was a pioneer among ecologists for having the foresight to understand the value of continuing to observe where others would have drawn conclusions and moved on to study something different. He continued observing.