

an endangered species in that state. This is a situation the Department of the Interior cannot condone, he said. (The eastern timber wolf has recently been added to Interior's official list of endangered species.) Instead, Reed called for a moratorium on killing of eastern timber wolves, "with the possible exception of those preying on livestock," until a nationwide recovery plan for the wolf can be completed. The Office of Endangered Species is now working on such a plan, and it is expected to be completed by the end of February. It would be a cooperative plan with the states where wolves still exist, as well as with any state where wolves once lived that wants to reestablish a population of the animals within its borders. Reestablishing populations of wolves would involve trapping them and moving them to new and suitable habitats. Interior also hopes to be able to work out an agreement with Canada.

Although the Federal Government

has withdrawn its support of the Minnesota plan, the Minnesota state legislature can still vote to put it into effect. The vote is expected to come early this year.

In Alaska, which has the biggest population of wolves in the United States, the animals are faring little better. Steps are now being taken to preserve the estimated 2,500 to 5,000 wolves remaining, but it has been an uphill battle. Hunters and fur traders have been decimating their numbers and until recently the Alaskan wolf faced the additional danger of being run down and shot from the air by hunters in airplanes. Policing Alaska's wilderness is difficult and even with laws to protect wolves, poaching would be a continual problem. In 1971 Congress passed a law prohibiting hunting of animals by airplane, but the law has many loopholes and the state has been slow to enforce it. Alaska's new Commissioner of Fish and Game has said he will curtail issuance of airplane

hunting permits, but it remains to be seen how well any measures are enforced.

At present the chief hope of conservationists rests on a new endangered species bill that is expected to be reintroduced in Congress this year. The bill would require Interior to list animals that are likely in the foreseeable future to become threatened with extinction and would provide Federal penalties for killing listed animals. In effect, it would put animals such as the wolf under Federal protection and allow the Federal Government to overrule state management plans such as the one proposed in Minnesota. But passage of the bill is not assured. Introduced last year in Congress, it died in committee in both houses.

Who will prevail in this last battle over the American wolf is uncertain. What is certain, says Regenstein, is that if steps are not taken soon, the time is not far off when the wolf will howl its last. □

Choosing the best young high-school scientists

—*A possible chemical solution to smoke pollution caused in Oregon at harvest time by the burning of tons of waste rye straw.*

—*A finding that mentally retarded people retain the ability to perform eidetic imagery beyond puberty, when most people lose the capacity.*

—*A novel way to determine the ratio of the mass of the planet Jupiter to the mass of the earth.*

—*Development of a mathematical method of analyzing a basic problem in international trade: the degree to which countries should specialize in the products they produce comparatively the cheapest.*

Results of research projects by scientists at a major university? No, these are among the findings resulting from projects of 40 outstanding high-school science students in the United States chosen winners last week in the 32nd annual nationwide Science Talent Search.

Each year, the nation's high schools are surveyed to find the most talented young scientists. The search is sponsored jointly by the Westinghouse Electric Corp. and Science Service Inc. The former funds the program through the Westinghouse Educational Foundation; Science Service administers it through its Science Clubs of America.

The 40 winners this year—29 boys and 11 girls—were selected from among 1,105 students who completed all entrance requirements. More than 13,000

students from all 50 states received entry materials.

The 40 winners will be honored with an expense-paid five-day trip to Washington in March where they will compete for \$67,500 in Westinghouse scholarships, to be awarded March 19. The top award will be a \$10,000 four-year scholarship. E. G. Sherburne Jr., director of Science Service, points out that the Science Talent Search has awarded \$856,000 to 1,240 young scientists since its inception in 1942. Many of them have gone on to promising scientific careers.

The 40 national winners announced last week were chosen on the basis of reports on their individual science projects, ratings by teachers and scholastic records. In Washington, they will be interviewed by a committee of judges, exhibit their science projects to the public and visit scientific laboratories.

By state, the winners are:

ARIZONA: Joseph L. Demer, Salpointe H.S., Tucson.

CALIFORNIA: Esther L. Zack, Alexander Hamilton H.S., Los Angeles; Steven L. Brittenham, Skyline H.S., Oakland; Glenn J. Greene, Will C. Crawford H.S., and June A. Vavo, James Madison H.S., San Diego.

COLORADO: Arvind N. Srivastava, Poudre H.S., Fort Collins.

CONNECTICUT: Irving W. E. Fallon, Southington H.S., Southington.

FLORIDA: John R. Minter, Terry Parker H.S., and Lauren P. Miller, William M. Raines H.S., Jacksonville.

HAWAII: Darryl A. Higuchi and Rodney S. Kawahara, Aiea H.S., Aiea.

ILLINOIS: Bradford J. Rodriguez, Barry

H.S., Barry; Nancy E. Everds, Lake Forest H.S., Lake Forest.

INDIANA: Deborah J. Zygmunt, Central H.S., Evansville.

MARYLAND: Michael T. A. Weinert, Gaithersburg H.S., Gaithersburg.

MISSOURI: Anne L. Raymond, Notre Dame de Sion H.S., Kansas City.

MONTANA: Michael A. Smith, Malta H.S., Malta.

NEBRASKA: Donald P. Schneider, Minden H.S., Minden.

NEW JERSEY: Karin G. Zupko, Perth Amboy H.S., Perth Amboy.

NEW YORK: Robert J. Lipshutz, Baldwin Sr. H.S., Baldwin; Eric M. Fogel, Benjamin N. Cardozo H.S., Bayside; Van J. Wedeen, Midwood H.S., Brooklyn; James V. Noto, Elmont Memorial H.S., Elmont; Thomas F. Rosenbaum and Leon H. Tatevossian, Forest Hills H.S., Forest Hills; Donalisa V. Boccio, Sanford R. Climan, Joshua L. Rubin and David Treatman, Bronx H.S. of Science, Bronx; Jill E. Bechtold, Hunter College H.S., New York; Lee H. Laiterman, Martin Van Buren H.S., Queens Village.

NORTH DAKOTA: Rex T. Skodje, Bismarck H.S., Bismarck.

OHIO: Leilin Hsu, Euclid H.S., Euclid.

PENNSYLVANIA: Renée J. Conroy, Marple-Newtown Sr. H.S., Newtown Square.

RHODE ISLAND: Mark A. Musen, Cranston H.S. West, Cranston.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Patrick G. Jobe, Spartanburg H.S., Spartanburg.

TEXAS: David A. Goldberg, Bellaire H.S., Bellaire.

UTAH: David N. Weidman, Box Elder H.S., Brigham City.

VIRGINIA: Robert C. Reynolds, McLean H.S., McLean.

WISCONSIN: Robert J. Brehtrup, Sheboygan South H.S., Sheboygan.