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Letters

Ever-more-sensitive arrays

In "Getting the picture in infrared" (SN: 5/9/87, p.295) Dietrick Thomsen discussed the use of infrared arrays for astronomical purposes. I would like to point out that for the last two years, the Air Force Geophysics Laboratory (AFGL) has worked on a 64×64 array that is sensitive from 8-14 microns. This array was also manufactured by Santa Barbara Research Corporation (Hughes). The AFGL array is specifically designed for use on the 2.3-meter Wyoming Infrared Observatory (WIRO) telescope.

I point this out because Thomsen states that the NOAO 50-inch telescope has become the most powerful infrared telescope in the world. Although I do not doubt the quality of Frederick Gillett's work on the NOAO 50-inch,

This Week

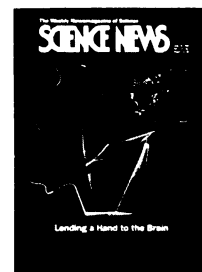
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Leave the wolves alone

Programs to reestablish wolves in areas where they have previously been hunted and poisoned out of existence ("Recall of the Wild Wolf," SN: 6/13/87, p.371) make about as much sense as a program to teach the unemployed how to make buggy whips.

It is reasonable to assume that suitable habitat for wolves will continue to diminish inexorably. Hence, our most sensible course would seem to be to accept this reality, and simply to refrain from harassing the animals now remaining in the considerably shrunken refuge areas they have found for themselves.

Striving to bring back these animals to areas where they will face only the painful and lethal hostility of man all over again is not only inhumane, it is illogical.

Loretta Hirsh
Washington, D.C.

I would like to point out that Paul LeVan from AFGL has been testing his 8-14 micron array at WIRO since October 1986. His results are encouraging, and these data are currently being analyzed.

Additionally, Earl Spillar and other professors at the University of Wyoming are currently working on a 2.2-micron-array camera for use at WIRO. As a graduate student, I have been quite fortunate to be involved with these exciting projects.

As a final note, it may interest you that an introduction to your magazine by my fourth-grade teacher 17 years ago initiated my interest in science, especially physics and astronomy.

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