

Wolf Education Research Center, Winchester, Idaho



Problem. Anticipating many environmentally aware visitors at this unique and remote site, the Center's directors wanted an odorless comfort station whose design, construction, and operation were consistent with the project's environmental ethic and educational goals.

Solution. Two Phoenix composting toilets installed in an elegant, universally accessible, two-room facility with a daylight basement, solar lighting and heating, and the maximum feasible use of recycled construction materials.

Hot air solar collectors and the photovoltaic arrays are set into the south roof and protected from the elements and vandals by tough, durable Lexan glazing. On the north roof, the Lexan glazing serves as a skylight; soft, natural light bathes the bright, cheerful toilet rooms. The deck is built with *Trex*, a tough, weatherproof material made from recycled plastic and wood fiber.

The toilet room is cleaned easily, thanks to fiberglass wall panels, and a tough nonslip floor, with a monolithic urethane coating, that extends four inches up the walls. The coiled hose connected to the cistern is in a storage room adjacent to the toilet room, providing pressurized water for cleaning the facility. The Center provides wildlife enthusiasts with a rare and compelling opportunity to observe wolves roaming in their native habitat.