



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
FROM: Katie Lanter, Policy and Planning Supervisor
RE: CPW Wolf Restoration and Management Plan: Finalization and Public Engagement
DATE: November 4, 2022

Since January 2021, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission has provided guidance to CPW regarding the development of Colorado's Wolf Restoration and Management Plan (hereafter Plan), including stakeholder and public engagement. Per 33-2-105.8 CRS, the Commission shall "[d]evelop a plan to restore and manage gray wolves in Colorado, using the best scientific data available" and "[h]old statewide hearings to acquire information to be considered in developing such plan, including scientific, economic, and social considerations pertaining to such restoration." CPW will present the draft Plan to the Commission on December 9, 2022. This memo provides an overview of the schedule and steps for Plan finalization, including public and Tribal engagement.

Schedule

The Commission will discuss the Plan at eight upcoming meetings.

December 9, 2022 - Presentation of the Draft Plan (virtual meeting) ***Zoom/YouTube - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm***

The draft Plan will be sent to the Commission on Monday, November 28, 2022 and posted online at wolfengagementco.org on December 9, 2022. At the December 9th virtual Commission meeting, CPW will walk through the draft Plan in detail. Time will be provided for Commissioner questions and discussion.

A comment form specific to the Plan will be posted at wolfengagementco.org, opening on December 9th and open through February 22, 2023. There will not be an opportunity for oral comments from the public at this meeting.

January 19, 2023 - February 22, 2023 - Statewide Hearings (4 in-person, 1 virtual)

Five statewide hearings (4 in-person, 1 virtual) will be held to acquire information from the public to be considered in developing the Plan. The hearing dates and locations are listed below with approximate times:

January 19, 2023 - Colorado Springs - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

January 25, 2023 - Gunnison - 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

February 7, 2023 - Rifle - 8:00 am - 4:00 pm



February 16, 2023 - Virtual via Zoom - 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

February 22, 2023 - Denver - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

The hearings will follow the same format, allowing the public to attend any meeting that is convenient for them. The in-person hearings will begin with CPW providing a brief overview of the plan, followed by presentations about impact based management and damage compensation. For time, the virtual hearing will exclude the management and compensation presentations but links to recordings of the presentations will be available prior to the hearing. All the hearings will provide time for Commissioner questions and discussion.

Two hours will be provided at each hearing for public comment, with up to 3 minutes per person (5 minutes for elected officials), which will allow for up to 40 people to comment per meeting. At the in-person meetings, comments will be in-person with registration on a walk-in basis the morning of the meeting. Commenters must sign themselves up for their own spot. Elected officials will be given priority, as will Colorado residents. Each person is limited to one oral comment (until each person has had an opportunity to comment) during the January/February draft Plan comment period. Comments, including letters from organizations, may also be provided through the online comment form at wolfengagementco.org. All hearings will be streamed on CPW's YouTube channel so that the public may listen live or to the recordings posted on the Commission's webpage.

Written comments received through the online comment form will be compiled and synthesized by Keystone Policy Center. Brief memos outlining the volume and nature of written comments received will be provided to the Commission in advance of the January 19, February 7 and February 22 meetings, along with the individual comments themselves. Note that if an incredibly high volume of comments is received, Keystone may need to adjust the content and/or timing of the summary memos. Keystone will also take notes during the 5 hearings. A short, high level summary report of the comments (written and oral) received between December 9, 2022 and February 22, 2023 will be provided to the Commission in advance of its April 6 meeting.

The final hearing on February 22 is where CPW needs to hear clear and precise guidance from the Commission about what changes, if any, to make to the draft Plan to bring back to the Commission in April. CPW staff will update the Plan in March following the guidance provided on February 22nd, as well as prepare draft regulations for plan implementation.

To take advantage of these additional days on the Commission's 2023 calendar, the January 25 and February 7 wolf meetings will also include an agenda item on Herd Management Plans (HMPs) for the regions in which the meetings are being held. The Commission's regular March 15-16 meeting will also include HMPs. Specifically, the following HMPs will be discussed:

January 25: SW Elk HMPs

February 7: NW Deer HMPs

March 15-16: NE and SE Pronghorn HMPs

If inclement weather is forecasted and will impact CPW's ability to safely conduct an in-person hearing, CPW will make an announcement at least 3 days prior to the hearing that the meeting is being moved to a virtual format. In such a situation, a link will be included in the

announcement for the public to register to provide virtual oral comments and we will continue to apply prioritization of elected officials, Colorado residents and first-time speakers to that registration list.

Sample draft agendas for the hearings follow in Appendix A of this memo.

April 6, 2023 - Final Draft Plan and Regulations (Step 1 of 2) (in-person meeting)
Location TBD, perhaps Walden - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

CPW staff will present the final draft Plan and associated regulations (Step 1 of 2). In-person public comment will be taken in a similar manner to the hearings and online comments may be made through wolfengagementco.org. The meeting will be streamed to YouTube to listen to live or by recording.

May 3-4, 2023 - Final Plan and Regulations (Step 2 of 2) Approval (in-person meeting)
Glenwood Springs - Times TBD

At this meeting, Commissioners will vote on approval of the final Plan and associated wolf regulations. The approved Plan will be used for wolf restoration and management in Colorado. Because of the Federal Endangered Status, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is an important partner in this effort. All management of wolves in Colorado will be done in compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations.

Tribal Engagement

As requested, CPW will continue meeting with the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribes about plan finalization and organize meetings with them.

APPENDIX A: SAMPLE DRAFT HEARING AGENDAS

Draft Agenda for January 19, 2023

**AGENDA
PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING
January 19, 2023
Venue TBD
Colorado Springs, CO**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023				
#	Time			
1	8:00	(I)		Welcome and Roll Call - 5 Minutes
2	8:05	(I)	Reid DeWalt, Asst. Director, Aquatic, Terrestrial & Natural Resources Eric Odell, Species Conservation Program Manager	Introduction to CPW's Draft Wolf Restoration and Management Plan - 20 Minutes
3	8:25	(I)	Eric Odell, Species Conservation Program Manager Luke Hoffman, Game Damage & Commercial Parks Manager	Impact Based Management - 20 Minutes Damage Prevention and Compensation - 20 Minutes
4	9:05	(I)	Carrie Hauser, Chair	Commissioner Questions and Comments - 40 Minutes
5	9:45			Break - 15 Minutes
6	10:00	(I)		Public Comment on the Draft Plan - 2 Hours
7	12:00			Lunch- 60 Minutes
8	1:00	(I)	Carrie Hauser, Chair	Commissioner Questions and Comments - 60 Minutes
9	2:00			ADJOURN

Draft Agenda for January 25 and February 7

AGENDA

PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING

January 25, 2023 with SW Elk HMPs and February 7, 2023 with NW Deer HMPs)

Jan 25 Venue TBD and Feb 7 Colorado Mountain College Rifle Campus

Jan 25 Gunnison and Feb 7 Rifle

JANUARY 25, 2023 and FEBRUARY 7, 2023				
#	Time			
1	8:00	(I)		Welcome and Roll Call - 5 Minutes
2	8:05	(I)	Brian Dreher, Terrestrial Section Manager Region Biologists TBD	Herd Management Plans - 2 Hours
3	10:05			Break- 15 Minutes
4	10:20	(I)	Reid DeWalt, Asst. Director, Aquatic, Terrestrial & Natural Resources Eric Odell, Species Conservation Program Manager	Introduction to CPW's Draft Wolf Restoration and Management Plan - 20 Minutes
5	10:40	(I)	Eric Odell, Species Conservation Program Manager Luke Hoffman, Game Damage & Commercial Parks Manager	Impact Based Management - 20 Minutes Damage Prevention and Compensation - 20 Minutes
6	11:20	(I)	Carrie Hauser, Chair	Commissioner Questions and Comments - 40 Minutes
7	12:00			Lunch - 60 Minutes
8	1:00	(I)		Public Comment on the Draft Plan - 2 Hours
9	3:00			Break- 15 Minutes
10	3:15	(I)	Carrie Hauser, Chair	Commissioner Questions and Comments - 45 Minutes
11	4:00			ADJOURN

Draft Agenda for Virtual Hearing

AGENDA
PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING
February 16, 2023
Zoom Webinar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023				
#	Time			
1	5:30	(I)		Welcome and Roll Call - 5 Minutes
2	5:35	(I)	Reid DeWalt, Asst. Director, Aquatic, Terrestrial & Natural Resources Eric Odell, Species Conservation Program Manager	Introduction to CPW's Draft Wolf Restoration and Management Plan - 20 Minutes
3	5:55	(I)		Public Comment on the Draft Plan - 1 Hour
4	6:55			Break - 5 Minutes
5	7:00			Public Comment on the Draft Plan (Continued) - 1 Hour
6	8:00	(I)	Carrie Hauser, Chair	Commissioner Questions and Comments - 30 Minutes
7	8:30			ADJOURN

Draft Agenda for February 22

AGENDA
PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING
February 22, 2023
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023				
#	Time			
1	8:00	(I)		Welcome and Roll Call - 5 Minutes
2	8:05	(I)	Reid DeWalt, Asst. Director, Aquatic, Terrestrial & Natural Resources Eric Odell, Species Conservation Program Manager	Introduction to CPW's Draft Wolf Restoration and Management Plan - 20 Minutes
3	8:25	(I)	Eric Odell, Species Conservation Program Manager Luke Hoffman, Game Damage & Commercial Parks Manager	Impact Based Management - 20 Minutes Damage Prevention and Compensation - 20 Minutes
4	9:05	(I)	Carrie Hauser, Chair	Commissioner Questions and Comments - 40 Minutes
5	9:45			Break- 15 Minutes
6	10:00	(I)		Public Comment on the Draft Plan - 2 Hours
7	12:00			Lunch - 60 Minutes
8	1:00	(I)	Carrie Hauser, Chair	Commissioner Questions and Comments - 45 Minutes
9	1:45	(I/A)	Reid DeWalt, Asst. Director, Aquatic, Terrestrial & Natural Resources Eric Odell, Species Conservation Program Manager Luke Hoffman, Game Damage & Commercial Parks Manager Katie Lanter, Policy & Planning Supervisor	Commission Guidance on Revisions for the Final Draft Plan - 75 Minutes
10	3:00			ADJOURN

