



Wolf Restoration & Management Plan Public Outreach & Advisory Group Facilitation

Keystone Policy Center

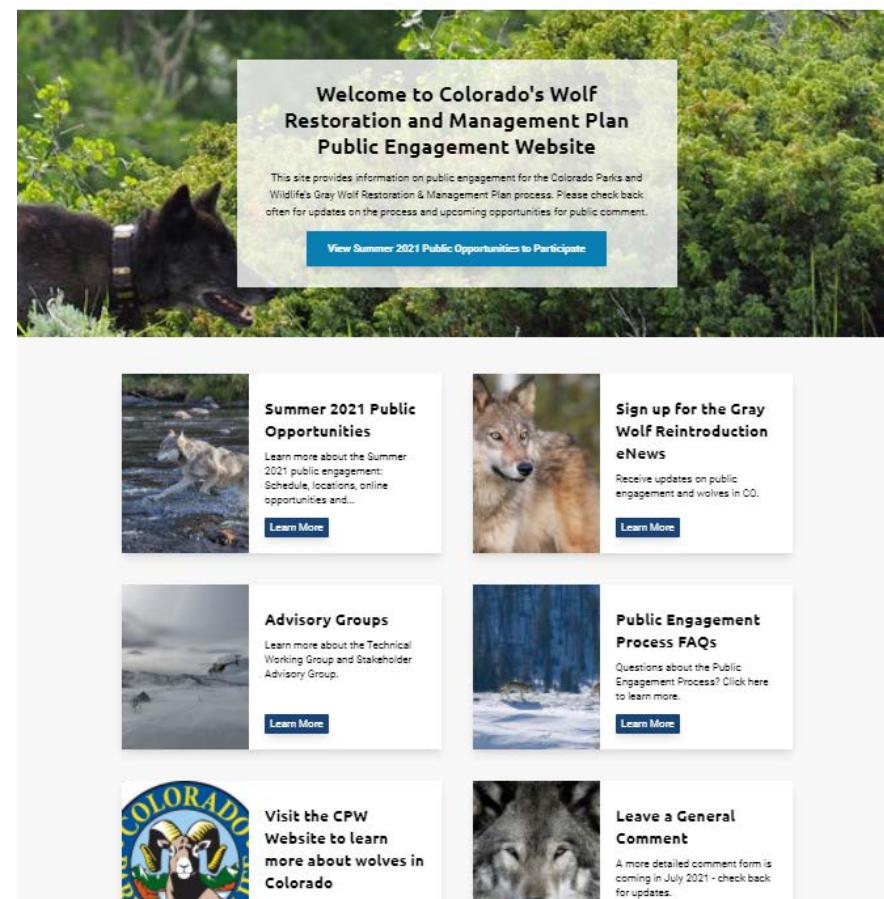
Update to Parks and Wildlife Commission

July 15, 2021

Public Engagement Website

<https://www.wolfengagementco.org/>

- Information about public involvement opportunities – dates, locations, FAQs
- Portal for online comment
- Supportive of analytics to understand site visitation, online comment participation, and sentiment analysis
- Information about the SAG and TWG
- Updated regularly



Advisory Groups

- Technical Working Group (TWG) and Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) each had kickoff meetings in June 2021.
 - TWG meetings are virtual.
 - SAG meetings are in person, are open to public observation, and include opportunity for public comment.
- Summaries are posted to the public engagement website.



Overview of Phase 1 Public Involvement

~40+ meetings plus online comment, July-August 2021

- 14 in-person regional open houses (7 on the Western Slope).
- 17 in-person Western Colorado geographic focus groups.
- 2 in-person Tribal consultations.
- 10 virtual interest-based focus groups.
- 2 x half-day statewide virtual town halls
- Online comment form with asynchronous (pre-recorded/available on website) open house instructions/content to inform online comment form/charge question responses.



Public Engagement Topics

- Engagement, Education & Outreach
- Wolf Restoration
- Wolf Management
- Livestock interactions

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Engagement Process, Education and Outreach

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requires:
 • develop a plan
 • set scientific
 • be considered
 • economic and

Additional educational resources:
 • CPW Wolf webpage: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/Wolves-Stay-Informed.aspx>
 • Three education sessions have been recorded and are available on the CPW YouTube Channel

What we want to know from you:
 • What suggestions do you have for engagement, education and outreach to make gray wolf restoration and management as successful as possible?
 • What concerns or questions about engagement, education and outreach do you have?



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Wolf Restoration

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Other gray wolf reintroductions:
 • Conducted in Yellowstone National Park and Central Idaho in 1995-1996.
 • Hand-released in Idaho (open cages and release animals immediately) and self-released in Yellowstone (confined in pens and released after several weeks of adjustment to surroundings).
 • Mexican wolves (a separate subspecies) have been reintroduced into Arizona, New Mexico, and Mexico.
 • Other wolf reintroduction programs have occurred in areas of the Great Lakes.

Restoration logistics to be determined in the restoration and management plan:
 • Number of wolves and timeline for reintroduction.
 • Identification of characteristics of areas in Colorado where wolves could be released.
 • Age and gender ratios of wolves to be reintroduced.
 • Genetic considerations for reintroduced wolves.
 • Veterinary care and travel logistics.
 • Reintroduction techniques (hand versus self-released).

What we want to know from you:
 • What specific suggestions do you have for reintroduction logistics to make gray wolf restoration in Colorado as successful as possible?
 • What concerns or questions about wolf restoration logistics do you have?



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Livestock Interactions

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CPW Livestock Damage Information:
 The Game Damage Program is a Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) prevention and reimbursement program that compensates ranchers, farmers and landowners for damage caused by big game animals.

Damage Claim Process:
 • Contact your local CPW office and ask to speak to a District Wildlife Manager (DWM).
 • DWM will conduct an on-site inspection, provide the claim forms and answer claim procedure questions.
 • Claim forms must be fully completed and submitted to CPW.
 • The claim is recommended for either approval or denial.
 • All denied claims are reviewed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Issues to be addressed through the gray wolf restoration & management planning process:
 • Roles and responsibilities for investigation.
 • Compensation rates and format.
 • Development of conflict minimization Best Management Practices.
 • Consideration for development of cost share programs to encourage conflict minimization practices.
 • Development of prescriptive management of conflict wolves (also in Wolf Management) - for example, non-lethal and lethal control methods. Generally, a conflict wolf is any wolf that has been confirmed to have been involved with a human or livestock conflict.
 • Funding Sources.

What we want to know from you:
 • What suggestions do you have for conflict minimization best practices?
 • What suggestions do you have for compensation programs?
 • What suggestions do you have for management of conflict wolves?
 • What concerns or questions do you have?



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Wolf Management

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2004 Wolf Working Group Recommendations
 Current management plan that CPW is using to manage wolves. It includes the following key points:
 • Fundamentally determined that wolves should be allowed to live with no boundaries where they find habitat.
 • If wolves cause problems or when negative impacts occur due to wolves, the issues should be addressed on a case-by-case basis using management tools and damage payments to resolve, including allowance of take (killing) of wolves to manage depredations.
 • Wolves should, over time, be brought into existing management programs and policies for other carnivores, such as mountain lions and black bears.
 • CPW should work cooperatively with other agencies, organizations and the private sector to achieve wolf management goals in a proactive manner.
 • Recommended that funding for wolf management come from sources other than hunting license sales.

Issues to be addressed through the gray wolf restoration and management plan:
 • Management principles and goals for wolves in Colorado.
 • Population levels that may trigger different management strategies.
 • Responses to ungulate populations (for example, elk, deer and moose) or other metrics inform wolf management.
 • Reliable funding sources can be used to support reintroduction, monitoring, depredation payment and management.
 • Considerations for the possibility of reintroducing the gray wolf under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.
 • Note: Development of prescriptive management of conflict wolves (also in Livestock Interactions).

What we want to know from you:
 • What wolf population and other biological information would indicate that the gray wolf restoration program was a success?
 • What suggestions do you have for management strategies to make gray wolf restoration in CO as successful as possible?
 • What suggestions do you have for monitoring?
 • What suggestions do you have for funding gray wolf management?
 • What concerns or questions about wolf management do you have?

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Outreach

- Media Advisories to State and Regional outlets (print, radio, television)
- CPW and Keystone Social Media Channels
- Public Involvement Website (linked through CPW wolf website and Keystone sites)
- CPW Partner Channels
- Wolf eNewsletter
- TWG and SAG Networks and additional outreach to stakeholder groups



Tribal Consultation Meetings

- Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ignacio, CO – July 19
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Towaoc, CO – July 21
- Topics to cover:
 - SAG/TWG Overviews
 - Phase 1 Public Involvement Plan
 - Tribal Engagement Topics
 - Community Engagement, Education, Outreach
 - Wolf Restoration, Management, and Communication
 - Cultural Significance
 - Other Areas of Interest to Tribal Lands and Off-Reservation Ranches

