



Wolf Restoration & Management Plan Public Outreach & Advisory Group Facilitation

Keystone Policy Center

Update to Parks and Wildlife Commission

September 1, 2021

Advisory Groups

- Technical Working Group (TWG) and Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) each had second and third meetings in July and August.
 - 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: <https://www.wolfengagement.co.org/>



Overview of Phase 1 Public Involvement

46 meetings plus online comment, July-August 2021

- 16 in-person regional open houses (7 on the Western Slope).
- 17 in-person Western Colorado geographic focus groups
- 2 in-person Tribal consultations
- 9 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. Open through September 3, 2021*



Phase 1 Public Involvement Meetings

Pubic Open Houses	Western CO Focus Groups	Interest-Based Focus Groups
Steamboat Springs	Basalt	Agriculture/Livestock
Glenwood Springs	Bayfield	Education
Durango	Cortez	Environment (non-wolf specific)
Montrose	Craig	Equity/Diversity/Inclusion
Gunnison	Eagle	Outdoor Recreation
Craig	Grand Junction	Outfitters
Grand Junction	Gunnison	Sportspeople
Boulder	Hotchkiss	Tribal & Indigenous
Alamosa	Keystone	Wolf Advocacy
Colorado Springs	Kremmling	
Trinidad	Meeker	Tribal Consultations
Denver	Montrose	Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Consultation
Fort Collins	Norwood	Southern Ute Tribal Consultation
Sterling	Parachute	
La Junta	Salida	Public Virtual Town Halls
Eagle	Steamboat Springs	August 17 and August 26
	Walden	



LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

Public Engagement Topics

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


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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 in 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 & funding source for damage payments is discussed 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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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

- Development of a depredation compensation program.
- 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 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 (conditioned 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 timeframe 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 (hard versus soft releases).

What we want to know from you

- What specific suggestions do you have for restoration 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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Engagement Process, Education and Outreach



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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?

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



Initial Reflections

- Process & Participation
- Feedback & Common Questions
- Next Steps

