

Wolf Planning Updates



Photo Credit: YNP

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Parks and Wildlife Commission
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Development of 10(j) Rule

- Federal process separate from CPW process
- Money has been transferred to USFWS
- USFWS hiring a contractor
 - NEPA
 - Scoping Notice
- Purpose is to allow management flexibility for a Federally listed species



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CPW Plan Development Timeline

- Internal Draft Plan this Fall
- Present to Parks and Wildlife Commission December 2022 (added meeting)
- Begins public review process
- Propose several PWC/public meetings in Jan/Feb 2023
 - Meetings to be held both on front range and on west slope



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CPW Plan Development Timeline

- 2-step Final Plan Approval Process
 - Step 1 - April 2023
 - Step 2 - May 2023
- Ensures ability to meet statutory deadline of December 31, 2023



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Recovery Thresholds

- These are for the State status, not Federal status
- Statute requires establishing methods to down/delist wolves in Colorado



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Phased Approach

- Allows increasing management flexibility as wolf population grows
- Based on mid-winter minimum count
- Population metrics should correspond with state status



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Phase 1 - State Endangered

Start: Current situation

Conclude: Minimum count of 50 wolves
anywhere in Colorado for 4 successive
years

Action upon Conclusion: Down list to State
Threatened



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Phase 2 - State Threatened

Start: Minimum count of 50 wolves anywhere in Colorado for 4 successive years

Conclude: Minimum count of 150 wolves anywhere in Colorado for 2 successive years –*OR*– Minimum count of 200 wolves with no temporal requirement

Action upon Conclusion: Delist from State list



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Phase 3 - Delisted, Nongame

Start: Phase 1 and 2 conclusion requirements are both met. Phase 2 requirements may be met concurrently with Phase 1 requirements.

Conclude: No prescribed conclusion

Potential Future Action: Consider reclassifying to game species



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Phase 4 - Game Status

Start: Discretionary phase, not prescriptive nor legally required

Population estimate must be above delisting threshold



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Management Implications

- Stakeholder Advisory Group is currently finalizing their recommendations
- Will be presented at a future meeting



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Technical Working Group

**Scott Becker, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wyoming Wolf Coordinator**

**Alan Bittner, Bureau of Land Management
Deputy State Director, Resources**

**Stewart Breck, National Wildlife Research Center
Research Wildlife Biologist**

**Roblyn Brown, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wolf Program Coordinator**

**Wayne East, Colorado Department of Agriculture
Agricultural/Wildlife Liaison**

**Justin Gude, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
Research and Technical Services Bureau Chief**

Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Commissioner

Merrit Linke, Grand County Commissioner

**Steve Lohr, United States Forest Service
Renewable Resources Director, Rocky Mountain Region**

**Martin Lowney, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife
Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, State Director**

**Carter Niemeyer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Idaho Wolf Recovery Manager, Retired**

**Eric Odell, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Species Conservation Program Manager**

**Mike Phillips, Rocky Mountain Wolf Project
Founder/Turner Endangered Species Fund, Executive Director**

**John Sanderson, Colorado State University
Director, Center for Collaborative Conservation**

**Doug Smith, National Park Service
Senior Wildlife Biologist, Yellowstone National Park**

**Robin Young, Colorado State University Extension Service
Archuleta County Extension Director, Natural Resources and
Agricultural Agent**



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