

Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)

Statement on Regulated Public Hunting of Wolves July 2022

Overview & summary of key points

This report summarizes feedback from the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) regarding regulated public hunting of wolves.

1. **The SAG does not have consensus on whether to allow regulated public hunting of wolves.** The SAG has not sought a formal vote nor consensus on this topic.
2. **The SAG recommends, by consensus, that a decision on regulated public hunting of wolves should not be made in the restoration and management plan to be finalized in 2023.** The SAG recommends that it is premature for a decision to be made on regulated public hunting in the upcoming 2023 plan. The SAG recognizes that any decision on this topic would only be relevant if wolves have achieved a self-sustaining population in Colorado as required by 33-2-105.8. The SAG further recognizes that these conditions will not be relevant, if at all, for many years. Some SAG members are concerned that a decision on regulated public hunting in the planning process may overshadow other key elements of the plan and that it should not be decided at this time. Other SAG members suggest that while they agree it should not be decided upon now, it is important for the Commission to discuss the topic prior to state delisting. Other SAG members believe public hunting of wolves should not be allowed.
3. **The SAG recommends, by consensus, that any future discussion and/or decision on regulated public hunting of wolves should be impact- and science-based, with consideration of biological and social science as well as economic and legal considerations.** The SAG anticipates that an abundance of biological, social, and economic data and information will be gathered when wolves are reintroduced to and are present in Colorado over time. The SAG recommends that this information be used to inform future decision making regarding regulated public hunting, along with consideration of interpretation of legal authorities relative to the definition of gray wolves in CRS 33-2-105.8. Some SAG members feel it is premature to detail the considerations that should inform a future decision.
4. **The SAG recognizes, by consensus, that the concept of regulated public hunting is distinct from targeted lethal control.** The SAG provided feedback on targeted lethal control of wolves in its June 2022 report on impact-based management. Within the consensus impact-based management assumptions in that report, the SAG recommended, 'when negative impacts occur, they should be addressed on a case-by-case basis utilizing a combination of appropriate management tools, including education, non-lethal conflict minimization, lethal take of wolves, and damage payments.' The SAG also offered consensus recommendations in that report regarding allowance of targeted lethal control in specific situations.

About the Stakeholder Advisory Group

The Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) offers a broad range of perspectives and experience to inform the social implications of wolf restoration and management strategies for the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan. SAG members were selected by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) for diversity in demographics, backgrounds, geographic regions, perspectives, and knowledge in order to constitute a vibrant, diverse and inclusive stakeholder voice in the planning process. The SAG is comprised of 17 voting members and 3 non-voting members. CPW is responsible for writing the Wolf Restoration and Management Plan. The Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) serves as the decision-making body responsible for approving the Wolf Restoration and Management Plan. The SAG serves in an advisory capacity to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, offering non-binding input into the development of plan content. The SAG is not a decision-making body and has no authority on wolf management policy, research or operations.

The SAG strives to make decisions based on the consensus of all voting members, where possible. Where the SAG is able to achieve consensus, its input will receive priority consideration by CPW. Per the SAG charter, consensus is defined as general agreement that is shared by all the people in a group; it reflects a recommendation, option or idea that all participants can support or abide by, or, at a minimum, to which they do not object. In other words, consensus is a recommendation, option or idea that all can live with. Where consensus does not exist, a vote will be taken and the votes of individual members will be recorded along with a summary of the rationale for supportive and dissenting views.

Stakeholder Advisory Group Members:

Voting Members

- Matt Barnes
- Donald Broom
- Jenny Burbey
- Bob Chastain
- Renee Deal
- Adam Gall
- Dan Gates
- John Howard
- Francie Jacober
- Lenny Klingsmith
- Darlene Kobobel
- Tom Kourlis
- Brian Kurzel
- Hallie Mahowald
- Jonathan Proctor
- Gary Skiba
- Steve Whiteman

Ex Officio Members:

- Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Les Owen, Division Director, Colorado Department of Agriculture (*designee of Kate Greenberg, Commissioner, Colorado Department of Agriculture*)
- Heather Dugan, Acting Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Stakeholder Advisory Group report developed with third party facilitation from Keystone Policy Center.