



Wolf Restoration & Management Plan Public Outreach & Advisory Group Facilitation

Keystone Policy Center

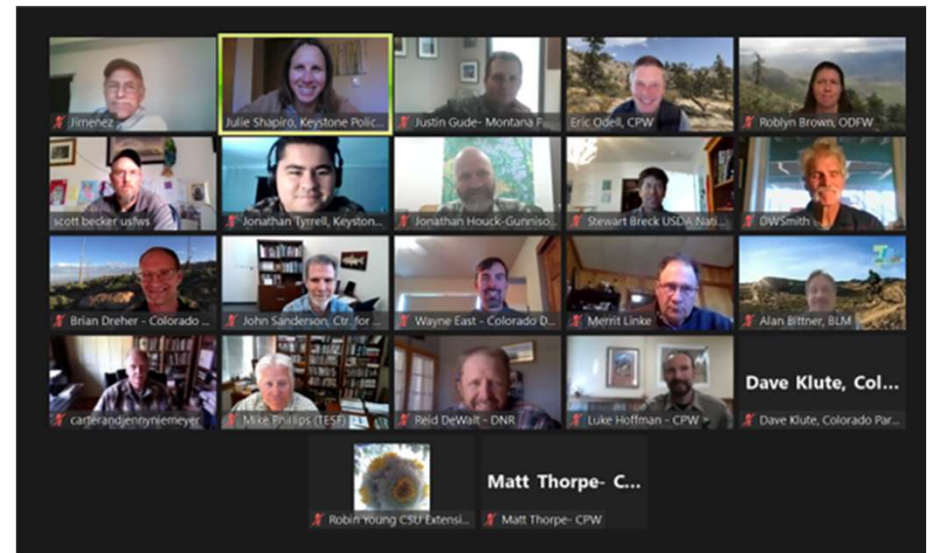
Update to Parks and Wildlife Commission

September 2022



Technical Working Group

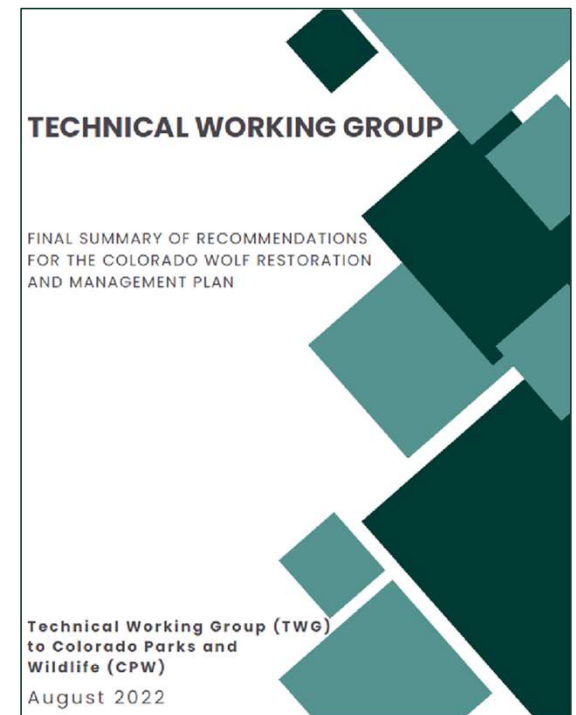
- Reviews objective, science-based information as well as provide its own knowledge and experience.
- Members selected by CPW bring experience in wolf reintroduction, wolf management, conflict minimization, depredation compensation, and other relevant topics.
- Meets monthly, virtually (not for observation).
- Meeting summaries & information about members and charter are available at <https://www.wolfengagementco.org/>



Technical Working Group: Final Summary Report

Synthesizes key takeaways from the TWG's reports along with cross-cutting themes.

- **Reports:**
 - Restoration logistics
 - Livestock compensation
 - State recovery metrics and delisting and down-listing thresholds
 - Wolf management considerations
- **Cross-cutting themes**
 - Trust, relationships, expectation setting, transparency, outreach and field presence
 - Biological/ecological and social/economic dimensions
 - Flexibility and adaptation
 - Full array of management tools to minimize, respond to and address impacts of conflicts & to assist affected communities
 - Funding and resources
 - Research and monitoring
 - Inherently controversial and complex topic with no silver bullet
 - Learn and build from other experiences in CO and elsewhere to meet CO's specific needs and context



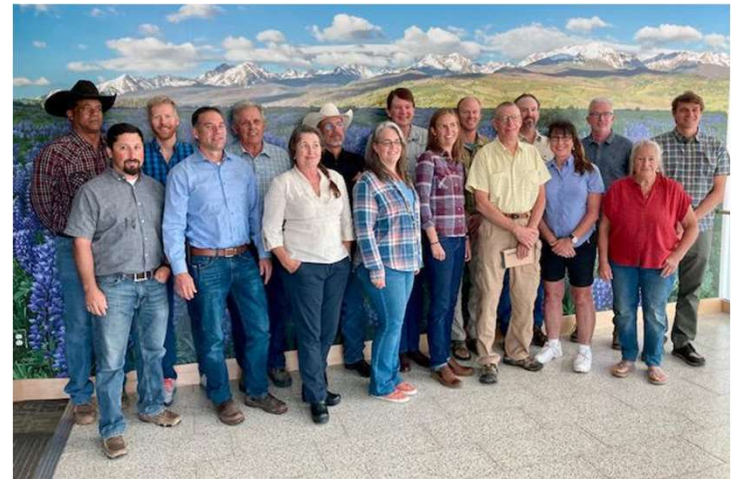
Technical Working Group: Wolf Management Considerations Report

Summarizes technical and experiential feedback on a variety of wolf management issues.

- **Wolf population management**
 - Conflict-centered vs. objective-based management
 - Avoiding misinterpretation of maximum vs. minimum population metrics
 - Zonal management
 - Wolf population self-regulation
 - Positive impacts and wolf management
- **Management of livestock conflict**
 - Non-lethal livestock conflict minimization
 - Post-depredation management of conflict wolves
 - Lethal management of conflict wolves
- **Management of interaction with ungulates and other wildlife species**
 - Ecological effects
 - Impacts of wolves to ungulates, big game, and big game hunting
 - Impacts of wolves to prey compromised by infectious disease
 - Interactions with other wildlife species
- **Management of conflict with humans, domestic pets and hunting dogs**
- **Wolf monitoring and expectations of stakeholders and public**
- **Social and/or economic dimensions of wolf management**

Stakeholder Advisory Group

- Offers a broad range of perspectives and experience to inform the social implications of wolf restoration and management strategies.
- Members selected by CPW Director in consultation with the Parks and Wildlife Commission Chair, 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.
- 17 voting members; 3 non-voting.
- Monthly SAG meetings were in person, are open to public observation, and include opportunity for public comment.
- Meeting summaries, schedule, public comment info & information about members and charter are available at <https://www.wolfengagementco.org/>



SAG Topics

- Wolf Restoration Logistics
- Preventative, Nonlethal Wolf-Livestock Conflict Minimization
- Livestock Compensation
- Impact-Based Management
- Funding
- Outreach and Education
- Ungulate Management
- Regulated Public Hunting

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Engagement Process, Education and Outreach

WOLF RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN, SUMMER 2021 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



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Wolf Restoration

WOLF RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN, SUMMER 2021 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



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Livestock Interactions

WOLF RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN, SUMMER 2021 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



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Wolf Management

WOLF RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN, SUMMER 2021 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



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 issue 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 canines, 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.



Other gray wolf reintroductions

Conducted in Yellowstone National Park and Central Idaho in 1995-1996.

Head released in Idaho (open cages and release animals immediately) and wolf released in Yellowstone (conditioned to pens and released after several weeks of adjustment to surroundings).

Mexican wolves (separate subspecies) have been reintroduced into Arizona, New Mexico, and Mexico.

Other wolf reintroduction programs have occurred in areas of the Great Lakes.

Reintroduction 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 (road versus soft releases).

Issues to be addressed through the gray wolf restoration & management planning 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 claims procedure questions.

• Claims forms must be fully completed and submitted to CPW; he claim is recommended for either approval or denial.

• If denied, claims are reviewed by the Parks and Wildlife orientation.

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 claims procedure questions.

• Claims forms must be fully completed and submitted to CPW; he claim is recommended for either approval or denial.

• If denied, claims are reviewed by the Parks and Wildlife orientation.

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?



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 sites?
- What concerns or questions do you have?



Additional educational resources

- CPW Wolf webpage: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/Wolves-Stay-Informed.aspx>
- There 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?




What we want to know from you

- What 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?



SAG Ungulate Management Recs



Overview/Discussion:

- Offers consensus recommendations on strategies to manage ungulate populations and hunter opportunities in the context of wolf reintroduction and management.
- Emphasizes that although impacts to outfitters and hunters are not addressed in Proposition 114, the SAG feels it is important to address them as part of the plan, and to work early and proactively to address tensions and frustrations.
- Recognizes difficulty of predicting local impacts (positive or negative), role of multiple stressors on ungulates, and role of hunting as an ungulate management tool that provides revenue to the state, economic opportunity and an extremely valuable source of protein/food.

Recommendations:

- Prioritize, ramp up and maintain monitoring of ungulate populations and actively manage for impacts at a local level.
- Continue growing ungulate herds.
- Develop and implement an Education and Outreach communications campaign.
- Consider a compensation program for affected outfitter businesses and/or clients. See attached documents on other state voucher/set aside programs.
- Create new opportunities and promote current opportunities for the public to provide non-hunting income to support wolves and wildlife management.
- Solidify robust and consistent funding.

SAG Statement on Regulated Public Hunting of Wolves

1. **The SAG does not have consensus on whether to allow regulated public hunting of wolves.**
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.**
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.**
4. **The SAG recognizes, by consensus, that the concept of regulated public hunting is distinct from targeted lethal control.**

SAG Outreach and Education Recs

Priority SAG consensus recommendations

1. Targeted outreach and education are an essential component of a successful restoration and management program that can increase trust, transparency, and awareness.
2. Substantially increase funding for education and outreach; effective outreach and education requires robust agency capacity, dedicated funding, and resources.

Additional SAG consensus recommendations

- Proactive, continuous, and reactive messaging
- General and audience-specific messages on what's in the plan, the goals, and potential positive and negative impacts
- Trusted messengers and role of partnerships
- Build empathy for different perspectives and highlight how stakeholders are working together
- Social science to inform messages
- Opportunities for individuals to financially support the plan
- Balance with other wildlife messaging
- Counter misinformation and misperceptions with best available science



Public Engagement

Summer 2021: 47 meetings plus online comment

- 16 in-person regional open houses (8 on the Western Slope)
- 17 in-person Western Colorado geographic focus groups
- 2 in-person Tribal consultations
- 10 virtual interest-based focus groups
- 2 virtual statewide town halls
- Online comment form and online open house materials
- Summarized in November 2021 report
- Approximately 3400 participants.

Ongoing:

- Public comments at PWC & SAG meetings
- Online comment at www.wolfengagementco.org

Upcoming:

- Keystone and CPW staff are working on specifics for comment (online and verbal) for the draft plan.



Tribal Consultation Meetings & Tribal & Indigenous Engagement

- Summer 2021
 - Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ignacio
 - Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Towaoc
 - Tribal & Indigenous focus group
- Ongoing 2021-2022
 - Updates and outreach to Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and CCIA
 - Consultations with Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
 - Southern Ute Indian Tribe representation on SAG (does not substitute for gov-to-gov consultation)



Stay Informed

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

- Sign up for the Gray Wolf Reintroduction eNewsletter
- Up-to-date information about public involvement opportunities, advisory groups and Commission discussions on wolf planning
- Provide a written comment
- Link to additional information & educational resources on the CPW website

