

January 2023

# Colorado Parks and Wildlife Financial Update: Wolves

## 1815 Gray Wolf Management

### Purpose:

Colorado voters decided on the November 2020 ballot that a plan regarding the reintroduction of gray wolves to the state shall be developed. The ballot initiative assigns to the Parks and Wildlife Commission the responsibility for developing a plan to restore and manage gray wolves in Colorado, to hold statewide hearings, to obtain public input, to oversee gray wolf restoration and management, to assist owners of livestock, to prevent and resolve conflicts and to pay compensation for livestock losses caused by gray wolves. Meanwhile, gray wolves currently exist within Colorado borders, and responding to reports, monitoring known animals, and responding to education and media requests are captured within this activity. This activity is intended to be used by any CPW staff performing any work related to gray wolves.

Activity includes:

- Provide technical expertise on the biology and conservation of the species;
- Manage the public process required by the ballot language;
- Respond to media and other inquiries directly related to the gray wolf reintroduction process in Colorado;
- Coordination with other relevant state and federal agencies on permitting, compensation, conflict minimization and other management considerations;
- Manage the CPW gray wolf observation reporting program;
- Monitoring gray wolf status and presence in the state;
- Following up on public reports of gray wolf observations;
- Provide technical expertise on gray wolf-livestock compensation and conflict minimization;
- Respond to and investigate gray wolf-livestock depredations;
- Process gray wolf-livestock claim forms;
- Provide gray wolf-livestock compensation and conflict minimization materials to livestock owners;
- All other gray wolf activities related to compensation and/or conflict minimization;
- Other gray wolf-specific work not captured above.

# Expenditures

- FY 2021-22 Actual Expenditures total \$1,126,964
  - \$1,100,000 General Fund
  - \$1,039 from nongame check-off fund
  - \$29,993 from Wildlife cash (lottery)
- FY 2022-23 Actual Expenditures YTD \$469,407
  - All General Fund

# Expenditures

- FY 2021-22
  - \$553,780 Staff time and benefits
  - \$573,185 Operating
    - Professional Services \$300k
    - Telemetry equipment \$115k
    - Rental of motor vehicles \$44k
    - Meetings \$40k
    - Per diem \ mileage \$30k

# Expenditures

- FY 2022-23
  - \$321,467 Staff time and benefits
  - \$147,940 Operating
    - Professional Services \$100k
  - \$1 million encumbered for environmental assessment

# Budget

- FY 2021-22 budget \$1,661,772
- FY 2022-23 budget \$2,147,853

