

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
Resolution – 16-01
Regarding Introduction/Reintroduction of Wolves

WHEREAS, the former Colorado Wildlife Commission adopted two resolutions regarding the active introduction/reintroduction of wolves to Colorado (dated January 1982 and September 15, 1989), and

WHEREAS, Colorado is not part of the historic range of the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*); the historical range of this subspecies of the gray wolf is restricted to Mexico and the southwestern United States, and

WHEREAS, reintroduced gray wolf (*C. l. occidentalis*) populations in the northern Rocky Mountains have expanded in numbers and distribution, and have exceeded recovery goals, and

WHEREAS, existing federal recovery plans for Mexican and gray wolves do not include efforts to introduce/reintroduce or actively establish wolf populations within Colorado, and

WHEREAS, the Commission accepted the 70 recommendations in the 2004 Wolf Management Working Group report which describes how wolves will be managed and tolerated throughout the state, once management authority is returned to the state, and includes

- accepting a wolf presence in Colorado with conditions
- urging that wolves migrating into Colorado be allowed to live with “no boundaries” where they find habitat
- advocating that wolves be left wherever found, provided they are not causing problems
- taking measures to avoid conflicts through non-lethal methods if possible and if wolves cause problems, manage to resolve the problems,
- recommending that funding for wolf management come from sources other than hunting license sales, and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has invested millions of dollars to manage diverse wildlife resources, including big game populations that support a significant recreational economy, and

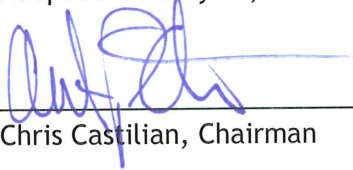
WHEREAS, the State of Colorado’s livestock ranching industry is of considerable importance to the state’s economy, and

WHEREAS, any introduction or reintroduction of wolves into Colorado is in potential conflict with the State’s livestock industry and current big game management efforts,

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission affirms its support of the Wolf Working Group's recommendations adopted by the Wildlife Commission in May 2005, opposes the intentional release of any wolves into Colorado, recommends that Mexican wolf recovery efforts be confined to the subspecies' historic range, and emphasizes the importance of bi-national recovery planning with Mexico.

Adopted January 13, 2016



Chris Castilian, Chairman