COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

OCTOBER 2026 · CONSERVATION · EDUCATION · PRESERVATION



ACCREDITED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

The Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization certified by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). Look for this logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things.

The contents of the material we include in our newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of CWWC. We collect information from other organizations, the web, news feeds, and/or other sources. We choose articles that are in the related field of education and conservation.

CERTIFICATE of EXCELLENCE tripadvisor

TO SUBSCRIBE to our monthly newsletter, go to wolfeducation.org and sign up on the newsletter page.

CONTACT US:
tours@wolfeducation.org
PO Box 713 Divide, CO 80814 719.687.9742

| SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

Stay up to date with the animals at CWWC, wolves and wildlife in the news, and advocacy opportunities.

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: ColoradoWolf&WildlifeCenter We post videos of the training and enrichment we are providing for our animals, and educational vlogs about wolves.

Follow us on Facebook: Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center to get updates on new YouTube video postings, read feel good stories from other wolf/wildlife organizations, and learn about new wildlife findings in the research field.

Follow us on Instagram: @cowolfcenter to see pictures of our beautiful animals, stories of what we are doing around the center, and ways you can help wild wolf populations. Keep your eye on our story for fun videos of the day to day lives of our wolves and keepers.

CWWC is on Bluesky! Follow us: @cowolfcenter.bsky.social

Follow us on Twitter: @Wolves_at_CWWC to see photos of our animals, read fun facts, and hear about events happening at CWWC.

Follow us on TikTok: @cowolfcenter for the videos you won't see on our other social media pages.

We hope to give you something to look forward to every day!

Colorado, this is only a glimpse of what Prop 83 would open the door to. The language was written vaguely on purpose, because vague language allows cruel practices to slip through. If Prop 83 passes, it could permit brutal methods like ***snares, leg-hold traps, bear baiting***, and other inhumane tools that have no place in ethical wildlife management.

Colorado is not taking away anyone's right to hunt or fish. It never has, and it never will. Responsible hunting has always been part of our state's heritage.

But cruelty is not.

If you love and respect Colorado's wildlife, please vote ***NO*** on Prop 83 — and share this message with your friends, neighbors, and community.

Thank you,
Darlene Kobobel



Wolf & Wildlife Warriors:

BOOTS ON THE GROUND FOR WILDLIFE

At the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center, our commitment to wildlife extends far beyond the sanctuary gates. This past month, our team took our advocacy directly to the public, working tirelessly to oppose Proposition 83 and raise awareness about the serious threats it poses to wildlife and humane wildlife management.

Our staff could be found standing proudly on busy intersections and major bridges throughout Colorado Springs and Denver, engaging with the community and encouraging voters to take a closer look at the impacts of Proposition 83. Together, we placed **100 "NO on 83" yard signs** helping amplify the message that Colorado's wildlife deserves better.













The effort reached every corner of Colorado. Kirk and I traveled to the **State Capitol**, while Darlene, Kelly, Shane, and Jay represented wildlife at the **Chile & Frijoles Festival in Pueblo**, speaking with voters face-to-face about why this issue matters. We made sever VOTE NO bumper stickers and have and still are advocating to every person on every tour about the importance of voting NO on 83. Also, there were numerous social media blogs from our media specialist, Michelle.

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To further expand our outreach, CWWC invested in **two electronic billboard advertisements** that will run throughout October until Election Day, ensuring thousands of Coloradans see the message every day.

I could not be prouder of our staff. They are more than animal caretakers and educators. They are **wolf and wildlife warriors**, willing to step into their communities, have important conversations, and stand up for the animals that cannot speak for themselves. Their passion, dedication, and willingness to be boots on the ground are helping make a difference for wildlife across Colorado.

Together, we are proving that conservation doesn't happen only behind sanctuary fences. It happens wherever people are willing to stand up and fight for what they believe in.

Thank you from Darlene and Rick
To my staff, friends, interns and volunteers
Kelly-Shane-Alexis-Catherine-Kirk-Carissa-Michelle-Jay-Stacy-Suzanne-Gavin-Charity-Abi-Kerry-Francine-Ariel-Sophia-Diane-Conner.

Webcam photos from the Denver digital billboard in Denver.

I would like to think Delia Malone who is the board President of Colorado Wild and Rhonda Dern who is a longtime friend of the Center and wolf warrior.

Many thanks for helping us make it possible to have this billboard.

Political advertisement is very expensive and donations are greatly welcomed with gratitude.

Thank you Delia and Rhonda!!





Before and stay tuned to progress reports and completion photos









Our new improved Silver fox enclosure. Rick is working on creating a waterfall and landscaping.



Fully recovered from mange and being released.

Darlene is a Fully licensed rehabber in the state of Colorado. Her expertise is with Fox and coyotes.



COMMEMORATIVE RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

- **$5,000 - Guardian of the Pack**
  Donors at this level will be honored with a 5.5" x 5.5" engraved plaque, creating a lasting tribute to their commitment to wildlife conservation. Limited to 48 plaques.
- **$10,000 - Wolf Legacy Founder**
  Donors at this premier level will receive a 5.5" x 11" engraved plaque, recognizing their significant role in shaping the future of the sanctuary. Limited to 24 plaques.
- **Personalized Recognition**
  Each plaque can be customized with the donor's chosen inscription. Corporate supporters may also include their company name and logo, providing a visible and enduring legacy of their support.

By participating in this exclusive recognition program, donors leave a permanent mark on the sanctuary while helping ensure the continued care and protection of wolves and wildlife for generations to come.



GATHERING / LEARNING / YEAR-ROUND COMFORT

WHERE CONNECTION LEADS TO CONSERVATION

Every tour at the Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center begins with a story: where wolves once roamed, where they live today, why they matter to healthy ecosystems, and how people can help shape their future.

The new Rendezvous Site will transform that first gathering into a more welcoming, inclusive, and engaging part of the experience. A permanent roof, overhead warmth, more room to gather comfortably, seating for those who need it, and modern education technology will give CWWC's tour guides better tools to bring the story of wolves and other wild canids to life.

More than a deck, it will become the front door to the Center's mission: preparing visitors to meet the animals that call CWWC home, understand their importance, and leave as stronger advocates for wildlife and the habitats that they depend upon.

01. ROOM TO GATHER
The expanded deck provides space for our large tour groups and views into nearby animal enclosures, creating a more engaging connection between the opening lesson and our animals.

02. SHELTER THROUGH THE SEASONS
A permanent roof offers dependable shade and protection, while integrated heat helps keep visitors comfortable during the winter months.

03. STORIES BROUGHT TO LIFE
Dynamic maps, images, and video will help educators tell a more complete story of wolves, connecting their past and present to the actions we can take to support their future.

04. A MORE COMFORTABLE WELCOME
Additional room, improved circulation, and integrated seating creates a more accommodating starting point for visitors of all ages and abilities.


EXISTING TOUR TRAILHEAD


A WELCOMING GATEWAY TO EVERY TOUR


COMFORT FOR ALL AGES & ABILITIES



BETTER TOOLS FOR MORE POWERFUL EDUCATION


SHADE, SHELTER, AND WARMTH IN EVERY SEASON


EVERY TOUR CREATES NEW VOICES FOR WOLVES

WANT TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Call our front desk for more details!

719.687.9742

Trump may strip Mexican gray wolf protections prematurely, risks further endangerment

Ellis Preston | Cronkite News | September 17, 2026



An experimental population of Mexican wolves, like the one shown here, lives in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. The wolves are protected under the Endangered Species Act. (File photo by Michael Hannan/Cronkite News)

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump initiated a review on the status of Mexican gray wolves on the Endangered Species List in an executive order earlier this month, despite the species' population count falling short of the minimum requirement.

It's a move conservationists argue ignores science and threatens to remove protection of Mexican wolves in order to appease the ranching industry, which has advocated against the species for decades.

"The Trump executive order is just a more extreme example of openly putting politics above science," said Carlos Carroll, an ecologist who studies the population growth of gray wolves.

According to Trump's executive order, the Secretary of the Interior has 90 days from Sept. 4 to decide whether the Mexican gray wolf species is healthy enough to be downlisted to the "threatened" status or be removed off the Endangered Species list altogether.

"FWS will be evaluating all applicable science, existing laws and the ESA listing status of Gray and Mexican Wolves," a spokesperson for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service said in a written statement to Cronkite News. "The Executive Order does not change the current threatened or endangered status of any wolf populations."

While the executive order does not immediately change the status of the species, Carroll and other conservationists have long voiced concerns about the long-term health of the wolf species if their endangered status is touched too soon.

As of 2025, there are 319 Mexican gray wolves living in the United States, between Arizona and New Mexico. For the past 50 years, the gray wolf subspecies has been marked as "endangered" on the list, giving them federal protection, along with federally initiated programs which assist with reintroduction measures and population monitoring.

To be downlisted from "endangered" to the "threatened" tier, the wolves must maintain a U.S. population average of 320 or more over the course of four years, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To be removed off the list completely, the wolves must average a population of 320 in the U.S. and 200 in Mexico for at least eight years; numbers that have not yet been reached.

"We still want to know the genetic health of the wild population before removing protections,"said Craig Miller, an Arizona senior representative at the Defenders of Wildlife

The FWS's own data show the Mexican gray wolves have not reached the population stability required for their endangered status to be revised in any capacity. They have averaged an estimated population of 276 over four years and 222 over eight years in the U.S., falling short of the required averages.

And based on their own population modeling, reaching a steady 320 population count in the United States is necessary for the species' resiliency without federal intervention, according to the FWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan.

An earlier research study commissioned by the FWS in 2013 found that a wolf population of 750 over an eight year period was more likely to facilitate a self-sustaining species.

Carroll, who was one of the ecologists who worked on the 2013 study, said the agency dismissed the findings and hired a new team of researchers who decided a wolf population of 320 was a sufficient measurement. In 2019 Carroll and a group of researchers questioned the scientific integrity of the new findings.

"The last iteration of the recovery group was dominated by the state game agencies," Carroll said. "So it's not surprising to me that they ended up with a lower number."

Both Carroll and Miller said they expect the federal government's sharp pivot was partially due to a pacifying attempt to appeal to the deer-hunter rancher community, which has been vocal against the reintroduction of the wolves.

Ginger Cheney is a rancher located along the Arizona-New Mexico border in Blue, Arizona, with 300 heads of cattle between her two ranches. She said this past year she had at least 16 cows killed by Mexican gray wolves.

Cheney wasn't concerned that the federal government's possible premature status revision would put the wolf population at risk, because she said she did not believe the official count of 319 Mexican gray wolves was correct. She said she believes the count is much higher and a portion of wolves were miscounted.

"There's a lot of uncollared wolves out there, in unknown packs," Cheney said. "I don't think that they need to worry that we haven't hit the 320 because we have."

She said lethal measures are the most effective ways of securing her cattle's safety.

In his executive order, Trump suggested that the Department of the Interior consider allowing lethal removal of Mexican gray wolves to assist ranchers in combating livestock predation.

"Illegal killing remains their greatest threat," Miller said. "The president's suggestion that, you know, people can shoot them now is blatantly wrong, and it demonstrates a disturbing disregard for both science and the law."

Conservationists continue to fight for the protection of the animals.

"It doesn't take much for one bad year and it can dip again," said Hollie Colahan, the executive director of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. "Just want to see that it's at that level and then see that it can maintain that level."

Colahan said if the wolf species is removed from the Endangered Species list now, it is likely the population will decline.

"That 320 over four years was a decision that was based on science," Colahan said. "It was based on the biology of the wolves and the population."

According to the FWS' 2017 recovery plan, the eight year period to remove the wolves from the Endangered Species list is approximately two wolf generations, providing assurance that reproduction and mortality rates are "performing such that recovered status is likely to be maintained after delisting."

"We consider a resilient population to be one that is able to maintain at least a 90% likelihood of persistence over a 100-year period," the Fish and Wildlife Service said in the recovery plan.

Colahan said averaging the population over a longer period of time is also important in case one measured year is a "fluke," inaccurately representing the long-term population size.

Colahan said removing the wolves from the list is counterproductive, because the species' population will presumably drop to endangerment level again, resulting in another extensive process to get them back under endangered status.

"What we want to do is get them up to the level that we feel they're self-sustaining, so they don't need to be on there anymore, and don't have to come back on the list at some future point," Colahan said.

If the wolves are removed from the list completely, they will lose all federal protections and funding for reintroduction programs. The wolves' protections will then be the responsibility of each state.

Jim Devos, Mexican wolf coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, said the department does not comment on executive orders, but does manage the wolf population along with state and federal partners.

Colahan said she remains concerned the state may follow the federal government's lead, upsetting the ecosystem. "Wolves being at the top there, those apex predators are really important in keeping things in balance."

Our Zoo. Their Future.

Pueblo ZOO

Empower. Engage. Conserve.

YES ON 2B

What will in the 2B ballot measure?

Come November, The citizens of the City of Pueblo are being asked to approve a 0.167% retail sales tax to support the zoo starting in 2027. That's one sixth of a cent or less than $0.17 on every $100 spent in Pueblo.

Why does the Zoo need a tax?

A significant portion of the Zoo's budget relies on the fluctuating City General Fund. Meaning we compete for the same dollars as police and fire departments.

With city budget cuts and rising costs, the zoo has been left with minimal reserve funds leaving us in need of more stable and secure funding.

Doesn't the City run the Zoo?

NO.

This is a common misconception. The City owns the land and the buildings but the non-profit organization, the Pueblo Zoological Society, runs operations. Since it took over management in 1991, the Society has run the zoo at a significantly lower cost than the City was able to. Staff are employed by the non-profit entity

What would this money be used for?

Feeding animals

Your support funds the food, the medicine, the supplies and the professional, caring staff who deliver it.

Feeding minds.

Our professional educators support teachers and students across the region.

Ensuring safety.

Funding helps pay for security systems, safety training and facility repairs and upgrades.

Facility preservation.

History has a cost...in the form of maintaining and repairing legacy buildings and saving up for their future.

How does the Zoo benefit Pueblo?

$20 million annual direct and indirect economic impact.

>10,000 students served annually

>90,000 visitors

9 days of free or deeply discounted program days.

Our Zoo. Their Future.

Pueblo ZOO

Empower. Engage. Conserve.

What happens if the tax doesn't pass?

CLOSED

If funding trends continue, the Zoo will likely be looking at closure in 2-3 years. It will take considerable effort, time and expense to relocate animals so the zoo would likely close to the public sooner.

How is the zoo currently funded?

<u>The zoo relies on three primary categories of funding</u> Governmental (City/County); Earned revenue (admissions, events, programs); Fundraising (grants & donors)

Why can't the zoo do more to raise their own funds?

The zoo has made significant progress in increasing the funds they raise. However, these efforts are limited by the number of staff they are able to employ within the budget. We do many events, but they are time and effort intensive and we have reached a cap. Also, funding sources are being challenged (grants, education programs) while expense increases are outpacing revenue generating abilities.

Why can't the zoo cut costs?

Many of the increases in the cost of running zoos are due to the improvements zoos have made in the quality of care for animals. As an AZA accredited zoo, we are required to uphold the highest standards in the treatment of animals which include adequate exhibit and housing spaces, enriching environments, nutritious food and adequate medical treatment. The zoo runs on a very lean budget. Some say the zoo has been on a "starvation diet" for years with inadequate funding.

How can the zoo still build exhibits and structures if the zoo doesn't have money?

The few capital projects we are pursuing are required to maintain our accreditation status and are paid for through funds that are restricted by donors for that purpose.

What happens if the tax initiative passes?

Approval will allow the the Zoo to:

- Adequately fund operations
- Preserve, maintain and enhance historic WPA structures
- Secure adequate reserves to ensure the safety of animals and guests and maintenance of aging facilities and equipment to ensure the zoo's future.
- Continue offering education and community support and possibly free up public funds for non-profits and schools.
- Modernize animal exhibits and guest features
- Enhance the zoo's collections, features and offerings to increase growth potential

For more campaign information, or to sign up for campaign materials - scan the QR code or visit: ourzootheirfuture.com

HOWLOWEEN



SUNDAY
OCTOBER 25TH
4-6pm

JOIN US AS WE PASS OUT MEAT FILLED PUMPKINS TO ALL THE WOLVES!

+ ENJOY A BON FIRE AND REFRESHMENTS.

$40 ages 12+
$20 ages 6-11

COLORADO WOLF AND WILDLIFE CENTER
Reservations Required · 719.687.9742 · wolfeducation.org

Red Wolf
Specialty License Plate Initiative

HELP US SECURE A RED WOLF SPECIALTY PLATE TO FUND RECOVERY IN NORTH CAROLINA

Our Goal & Your Impact

- **300-500 NC residents signed up** with fees paid by February 14, 2027!
- Proceeds will go to **Red Wolf recovery** for front line work such as coexistence efforts, field supplies, acclimation pens, educational outreach, and more!

Show Your Interest

- **Scan** the QR code to fill out our interest form!
- Check "yes" to **sign up** for campaign newsletters!
- **Follow along** for updates on new campaign roll-outs that include how you can get involved, license plate artwork unveiling, outreach efforts, and more!

SHARE SHARE SHARE!

- **Share** with your North Carolina community!
- **Learn more** about Red Wolf recovery by visiting www.fws.gov/project/red-wolf-recovery-program

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE!



SUPPORTING ENDANGERED RED WOLVES AND THEIR FUTURE IN NORTH CAROLINA
WWW.REDWOLVES.COM

Adoption corner

TCRAS

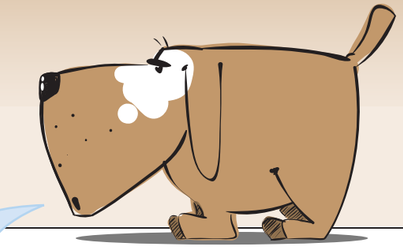
Teller County Regional Animal Shelter

tcrascolorado.org · 719.686.7707

SLVAWS

San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society

slvaws.org · 719.587.woof (9663)



NOTE - Our shelter is still open for adoptions, but we are asking that you call ahead and make an appointment before coming in to the shelter - 719-686-7707.

MITTEN »



Mitten is a sweet 4-month-old kitten who is looking for a home to grow up in. She has worked hard to learn to trust people and has come out of her shell. She has spent most of her time with us in a foster home, learning more and more about how wonderful it is to be in a home. Mitten is ready to find her new beginning!



« QUINN

Quinn is a 2-year-old hound mix who is incredibly sweet and a little bit shy. She has been in the shelter since July 18th, and we would love for her to start her new beginning. She will need a few extra visits to help her with the transition into a new home. We know there is a home out there that's perfect for Quinn!

SLVAWS

Every Saturday 10am-4pm adoption fairs in Colorado Springs. Please check our website www.slvaws.org for our next Saturday location.

DIESEL »



Diesel is a 6 yr old Staffie. He was at our shelter for 4 years, adopted for 1 year, just returned because of unforeseen circumstances. ~70 lbs. Very allergic to sagebrush which abounds at our shelter. His recent allergy shot is good for about a year. Please give him a home away from sagebrush. Neutered, all shots. Best with female dogs.



« HAHA

HaHa is an 8 year old boxer/pit. He has had a hard life of multiple owners. Neutered, all vacc's current. Best with female dogs.