



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

MARCH 2022 • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • PRESERVATION



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| SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

While we are all coping with our new way of life, you can still stay up to date with the animals here at CWWC. We are working to keep you involved in the work we are doing here, knowing how our animals are doing, and staying educated about wildlife news.


 **Subscribe to our YouTube Channel:**
[ColoradoWolf&WildlifeCenter](https://www.youtube.com/ColoradoWolf&WildlifeCenter)

We post bi-weekly videos of the training and enrichment we are providing for our animals. Our bi-weekly educational vlog about wolves—*Wolf Wisdom with Erika*—talks about the wolf reintroduction of wolves in Colorado, and other hot topics.

 **Follow us on Facebook:**
[ColoradoWolfandWildlifeCenter](https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoWolfandWildlifeCenter)

Thursdays between 3-4pm we have a Ask a Keeper livestream where you can ask us all those questions you've been dying to know. Every Friday at 8pm we post a video of one of

our keepers howling with the wolves for the Go Outside and Howl at 8 movement. We also share current wildlife events and stories that are happening around the world to keep you informed.

 **Follow us on Instagram:**
[cowolfcenter](https://www.instagram.com/cowolfcenter)

We post pictures of our beautiful animals, share stories of what we are doing around the center, and keep you up to date on everything wolf and wildlife related. Keep your eye on our story for fun videos of the day to day lives of our wolves and keepers.

We will also be doing monthly and possibly weekly giveaways and sales. These will only be announced on our social media so make sure you follow us on every platform and turn on your notifications.

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

GIVING THANKS TO THE BIGGEST VOICES FOR WOLVES IN COLORADO!

CWWC is a leader in wolf conservation and it is mainly because of the dedicated staff and the countless followers of our Center that make this claim possible.

I would like to thank my staff for being such a strong voice for not only the reintroduction of the wolves in 2023, but the many real life issues that wolves face across our nation.

Thank you to our people on social media, those who have visited and became a voice in many ways, those who have contributed both physically to our Center and financially. You are so important and we appreciate you.

And **thank you** to those behind the scenes.

As for me and anyone that knows me, I will fight for what I believe in forever. I will do whatever I can to be a strong voice, improve laws, educate, create ways to be more effective, and dedicate my life for wolves and wildlife.

Darlene Kobobel

President/ Founder, Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center

Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center is happy to announce that we will be depositing \$9,106.77 into the Colorado Wolf Co-Existence Fund thanks to your donations and our match for the month of February's Betty White challenge! I started the fund around February 2021 after Prop.#114 passed for the reintroduction of the Gray wolf in Colorado. As of today, we now have \$37,780.77!

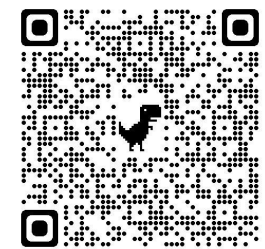
Now, we have another challenge.

From April 1st to July 4th, our goal is to hit \$50,000 and CWWC will again match dollar for dollar.

Thank you again for believing in this important mission.



The Colorado Wolf
Co-Existence Fund



Donate
Today!

What is the fund for?

The Colorado Wolf Co-Existence Fund was created to support the long term success of the restoration program when wolves arrive in Colorado in 2023.

What will the money be used for?

The fund will be used for educational programs and increasing awareness about human-predator coexistence. Portions of the fund may be used to support non-lethal anti-predation measures to reduce conflicts between ranchers and wolves. Non-lethal anti-predation measures include range riders, livestock dogs, hazing, fladry, improved fencing, and reducing attractants such as carcasses left in the field. CWWC believes that there are ways to co-exist without lethal control.

Is my donation tax deductible?

Yes. The Colorado Wolf Co-Existence Fund is an extension of Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center which is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

How will I know if my donation has made a difference?

You can subscribe to our Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Centers' monthly newsletter (this is one of them!). We will keep you updated on our progress.

Original Photo by:
@scottgrassphotography

Painting by:
@agnieszkaelliott



Send your artwork to
tours@wolfeducation.org

CALLING ALL WHO CAN HELP!

This is a paid volunteer position who wants to help wolves and be a wolf and cow watcher for a night or two.

During calving season, we are asking volunteers to help reduce potential for conflict. We need volunteers to help during some of the open stretches left in April. We are able to offer \$150 per night plus mileage understanding the high cost of fuel.

The "job", you will be able to sleep in their vehicles. Between the fladry, fox lights, and car engine and lights, we believe this will be plenty efficient in keeping wolves out of the pasture. The shifts will be from 11-6am.

Here are the dates in need - the earlier dates are the most critical as we have had last minute cancellations. Folks can take one to two nights. **Folks must have a reliable vehicle - all wheel drive at minimum with good tires.** Road and ranch is very muddy and wet. Friendly dogs allowed; may bring a friend to co-watch.

This location is in Waldon, Colorado.

March 30 - April 3 (most critical due to short notice)

April 16 and 17

April 21 - 25

April 27 - 30

Contact: Karin Vardaman
Working Circle | www.workingcircle.org
(949) 429 9950

In Need of a Loving Home

This is Willow, a Basenji mix. Very smart, very sweet, and very agile. She's a little over 2 years old who loves to play, go on walks, and sweaters. I would be looking for someone who has a fenced in yard, can take her on walks, hikes, etc. She also should be a single dog, but she is the biggest sweetheart with people. And if she isn't wearing a sweater she gets upset.

Ethan Ray
erray1212@yahoo.com
for more information



Willow



HELP US TO BUILD OUR NEW RED WOLF ENCLOSURE



We are in the process of building our new American Red Wolf enclosure! It is quite the process as it starts with completely demolishing the old enclosure, cutting down and removing dead trees, and then rebuilding it. The main difference on this one is that the new enclosure will need to meet SSP/ AZA/CPW standards because the Red wolf is a federally endangered wolf. That means 8' high chain link, 3' cantilever tops and two catch pens. This enclosure will cost in the upper \$30,000 range. If you are interested in donating to help us financially with the costs, please send to the address to the left. Any donation of \$250.00 or more, your name will be added to our Red Wolf monument.



WAYS TO CO-EXIST WITH WOLVES

www.woodriverwolfproject.org/tools



<https://tinyurl.com/RestoreWolfProtection>

HOW TO BE A VOICE RIGHT NOW

Written comments are encouraged to be provided through the online comment form available at

Wolf Engagement CO Comment Form | tinyurl.com/weo-comment

Verbal comment opportunities are available in person at the **SAG meetings** as well as in person and/or virtually on Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting agendas

Wolf Engagement CO | tinyurl.com/weo-advgrps

CPW Meetings | tinyurl.com/cpw-meet

I will also keep you updated on the progress that is being made (good or not so good) from every SAG meeting I attend for the next 14 months. I can tell you that now is the time to speak up and become part of this process as it is being formed and it will become the way Colorado manages our wolves.

YOU can help prevent our wolves from being like what has happened in Idaho and Montana. Be their voice now.



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

The Wildlife Trade is the 4th Most Lucrative Illegal Trade in the World



ILLEGAL TRADE IN COLORADO

Although the term “poaching” conjures scenes of far-flung lands where exotic animals such as elephants and Bengal tigers are always in demand, the practice of illegally killing or capturing wildlife isn’t just the domain of the developing world. It’s also a problem in the United States, and specifically here in Colorado. CPW issues about 3,300 poaching citations each year. Many more instances likely go undetected: By some estimates, poachers claim as many animals in the Centennial State as lawful hunters do.

According to Bob Thompson, CPW’s lead wildlife investigator, this can have devastating effects on the state’s wildlife populations. In southeastern Colorado, for example, box turtle populations have plummeted after poachers began scooping them up to sell to the pet industry. And poachers who use illegal means to target trophy animals can weaken entire herds. “When you take the dominant males out of the population, you leave the inferior males to breed,” Thompson says, “and that impacts the genetics of the herd and affects their vigor.”

ILLEGAL TRADE WORLD WIDE

A recent report by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature showed that between 1970 and 2014 the vertebrate population declined by an average of 60 percent. While this was mostly due to habitat loss, the illegal trade in wildlife—whether rhino horn, tiger bone, or animals captured for the exotic pet market—poses a growing threat to many species’ survival

The most obviously affected animals are the big, charismatic megafauna, like rhinos, elephants, tigers, and even bears. In reality, though, we’re talking about millions of individual animals of thousands of species. It spans poaching for jewelry, pets, traditional medicines, trophies, or wild meat, which some cultures consider a luxury item. This is a global trade. However, much of the demand for illegal wildlife products is in Asia, especially in China and Vietnam. That’s predominantly because wealth in those places has been increasing over the past decades, so people who previously could not afford things like ivory jewelry or rhino horn carvings now can do so. There’s more demand than there is supply.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Between 35,000 – 50,000 african elephants are poached EVERY year.
- There are more tigers in American backyards than in the wild.
- Three rhinos are poached every day.
- More than one million pangolins have been traded in the past 10 years.
- Approximately 28,300 freshwater turtles are traded each day.
- Around 30 percent of the Asian elephant population is in captivity.
- The illegal wildlife trade generates between five and 20 billion dollars, annually.
- Over the past 25 years, the wholesale price of ivory in China has risen from five dollars to 2,100 dollars.
- Over 1,000 rangers have been killed in the past 10 years.

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Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center is a proud member of the AZA Wildlife Trafficking Alliance.

LEARN MORE AT THESE LINKS

- > Inside the disturbing world of illegal wildlife trade · [nationalgeographic.com](https://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- > Banning trophy hunting imports won’t save the world’s wildlife · [theconversation.com](https://www.theconversation.com)
- > What Happens to Pet Cockatoos Confiscated From Smugglers? · [international.thenewslens.com](https://www.international.thenewslens.com)

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RED ALERT

A wolf recovery program's failure shows how the Fish and Wildlife Service has lost its way.

By Stephen Nash | The Progressive | December 15, 2020



Not long ago, I rolled into windblown Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, seeking to renew an old acquaintance—with a program aimed at rescuing the red wolf, a critically endangered species, from extinction.

The refuge is in a boggy and buggy section of coastal North Carolina, a wide amber floodplain of tall reeds and scrub trees. It is only sparsely inhabited—unless you count otters, cottontails, raccoons, and a long list of shorebirds. There's a significant population of black bears here, too. One stared me down along a dirt road in the refuge before it made a leisurely pivot and ambled off into a thicket.

This is also home, just barely, to *Canis rufus*, the rarest kind of wolf on the planet. I called the offices of the refuge, whose website invites visitors to occasional “wolf howlings,” but I was told that the program has been discontinued. Indeed, wild red wolves may themselves soon be discontinued.

Fossil evidence indicates that red wolves inhabited the region from Florida to New York and west to the Mississippi River for nearly all of the past ten thousand years. But they've arrived at the edge of extinction in the wild now because of a derelict federal agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Paradoxically, it is the same agency that once rescued them.

The program's near-collapse is emblematic of a hunkered-down Service, its upper-level

administrative culture long broken. Through several national administrations, the agency has been chronically allergic to controversy about endangered species, often ready to kneecap its own mission with delays, evasions, and capitulations.

“What we've seen is that the [Washington,] D.C., office has, over time, purged everyone with an interest in endangered species,” says Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity. “Those people are gone. The ones who are left look at endangered species as just a headache.”

The last seventeen wild red wolves that could be found were captured by the Fish and Wildlife Service in Texas and Louisiana in the 1970s. In the 1990s, I talked with exuberant biologists who were beginning to reintroduce some of their captive-bred descendants to the wild. All that promise has now dissipated.

“While wild red wolves have faced a number of threats, the biggest threat in recent years has been the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service itself,” a group of litigants has charged. The Service is supposed to be the national custodian of nonmarine endangered species and the lead agency for attempts to pull these species back toward sustained survival.

The remnant wild red wolf population at Alligator River represents an investment of decades of inspired, science-based restoration work and tens of millions of dollars. At its highest point, around

2004, the program boasted an estimated population of as many as 150 wolves. By late 2020, only seven radio-collared wolves and a small number of others remained in the wild. In 2019 and again in 2020, no new pups were born, the only time this has happened in more than thirty years.

In a 2019 survey of Fish and Wildlife Service employees conducted by the Union of Concerned Scientists, a quarter said they were asked or told to avoid work on topics deemed politically contentious. More than half reported the diversion of funds or staff time away from work viewed as politically contentious. More than two-thirds said political interests are a burden to science-based decision-making at the agency.

It may be tempting to blame all of this on the outgoing Trump Administration, which has taken sweeping measures to roll back protections in the Endangered Species Act. But the problem predates Trump. The Obama Administration's Fish and Wildlife Service chief, for instance, championed an epic abdication of federal responsibility.

The red wolf is smaller than the Western gray wolf, but a bit larger than a coyote. It is shy and avoids humans. There are only six documented cases, over the decades of the reintroduction program, of these animals preying on chickens or other livestock. Nonetheless, gunshot mortality is the most common cause of red wolf deaths by far—

fifty-two wolves in the past ten years. Sometimes, they are mistaken for coyotes; other times, it's likely to be out of local hostility.

Three wolves have been shot in the past two years. The Fish and Wildlife Service declined to tell me about the progress of any investigation into recent wolf deaths. Despite multiple requests, the agency refused to discuss any aspect of its red wolf program.

In surveys, as wildlife biologist Joe Hinton told me, a heavy majority of local landowners expressed either support for or indifference to the program. Most allowed biologists access to their property to check on the wolves. There was a measure of local opposition, however, and in 2018 the Fish and Wildlife Service proposed cutting back the reintroduction area, made up of public and private lands in the Alligator River area, by nearly 90 percent.

In a stunning move, it had also begun to issue permits to disgruntled private landowners to kill endangered wolves on their property, whether or not they had been shown to cause harm. Reintroductions of captive wolves were halted, as were other highly effective practices that had been introduced to bolster reproduction over the years. Program staff were also cut.

“Wild red wolves now face a perilously high risk of extinction,” says wildlife biologist and wolf

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specialist John Vucetich of Michigan Technological University. “The Service’s recent actions seem consistent with abandoning red wolves rather than recovering them.”

Vucetich’s work was cited by a group of forty-one biologists, geneticists, and other conservation scientists who signed on to a July 2018 letter protesting the program’s disintegration.

When the Fish and Wildlife Service attempted to defend its actions in court, a federal judge, in a scathing ruling, reminded the agency of its own dictum: “Wildlife are not the property of landowners but belong to the public and are managed by federal and state governments for the public good.” The court enjoined the Fish and Wildlife Service from giving private citizens permission to kill red wolves without cause, and declared the agency to be in violation of the Endangered Species Act, for failing to conserve the plummeting wild wolf population.

The agency has produced little but word salad since that court order. In September, the Southern Environmental Law Center gave notice that, once again, it intends to file suit to try to force the agency to follow the law. Since the order, “the remaining wild red wolf population has been halved yet again and has fallen to an unprecedented and dire state,” the notice says.

The Fish and Wildlife Service declares on its

website that, even if the red wolf reintroduction project in Eastern North Carolina ends, “the Service will continue to work towards the recovery goal,” which calls for three wild and self-sustaining populations throughout the species’ historical range.

There are still about 250 captive red wolves at cooperating zoos and wildlife parks around the United States but the calamitous failure at Alligator River will make other initiatives far more difficult.

Maggie Howell, executive director of New York’s Wolf Conservation Center, has protected and bred captive red wolves for twenty years. “Being a part of this program and seeing the population rise and be replicated by other programs and then to see it just fall apart has been pretty devastating to witness,” she says. “This was a program that was working. It would just be heartbreaking if it was all done in vain.”

Howell would want any new efforts at reintroduction to avoid the mistakes of the past, like taking away most of the red wolves’ habitat and allowing them to be shot for no reason. “The whole purpose is to have them be functioning, viable wolves on a wild landscape,” she says. “Doing what they do—hunting, having pups, and having their impact on their native ecosystem.”

But achieving that goal runs counter to the Fish and Wildlife Service template of caving in to special

interests and their Congressional allies at the expense of endangered species—also including bats, wolverines, lynxes, Florida panthers, and grizzly bears. The cost in terms of lost and diminished species is incalculable.

In the Southwest, the reintroduction of Mexican gray wolves has seen years of delay, temporizing, and litigation. (In late October, the administration of Donald Trump removed the Northern gray wolf from its list of endangered species.)

Another example is the magnificent jaguar, which could once be found from California to Louisiana. A few have reentered the United States from Mexico since the 1990s despite walls, traps, and rifles, but the Fish and Wildlife Service has thrown no welcoming parties. For years, it resisted declaring the jaguar an endangered species until forced to do so by an adverse court ruling. Then it dragged its feet on designating critical habitat and preparing a recovery plan.

And in 2014, after that was finally accomplished, a Fish and Wildlife Service administrator overruled his agency’s own biologists and approved an eight-square-mile copper mine, owned by a Canadian company, within the newly “protected” jaguar habitat. (That project is pending.)

The Fish and Wildlife Service’s innovative and endlessly patient front-line biologists have scored many successes, heralded and otherwise. The increasingly robust bald eagle population is the agency’s poster child. But its mission might be better served by sending those biologists to a new agency, freed from the enmired administrative culture of the FWS.

There is precedent: After the Deepwater Horizon oil spill nightmare in 2010, the Obama Administration dissolved the thoroughly corrupted Minerals Management Service, moving its regulatory work to new agencies.

It is legitimate to wonder, of course, why that new venture would have any greater success, if our national administration continued to be indifferent and conflict-averse. Or if it were implacably hostile to wildlife, like the Trump squad.

Then, too, it seems unrealistic to suppose that all but a few career civil servants will fall on their swords on behalf of rare species—that they’d risk damaging battles with abraded locals and faint-hearted higher-ups. Are chances better than fair that you and I wouldn’t, either? That kind of official

courage at the FWS has to be provoked by loud, tenacious public support.

Now is a good time to begin thinking this through. According to a 2019 Gallup Poll, public support for endangered species remains extraordinarily strong. Eighty-eight percent said they worry about the extinction of plant and animal species to some degree; 68 percent “a great deal or a fair amount.”

With the new administration, prolonged pushback from the public could be marshaled against the myopia, sniping, and pandering of those in Congress for whom extinction of species that have been on the planet for millennia or millions of years is less important than the next election.

In late 2019, North Carolina’s Democratic Governor Roy Cooper warned Trump’s Interior Secretary David Bernhardt that, with regard to the red wolf, “the continued decline of this critically endangered species is unacceptable.”

On October 27, 2020, Representative Donald McEachin, Democrat of Virginia, and twenty-three other members of Congress sent a letter to Bernhardt urging the agency to “commit to the preservation and protection of our nation’s imperiled species by taking the actions necessary to ensure a prosperous future for the American red wolf.”

We assumed our role as protectors of the growing list of nearly extinct plants and animals almost half a century ago, with the passage of the Endangered Species Act, the first of its kind in the world. Since then, the prospect of mass extinctions has grown far more immediate—a million species worldwide, according to a recent United Nations report.

“Nothing is more priceless and worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed,” Republican President Richard Nixon said on signing the act into law in 1973. But if we want to keep that promise—it’s ours, not his—we’ll have to find a national government and a Fish and Wildlife Service that will fight for it.

Subject Areas:

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Evolutionary biology

Why men trophy hunt

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1. Introduction

The killing of Cecil the lion (*Panthera leo*) ignited enduring and increasingly global discussion about trophy hunting [1]. Yet, policy debate about its benefits and costs (e.g. [2,3]) focuses only on the hunted species and biodiversity, not the unique behaviour of hunters. Some contemporary recreational hunters from the developed world behave curiously, commonly targeting ‘trophies’: individuals within populations with large body or ornament size, as well as rare and/or inedible species, like carnivores [4]. Although contemporary hunters have been classified according to implied motivation (i.e. for meat, recreation, trophy or population control, [5,6]) as well the ‘multiple satisfactions’ they seek while hunting (affiliation, appreciation, achievement; [7], an evolutionary explanation of the motivation underlying trophy hunting (and big-game fishing) has never been pursued. Too costly (difficult, dangerous) a behaviour to be common among other vertebrate predators, we postulate that trophy hunting is in fact motivated by the costs hunters accept. We build on empirical and theoretical contributions from evolutionary anthropology to hypothesize that signalling these costs to others is key to understanding, and perhaps influencing, this otherwise perplexing activity.

2. Man the show off?

Subsistence hunting among traditional ‘hunter–gatherers’, which also targets larger-bodied prey, provides a starting point for understanding trophy hunters from the developed world. Owing to disagreement over the relative importance of potential benefits men receive from hunting, however, evolutionary explanations as to why subsistence hunters target large prey attract competing theories and significant controversy. Some assert that energetic and nutritional returns to hunters and individuals they provision best explain why men accept the costs of big-game hunting (e.g. [8,9]). Others invoke the pressure to share large prey as an explanation for wide distribution of meat (e.g. [10]). But why target prey that will be mostly consumed by others? An alternative hypothesis, consistent with data across hunter–gatherer systems, starts by noting that men generally target species that are not only large-bodied but also—and, importantly—impose high cost (i.e. high failure risk; [11,12]). The hypothesis considers the carcass not only as food but also a signal of the costs associated with the hunter’s accomplishment.

The Meriam peoples of Australia provide a flagship illustration of this association. There, men, women and children collect green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) when they come ashore to lay eggs. In contrast, only men hunt them at sea. Pursuing turtles in boats, hunters accept significant economic and personal cost, including a



Figure 1. Social media provides some trophy hunters a vast audience to which to signal an ability to absorb the costs of trophy hunting.

dive into dangerous waters [13], despite the fact that most of what they acquire will be consumed by other community members [14,15].

Such seemingly irrational behaviour is resolved by costly signalling theory [16] from which the hypothesis draws. The theory considers the social status and prestige that accrue to successful hunters. The Maasai peoples of eastern Africa themselves describe lion killing as a manhood ritual that awards prestige to the hunter who first spears the animal [17]. Why is status awarded? Simply put, killing large, dangerous, and/or rare prey is difficult with high failure risks that impose costs on the hunter. Accordingly, successful hunts signal underlying qualities to rivals and potential allies. This holds true for successful Meriam turtle hunters, who gain social recognition, get married earlier to higher-quality mates, and have more surviving children [14]. For such behaviour to be maintained, even the attempted hunt must signal that the hunter can sustain the handicap of high-cost, low-consumption activity, providing honest evidence of underlying phenotypic quality [14,15,16].

We propose that an assessment of contemporary trophy hunting behaviour offers fresh additional evidence for a costly signalling model to explain any big-game hunting. First, inedible species, like carnivores commonly targeted by trophy hunters, make nutritional and sharing hypotheses implausible. Second, evidence for show-off behaviour appears clear. Trophy hunters commonly pose for photographs with their prey, with the heads, hides and ornamentation prepared for display [18]. Interestingly, similar costly display occurs in other taxa. For example, chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) likewise pay a cost in time and effort spent hunting without commensurate food consumption gains; interpretations of related display behaviour support a social status model (reviewed in [19]). Similarly, some seabirds like the pigeon guillemot (*Cepphus columba*) show off ‘display fish’, sometimes for hours. Often discarding them, the behaviour is likewise thought to be social, related to site-ownership display [20]. Third, whereas some might argue that caloric returns for edible trophy hunted species are high and associated costs of failure low (owing to advanced killing

technology and foods easily purchased by participants), the behaviour still imposes costs that guarantee the honesty of the signal; while rarely costly in terms of danger or difficulty, hunts for endangered species can be extraordinarily expensive. Moreover, even the everyday hunter who targets larger individuals within populations pays the opportunity costs of forgoing income-generating activities as well as sustenance lost by passing up smaller, abundant prey. We note that the signal can honestly reflect a hunter’s socio-economic standing (and qualities that underlie it) but not necessarily any remarkable physical abilities ([21]; figure 1), given the efficient technology contemporary trophy hunters employ [4].

A signalling model assumes benefits to both signaller and audience, the latter benefiting from the information they can then use in their own ways. It is unclear what specific benefits—other than increased status—might accrue to trophy hunters. Trophy hunting systems do not lend themselves to testing for patterns associated with reproductive success, as in the Meriam example above. Hunting associations (e.g. Boone and Crockett Club, Safari Club International), however, have elaborate scoring systems that award status. We predict that greater status is bestowed upon those killing larger and/or rarer (i.e. costly) animals. Similarly, no detailed data exist on the potential audience, but we suspect hunters would broadcast the signal to friends and family, colleagues and members of hunting associations or social media groups (see below). Survey and/or interview data, commonly collected in the context of wildlife management or research, may be able to clarify audience composition. If we accept that trophy hunting simply provides a vehicle for status-accumulation, such an interpretation is consistent with those related to the purchase and display of luxury objects (e.g. expensive automobiles, clothes and jewellery), long proposed to serve as forms of competitive signalling [22]. Finally, given that women in hunter–gatherer societies overwhelmingly target small, predictable prey compared with men [12], there are now seemingly puzzling examples of female trophy hunters, often prominent media figures and/or professional hunters sponsored by outdoor companies. We speculate that such

behaviour, counter to expected gender norms (and their evolution), might allow for increased attention in an increasingly competitive social media and marketing world (below).

3. Costly signalling in a global, commercialized world

Worldwide social media creates for trophy hunters a vast audience to which to boast. Signalling the costs of hunting are no longer restricted to carcass displays in small social groups. Men can now communicate an ability to absorb trophy hunting costs not only to their immediate social group but also—with the help of the Internet—to a global audience. Media abound with costly signals. For example, although probably not a representative sample, many hunters post hunting stories and pictures on online discussion forums, commonly emphasizing the size of kills [21]. Advertisements for hunting equipment likewise frequently emphasize a product's efficacy in securing large specimens. In these ways and more, contemporary culture reinforces trophy-seeking behaviour that probably evolved long ago.

4. Policy-relevant research

Although some argue that trophy hunting provides a route to conservation, others contend that trophy hunting can pose

significant threats to hunted populations. Interacting with our signalling hypothesis, and of acute conservation concern, is how trophy hunting of rare species can propagate a feedback loop toward extinction. Known as the 'anthropogenic Allee effect', demand and associated costs increase when otherwise unprofitable rare resources become attractive, thereby speeding up their decline [23].

We call for more research to evaluate quantitatively the conditions that influence trophy hunting motivation. If the signalling hypothesis explains this behaviour, then policies designed to limit the perceived cost of the activity, dampen signal efficacy or both should reduce trophy hunting. Indeed, recent bans by several governments on the importation of lion remains have probably curtailed demand, despite the hunts themselves remaining legal. And how might shame [24] influence motivation? We predict that social media boasting about lion hunting declined following the widespread shaming after Cecil's death during perhaps the largest media coverage ever associated with wildlife [25]. After all, any perceived benefits of signalling are also probably contingent on associated threats to status, something shaming would erode.

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Competing interests. We have no competing interests

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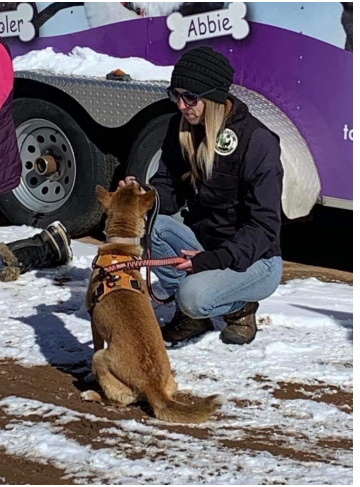
COCO FOR MAYOR

WE ARE PLEASED TO
ANNOUNCE THAT
COCO WILL BE A
CANDIDATE FOR
MAYOR OF DIVIDE!

To vote for Coco, you can stop by the Center, write a check (\$2.00 per vote) and send to CWWC PO Box 713 Divide, CO. 80814 Attn: Coco

Or call TCRAS 719- 686- 7707, and you can say that you are voting for Coco. They will take your credit card.

VOTING STARTS 8AM,
FEBRUARY 14TH AND
ENDS AT 9PM TUESDAY
APRIL 5TH.



EACH VOTE WILL COST
\$2.00



Coco attended the Mayoral Candidate Interviews at TCRAS, the local no-kill animal shelter, where she mingled with her running mates and interviewed with Fox21 news. She was a star and did a great job representing her platform. You can watch the interview on Fox21's website.

TINYURL.COM/
COCO4MAYOR

Plan a Day around the Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center



By Michelle Karas | Pikes Peak Courier | March 2, 2022

A visit to the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center is a must if you find yourself with a day to spend in scenic Divide.

Grab a bite along the way at Venture Foods at the town’s main intersection. There you’ll find individually portioned homemade baked goods, such as Cinnamon Cream Cheese Bites or a croissant sandwich to pair with fresh coffee, as well as grocery items, a variety of cold bottled drinks and tourist tchotchkes.

Continue west on US 24 until you reach Twin Rocks Road, which you’ll follow about one and a half miles to the entrance to CWWC on the right.

Open year-round, the center is a place where animal lovers of all ages can see a number of wild animals up close. There are several varieties of gorgeous wolves, of course, but also there are red and silver foxes, New Guinea Singing Dogs, and coyotes, who can be seen on organized tours for youth and adults, as well as school, military and Scout groups. Tour rates are \$20 per adult and \$15 for child (aged 3-11).

Darlene Kobobel, who founded the center and makes her home on the property, gave a tour to a journalist and photographer on a Saturday afternoon in early February. As we embarked, an adult tour group was finishing up. “How was your tour?” Kobobel called out to the group of about 15 smiling adults.

“Fabulous!” one of them called back.

Added Kobobel to her journalist visitors: “And that’s what I get all the time.”

In addition to tours every day but Monday, when it’s closed, the center offers themed events, such as its popular monthly Full Moon Tours and Full Moon Feeding tours. Register early, as these do sell out. For those who want to meet a wolf or two up close, there are VIP Wolf Interactions, where up to five people are escorted inside a wolf enclosure by guides and can pet the wolves or even give a belly rub. “It’s really quite a treat to look in their eyes and run your fingers through their fur,” Kobobel said.

The center is currently home to a pair of Mexican Gray Wolves, of which there are only 160 remaining in the wild today. And, later this year, the center will become home to a pair of Americ Red wolves. A critically endangered species, there are just nine of these wolves left in the wild, and just over 200 are held in captivity at zoos and wildlife centers in the U.S., she said.

“We’ll be the only place in Colorado to get Red wolves,” said Kobobel.

As with the Mexican Gray wolves, the Red wolves are critically endangered and belong to the federal government, so any enclosure built for these animals has special requirements, Kobobel said. “This is a historical event for Colorado and we are thrilled to be able to share them, once they arrive, with our visitors.”

The center is fundraising for the \$30,000 enclosure, to be built this summer.

About half that had been raised as of February. To make a donation via PayPal, visit wolfeducation.org, or mail checks to: Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center, PO Box 713, Divide, CO 80814. (Please put “RED WOLF” in the subject line).

As you can imagine, these beautiful animals are quite a draw. The center can get up to 300 visitors per day in the summer months, Kobobel said. But winter is also a great time to visit.

Each pair of animals has a separate fenced enclosure of up to two acres, complete with their own dens. The animals get the best food, medicine and care possible, Kobobel said.

“It’s our duty to give them the best life we can, because they didn’t choose to be here,” she said. “We are all about education, conservation and preservation.”

A wolf in captivity can live 10-15 years, while a wolf in the wild might live 3-6 years, Kobobel said.

“What sets us apart is the wolves can make a choice — do they want to come down to the front of the enclosure to see people? So it’s non-invasive in a sense. We don’t force them,” Kobobel said.

The pairs of animals are rotated to different enclosures from time to time to give them some variety. “Then they have doubled their area,” she said. “Enrichment is super important. The bigger the environment, the happier the animals will be.”

She added, “We’re not a roadside zoo. This is a natural environment.”

Kobobel opened the center in February 1993. “This is my third place. Third and final,” she said.

“I started in Lake George at a center that burned in the Hayman Fire, then moved to Florissant.” But after her landlord had a change of heart, she found herself with lots of animals and no place to go. She found what she calls her “miracle piece” for sale. At the time it was a llama farm with no roads or running water, no home for her to live in. After several banks turned her down for a loan, she finally found one that believed in her mission. With a \$425,000 loan and a huge leap of faith, she held her first full moon tour at the property right away, raising about half her monthly payment. That’s when Kobobel said she knew the center was going to make it.

All told, the property is about 70 acres, some of it steep and mountainous. The main portion is about half that, with the resident wolves occupying a total of about 15 acres, Kobobel said. A staff of 15 full- and part-time workers helps with tours, gift shop, animal feeding and upkeep. In the warmer months, internships are offered to students who want to pursue a career in veterinary science or a similar path.

The center is a nonprofit, and is completely funded by donations and tour fees.

To cap off your tour, take a walk through the well-stocked gift shop for a souvenir or two.

TRAINING WITH OUR NEW GUINEA SINGING DOGS



Pono (left) and Coco (right) came to us as explorative puppies. Coco has retained her confident personality and enjoys daily walks and interacting with guests. Pono, however, started to become more shy, skittish, and reserved as the months went on. Through consistent socialization, confidence and trust building through training, and lots of positive reinforcement(treats), Pono is becoming a confident and explorative young man! Not only is Pono allowing more and more staff to be close to him and taking treats from most, he is asking for pets from his favorite staff person and asking to go on leashed walks with Coco twice a week! Enjoy this adorable photo of the two of them patiently waiting for their walk.

PARTY FOR THE PLANET

— EARTH DAY —

APRIL 17TH 9-11AM

MEET & GREET WITH RAYNE, OUR
11 MONTH OLD WOLF PUP

WILDFLOWER
SEEDS

GIVEAWAY

GOOD FOR OUR
PLANET RAFFLE

WOLF TOUR



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER
\$40 AGES 12+ | \$20 AGES 6-11 | WOLFEDUCATION.ORG

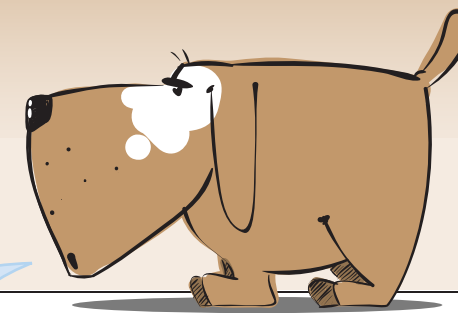
Adoption corner

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.]



« AGE: 1 year 2 months
SEX: Female/Spayed
Retriever, Labrador/Mix

AGE: 7 months »
SEX: Female/Spayed
Domestic Shorthair/Mix

LYN



« AGE: 10 years
SEX: Female/Spayed
Norwegian Forest/Mix

AGE: 5 years 2 months »
SEX: Female/Spayed
Terrier, American
Staffordshire/Mix

FANCY



PEANUT



CHERISH

**SLVAWS
ADOPTION FAIR**
Every Saturday 11:00am-3:00pm
at the Petco in Colorado Springs
5020 N. Nevada



« **BAXTER
& DAISY**

Baxter is 8 years old and pure bred cocker spaniel Daisy is 7. They are very bonded and she is dependent on her 95 pound friend who is lab/German wire haired pointer. He needs to lose about 15 lbs. Very sweet pups, good with children. Lived most of their lives in a 10 x 10 kennel, but they are now elated to run in our dog parks. Neutered/spayed, current vaccinations and dental done. Surrendered because one of their children was allergic to them. We are at Petco on the first Saturday of each month; the following 3 Saturdays at N. Academy Petsmart, Colorado Springs.