



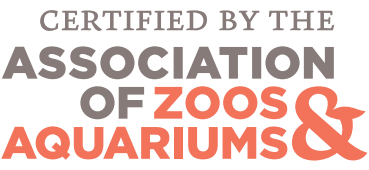
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| SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

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.
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- 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!

WHAT TYPE OF MOTH?
IS IT ?



EMAIL: DARLENE@WOLFEDUCATION.ORG
RE: MOTH QUIZ

Colorado hunts for co-existence between people and wolves

Wolves were a part of Colorado's landscape until the mid 1940s, when they were hunted and eliminated.

Clayton Sandell | Scripps News | June, 7 2024

At the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center near the town of Divide, CEO and founder Darlene Kobobel points out her furry permanent residents.

"This here is Nanook. That's Raven," she says, approaching an enclosure with two gray wolves.

Kobobel started her work in 1993, working with wolf-dog hybrid breeds.

"I got into this by rescuing a wolf dog from a shelter that was going to be euthanized. And she was my inspiration and wanted to be a voice for wolves," Kobobel tells Scripps News.

Kobobel has been using that voice a lot lately, as Colorado begins reintroducing gray wolves into the wild for the first time in eight decades.

"It's super exciting because they're native here, and they and they belong, and they're part of the landscape," Kobobel says.

Wolves were a part of Colorado's landscape until the mid 1940s, when they were hunted and eliminated. In 2020, by a razor-thin margin, voters approved a plan requiring the state to bring wolves back.

Wildlife officials transplanted ten animals from Oregon to Colorado. They were released in December, each fitted with a tracking collar.

It hasn't all gone smoothly. As the wolves are expanding their territory, cattle and sheep ranchers say the predators are frequently hunting valuable livestock.

In video captured by night vision cameras, wolves can be seen moving among herds of cattle. Colorado wildlife officials have confirmed ten wolf kills this year.



Photo by: Dawn Vilella/AP

[CLICK TO WATCH VIDEO](#)

"That's a big income loss in my business," says Tim Ritschard, president of the Middle Park Stockgrowers Association.

Ranchers like Ritschard have asked Colorado Parks and Wildlife to remove, by lethal means if necessary, the wolves causing the most trouble.

"We don't want them, obviously. But if we have to live with them, it's fine. But we should be able to at least protect our animals," Ritschard says. "I think that's the big thing right now is if we can protect our animals and protect our livelihoods, I mean, that's the deal."

Wildlife officials have so-far refused to kill the problem wolves. Kobobel and her staff of wolf educators say there are solutions for keeping cattle and sheep safe — everything from noisemakers to flags that wolves avoid. Recently, the state paid to hire a "ranger rider" to patrol at night in order to scare the predators away.

"We should learn to be able to coexist together. And the thing is, there are ways to coexist together," Kobobel says.

At Kobobel's sanctuary, coexisting is a lesson she hopes can come from the wolves themselves.

"They're not only this beautiful, amazing, incredible animal, but they're part of the ecosystem and part of the balance as an apex predator that belongs," says Kobobel. "I think our mission now is to keep them to survive and thrive and be able to work with people that want to work together."



Colorado Parks and Wildlife confirms first reproduction from gray wolves released in December

Travis Duncan | Colorado Parks and Wildlife | June 20, 2024

GRAND COUNTY, Colo. – Colorado Parks and Wildlife has confirmed successful reproduction in its gray wolf reintroduction efforts in the state.

CPW biologists have been gathering evidence suggesting a male and female gray wolf pair have been denning, indicating reproduction. Some of this evidence includes GPS collar data.

The collared female's GPS points stopped uploading in early April, and resumed uploading later in April. The points for the female's collar showed a very localized position. CPW biologists interpreted this to mean that she was likely in a den, and therefore not in communication with the satellites, during the time when connectivity with the collar was interrupted, which aligned with the expected timing of wolf reproduction.

At that point, CPW staff began diligently working to confirm the den and whether pups are present.

On June 18, CPW biologists confirmed one wolf pup in Grand County. The confirmation occurred during routine wolf monitoring efforts, which included attempted observations from the air and ground, remote cameras, public sightings, etc. There are no photos or videos at this time. Although biologists

were only able to confirm one pup at this time, it is possible that other pups may be present, as wolf litters commonly consist of four to six pups. CPW staff will continue to monitor the animals to determine how many pups have been born to the litter.

Because these wolves have successfully reproduced, they are officially considered a pack. The pack name is the Copper Creek Pack. This is the first confirmed Colorado-born wolf pup since the voter-approved wolf reintroduction in December.

"We are continuing to actively monitor this area while exercising extreme caution to avoid inadvertently disturbing the adult wolves, this pup, or other pups," said CPW Wildlife Biologist Brenna Cassidy.

CPW biologists and area staff will continue to monitor this pack. Staff will continue to work with landowners in the area to implement practices to minimize the potential for conflict.

For additional information on how to stay informed about wolves in Colorado, visit cpw.state.co.us and sign up for our Gray Wolf Reintroduction eNews.

When are pups born? How and when will we know if there are pups?

- On average, females give birth for the first time between two and five years of age.
- After a gestation period of about two months, pups are born in the spring which coincides with the time local ungulates give birth, enabling wolves to take advantage of easier prey.
- Pups grow quickly between five and 10 weeks, becoming more physically capable and socially interactive. In early or mid summer, pups are usually moved to an aboveground "rendezvous site," an area pups stay with access to resources like water and shelter. Wolves can use one or multiple rendezvous sites per year, depending on access to resources and level of disturbance.

How will we know when pups are present?

- CPW staff will diligently monitor wolf locations and behavior to determine if wolves are denning. Depending on location and terrain, it can take weeks or months to determine if wolves have denned.

What is an average number of pups?

- Females can give birth to as little as one or as many as 11 pups, with the average litter size falling between four and six pups.
- Pup survival rates vary widely by location and are difficult to study, but around half, or slightly more, of pups born often make it through their first year of life.

When do wolves disperse?

- Wolves have been known to disperse as young as nine months, but most wait until they are between one and two years old.
- While both males and females can leave their natal packs, males are more likely to disperse.
- Dispersing wolves may spend a few months to a few years by themselves before being able to form new packs with other dispersers or join an established pack.

How long do wolves live?

- While captive wolves can live more than 10 years, wild wolves usually only survive 3-4 years.

Are the wolves from Oregon old enough to breed?

- Wolves can breed at almost two years old. All wolves known to be in Colorado were capable of breeding in February 2024.

Breeding, Denning and Dispersal

When is the breeding season?

- Wolves breed once a year during the late winter months, typically mid- to late February.

When do wolves start denning?

- Wolf gestation is 63 days, so typically start denning in mid- to late April.
- They frequently reuse dens, with sites varying across habitats. Before the arrival of pups, dens are cleaned, remodeled, and often expanded in preparation.
- Wolves will dig their own den, but can also expand an existing hole abandoned by a coyote, badger or other animal.
- Wolves may vacate a den if disturbed and relocate to a new site.

Do you have an animal that you are concerned with that has mange?
Check out this organization.



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Angel Wintrode, Director & President

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Setting the record straight on wolves in Colorado

Delia Malone | The Daily Sentinel | June, 20 2024

Since the reintroduction of wolves back into Colorado, most of the mainstream media outlets have run one negative story after another. Our state has been flooded with misleading narratives, including “Coloradans have changed their minds about wolves,” “there are constant wolf conflicts,” and “all ranchers hate or want to kill wolves” and on and on.

The true story is much more nuanced than the headlines suggest.

First, it’s important to consider what happened. These wolves were captured in their homes, transported to a foreign landscape. Then, while this was happening, proactive, appropriate conflict reduction strategies were not put in place for their arrival. This lack of preparation is the No. 1 reason we are seeing conflicts arise.

One rancher in particular, who has refused to use non-lethal methods, has been the primary recipient of these losses. It’s also worth noting that the land in question isn’t owned by the rancher — it’s public land, leased for a mere \$1.35 per cow-calf pair. These wolves, new to their environment and trying to feed their families who are denning nearby, found easy prey in the unprotected cattle and unburied carcasses.

This is to say, conflict is not inevitable. There are proven solutions to help prevent this from happening.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has tried to help, but their efforts came too late to prevent the initial problems. After resistance died down, the agency provided funding for a single range rider to cover multiple ranches across Grand County — which is simply not enough to effectively prevent predations. While CPW’s intentions are good, they need to increase their efforts and resources to make a meaningful impact.

One way to better help ranchers is by speeding up the implementation of a \$2 million grant in the works to fund conflict reduction strategies for ranchers. Making these strategies more affordable and accessible will be an easy win-win for both the ranching community and our wildlife populations.

Another way we can help is by avoiding lethal management policies that destabilize wolf packs and



Photo by: ygluzberg/istock

prevent our state’s new wolves from thriving in the wild. For example, state leaders have agreed to change Colorado’s wolf management plan to allow the use of “nighttime aids” (such as artificial lights and thermal imaging) to haze wolves. The rule change also allows Parks and Wildlife to decide on a case-by-case basis to let livestock owners use lighting and nighttime vision equipment in instances when the agency issues them a permit to kill chronically depredating wolves.

This is a fundamentally flawed approach. Instead, prior to expanding lethal management tools and defining “chronic depredation,” ranchers should first be required to use proven nonlethal strategies which have been shown to actually decrease wolf-livestock conflict.

States like Idaho and Montana, with their low threshold definition of one and five losses for “chronic depredation,” have seen dramatic declines in wolf populations, undermining the many benefits that wolves bring to natural landscapes. Colorado must learn from these examples and avoid making the same mistakes.

With only 11 wolves in our state, there should be no talk of lethal removal. Instead, we should be focusing on proactive, nonlethal coexistence measures ,which will allow livestock to thrive as well as promote the many benefits of healthy wolf populations..

It is easy to get discouraged with the bombardment of negative news coming from the media. But these wolves deserve a fair chance to live and thrive in their new homes. This is entirely possible through the promotion of nonlethal coexistence strategies and proper management practices.

I call on the commission to do the right thing at future hearings and support measures that ensure the protection of Colorado’s wolves.

SHARED LANDSCAPES: WOLVES AND HUMANS IN RURAL TURKEY

Brian Maffly | College of Science | May 30, 2024



Photo of the wolf captured by Çağan Şekercioğlu on eastern Turkey’s Kars-Ardahan plateau. Photo Credit: Çağan Şekercioğlu

Utah biologists track gray wolves with GPS collars and camera traps as their numbers rebound into populated parts of northeast Turkey.

After 14 years of gathering and analyzing field data, an international research team led by University of Utah biologist Çağan Şekercioğlu has released the first and only study of gray wolf movements and ecology in Turkey. Using GPS collars and camera traps, researchers tracked seasonal variations of wolves’ range sizes in the highlands of Turkey’s rural northeastern corner, where people are widely present during the summer but mostly absent in the winter when the area is completely snowbound. The team was surprised to discover human presence had no effect on wolf movements.

“Even though human activity changes drastically, wolves are not taking advantage of that by increasing their home range size or changing their home range size between the seasons when humans are there and when they’re not there,” said J. David Blount, lead author of the study published this month in the journal Wildlife Biology. “Theoretically they have a lot of different needs during these times that

should be fluctuating, especially with the dispersing wolves.”

“Wolves are very adjustable, which leads to many exciting behavioral adaptations,” said Blount, a graduate student in Şekercioğlu’s lab. “However, studies are pretty context-dependent.”

Since the mid-1990s, wolves have been making a comeback following re-introductions in the Yellowstone region, Arizona and, most recently, western Colorado. The wolf situation in eastern Turkey is completely different, according to Şekercioğlu, a professor of biology. While wolves have been a problem for livestock operations, shepherds and ranchers have learned to live with the apex predator with the help of Anatolian sheepdogs,

which protect cattle and sheep without harming the wolves.

The study area covered 550 square kilometers surrounding Sarıkamış, a town of 15,500. Over 14 research seasons, running from mid-May to mid-August, the research team captured 46 wolves and fitted them with GPS collars, which recorded a location every five hours and are designed to fall off after two years. The cameras yielded 26,000 photos of wildlife and countless others that recorded animals other than wildlife.

According to the study, as wolves resettle areas near towns, understanding how wolves adjust their temporal and spatial patterns in human-dominated landscapes can contribute to their conservation. An ornithologist who studies tropical songbirds, Şekercioğlu began eying wolves when he moved from Stanford University in 2010 and used startup funds provided by the University of Utah to initiate the project, also supported by grants from Fondation Segré, the Sigrid Rausing Trust and the Whitley Fund.



The haunting howls of wolves fell mostly silent across America's West by the 1930s. Their loss to the region has been largely overlooked by humans, even in our scientific research, a new review finds, but the impact of their absence is written loudly in the missing trees.

"Researchers generally agree that the loss of wolves and other large predators, followed by increased browsing by elk (*Cervus canadensis*), was the main cause for the decline in woody plant communities in many Western parks," write Oregon State University ecologist William Ripple and colleagues in their new paper.

This is another example of how everything on our living planet is tightly interconnected and how we fail to consider these vital links.



Wolf chasing magpies and ravens from an elk carcass. (Jim Peaco/NPS)

Ripple and team reviewed 96 ecological studies that took place between 1955 and 2021, within 11 of the

region's national parks. They found only 39 of these studies considered the absence of the region's top predator, the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*).

"Studying an altered ecosystem without recognizing how or why the system has changed over time because of the absence of a large predator could have serious implications... like diagnosing a sick patient without a baseline health exam," explain the researchers.

"Various national parks in the western United States, which are considered the crown jewels of American wilderness, lack their apex predators, resulting in them being shadows of their supposed ecological integrity."

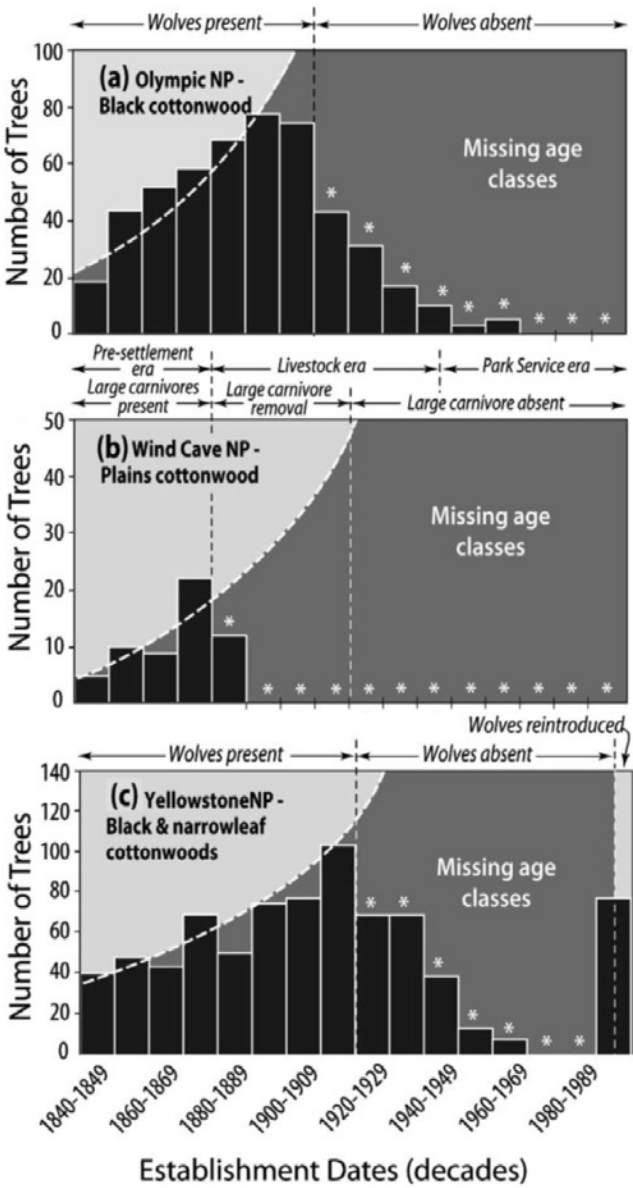
Loss of an ecosystem's apex predator causes domino effects through an ecosystem's food chain known as trophic cascades. As ecosystems can be such complex messes of interactions it's not always easy to see how trophic cascades will play out, particularly given they can be context-dependent.

So not every trophic cascade is found in each landscape, even if the same species are present. Reintroducing lost species, like the return of wolves to Yellowstone National Park, can't necessarily repair all the broken connections either, once the cascade of changes have taken place.

But historical records across the 11 parks reveal declines in several tree species, including black (*Populus trichocarpa*) and plains (*Populus deltoides*) cottonwoods, since wolves were eradicated.

Not only has removal of wolves messed with the web of connections stemming from their predation on deer, it's impacted the ecosystem interactions around coyotes (*Canis latrans*) as well.

"Wolves can reduce coyote populations, thereby mediating their predation of prey and smaller-predator



Abundance of different cottonwood tree species when wolves were present and absent. (Ripple et al., Bioscience, 2024)

populations, such as rodents, ungulates, small carnivores, leporids, and birds," write Ripple and team.

This includes greater predation of threatened and endangered species, a particularly concerning consequence amidst the sixth mass extinction.

The same scenario is occurring in the oceans, where the absence of reef sharks means too many green turtles are gorging on vital CO2 sequestering seagrass meadows, and in Australia, where the widespread eradication of dingoes means smaller predators like foxes and cats are having their fill of predator-naïve marsupials.

Kangaroos are now also overabundant thanks to the lack of dingoes, joining deer in the top ten most abundant wild animals by biomass. Ripple previously found there are almost six times more deer in areas without wolves compared to areas with them.

Ecosystem restoration is more critical than ever as our

destructive impacts on our living biosphere accelerate. But to have any success, it is crucial that we better understand the interactions that govern these environments in their historical functioning state, the researchers urge.

"We hope our study will be of use to both conservation organizations and government agencies in identifying ecosystem management goals," says Ripple.

This study was published in Bioscience.

Katja Bader is with **Peggy Solis** and **14 others.**
44m · 🌐

18 MORE ANIMALS FIXED YESTERDAY

So we were able to attend to 18 more pets belonging to low income families, mostly female dogs that we fixed yesterday at PIPASA in Herradura. And this was only possible thanks to very generous donations from: KAREN YOUNG, FLAVIA BARANDIARAN, CAROLINA VIGANO, DIEGO ROBLES, DAWN WILHELM, JOBIN ROSEMARIE, DARLENE KOBABEL @ COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER, KELLY PRICE @ PRICE AUTO SALES and RACHEL BEACOCK.

And we'd also like to shout out to the lovely DR. YEIMI NÚÑEZ HERRERA, who performed the surgeries with the help of her assistants DORIS SCHLUCKEBIER and ROSEMARY DIAZ, to LEO HOGAN, DAWN WILHELM, MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ and NOLAN, who took care of the animals after their surgeries and to PEGGY SOLIS, who organized this clinic in a very professional manner, which as we all know is an extremely difficult task to do.

This clinic would never have been possible, were it not for the help from ISABEL SERRANO from the FOUNDATION GROWING TOGETHER, who provided her place for us, and from our own MUNICIPALITY GARABITO who provided a huge tent complete with chairs and tables, so everybody could work protected from the sun and the rain.

These last clinics have shown us that by working together, we can make Garabito County a better place to live - for both us humans and our furry friends. So once again, THANK YOU to everyone who made this project possible... you guys rock!

WHY IS THE RED WOLF ENDANGERED? HOW WE CAN FIX THIS PROBLEM

Dr. Suzanne Agan | Math and Science Blog | American Public University | January 12, 2024

Throughout the 1900s, the red wolf population experienced a drastic decline, enough to place red wolves on the endangered list. But with modern-day conservation, why is the red wolf endangered now?

How Did the Red Wolf End Up on the Endangered Species List?

Red wolves used to roam the southeastern United States as far south as Texas and Louisiana and as far north to New York. Over time, though, humans have almost eliminated these predators. Wolf bounties were first awarded in North Carolina in the late 1700s, and wild red wolves were completely absent east of the Mississippi by 1944. Red wolves, like all wolves, were viewed as a threat to both livestock and big game so they were killed through government-sponsored, intensive predator control programs that resulted in the near extinction of the species. In fact, red wolves were wiped out in all but a very small portion of their range in Texas and Louisiana.

Government Efforts to Save the Red Wolf Population

It wasn't until 1962 that concerns were raised about the potential loss of the entire species. In 1966, red wolves were listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Preservation Act.

In 1969, the government took positive action, starting a captive breeding program to save red wolves.



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Why Is the Red Wolf Endangered? How We Can Fix This Problem

Additional protection for red wolves was created by the 1973 Endangered Species Act, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Between 1974 and 1980, 400 wolves were captured for the captive breeding program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declared red wolves extinct in the wild. Fourteen of those red wolves would become the genetic future of all wild red wolves.

It's a tricky decision to capture the last known remaining wild animals for any species, because then all hope for recovery is placed on the captive breeding program. Considerations include important questions such as:

- Will they breed in captivity?
- Will they then be too tame to release again in the future?

Endangered red wolves became a field experiment in the reintroduction of a large carnivore, the first recovery effort of its kind. Understanding the need to keep red

wolves wild and preserve their instinct to generally avoid humans, conservation centers raised red wolves in isolation so that they retained their natural instincts of human avoidance.

How Red Wolves Are Raised in Captivity and Released into the Wild

In a red wolf recovery program, individuals raised in captivity for the purpose of reintroduction are kept out of sight of humans. Biologists reintroducing red wolves to a wild habitat use a "soft release," which helps the red wolves to adjust more easily.

Though they have been raised away from human influence, they are still not acclimated to the wild locations where they will live. To increase their chances of success, adult red wolves are placed in an acclimation pen with temporary fencing and fed native prey, while they get used to their environment. This tactic also gives them time to form pair bonds with a potential mate placed in the same pen.

Because the pair of adult red wolves start out as breeding wolves, they have a higher chance of success in raising a litter and forming a stable pack. As the numbers of wild red wolves are so few, the chances of a red wolf finding a suitable mate would otherwise be extremely low.

The Benefits of a Thriving Red Wolf Population

In 1987, four breeding adult pairs of red wolves were released into the wild in northeastern North Carolina on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (ARNWR). It was the perfect place for breeding pairs of red wolves: no coyotes as competition, a low number of livestock, lots of farmland, and protected areas with plenty of prey species such as white-tailed deer.

Red wolves were often seen sitting in crop fields during the day. Their presence could potentially be considered a blessing to farmers since they kept deer and other animals away from valuable crops.

In the years since red wolves were reintroduced, coyotes migrated the rest of the way across the United States and finally into North Carolina, filling the niche of top predator where wolves had been eliminated and red wolves had yet to expand. However, in high enough numbers, red wolves will defend territory and exclude coyotes, providing another valuable service to humans.

Unfortunately, the wild populations' success would not hold. Over the next 34 years, the red wolf population would see a lot of change.

Ultimately, humans would once again cause the red wolf

species to move nearer to extinction, mostly through poaching and vehicle strikes. By 2021, there were less than 10 red wolves known to remain in the wild.

Ongoing Efforts Are in Place to Save Endangered Red Wolves

Red wolves are considered a "nonessential experimental population," which gives the Fish and Wildlife Service more flexibility in their management and allowing this government agency to work with private landowners. For conservation biologists, it has been an exciting time to see the reintroduction of an almost-eliminated, endangered wolf species whose demise was at the hands of humanity.

The captive breeding program, known as a Species Survival Plan (SSP), raises individual wolves and family groups to maintain genetic diversity and the future of the wild red wolf population. As of October 2023, there are approximately 267 red wolves in 50 Red Wolf Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) facilities across the country, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

From this program, biologists have conducted a brave, unique, and highly successful program of introducing young, captive-born pups into an existing wild litter. Known as pup fostering, breeding adult pairs of red wolves have accepted the new wolf pups as part of their own litters.

In 2022, the first red wolves were born in the wild since the last known litter in 2018. New releases are taking place, and there are now an estimated 21-23 (11 known) red wolves in the wild.

The red wolf recovery program has another chance at success through the diligence of the Red Wolf Recovery

Team. In September, we published the new Red Wolf Recovery Plan for not only North Carolina but also other future reintroduction sites when they are chosen and established.

There will need to be intense cooperation between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state and local agencies, and private landowners for red wolves to not only survive but flourish. I am hopeful that we have



Mexican wolf kill investigation.
Image courtesy of author.

continues on next page...

learned our lessons from the past as we move forward to bring back red wolves from the brink of extinction. For now, they remain the most critically endangered canid in the world.

Other Types of Wildlife Are Also Endangered Species Besides Red Wolves

Red wolves are but one small picture of a much larger issue. Why are species becoming endangered, what can we do about it, and should we do anything?

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has a list of more than 157,100 species and more than 44,000 of those species are threatened with extinction. The percentage of endangered species includes:

- 41% of amphibians
- 37% of sharks and rays
- 36% of reef-building corals
- 34% of conifers
- 26% of mammals
- 12% of birds

Although legislation such as the Endangered Species Act has been useful, there is still much more work to be done.

Why Should We Care about an Endangered Species Becoming Extinct?

The process of species becoming extinct is a natural one. The baseline extinction rate is about one species per every one million species per year, according to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History.

However, today is different because endangered populations are disappearing at a greater rate than ever before. Scientists agree that today’s extinction rate is hundreds, or even thousands, of times higher than the natural baseline extinction rate.

So what? Some people – including myself – believe that species have a right to live and die without human interference. Also, each species plays an essential role in the proper functioning of our ecosystems. We

depend on these ecosystems for food, water purification, waste treatment, and medication among many other ecosystem services.

All species, including endangered species, have roles in our ecosystem that we will never fully understand. It’s only once they are completely gone that we learn the full ramifications of the loss.

Red wolves (along with other wild wolf populations) are considered a keystone species. They are critical for the proper functioning of an ecosystem, using top-down mechanisms known as trophic cascades. Trophic cascades occur when predators limit the density and behavior of their prey, which enhances the survival of other species further down on the food chain.

In the absence of a keystone species, an ecosystem will usually experience a collapse. When top predators disappear, the numbers of prey species increase, and important vegetation is overgrazed and eliminated. Barren areas appear and the survival of the entire ecosystem is at risk if no action is taken.

We have learned in recent years that while climate is the main driver of the type of vegetation in a biome, ecosystem regulation by species such as wolves may be a more potent driver than historically recognized.

So yes, we absolutely should do something to conserve the population of red wolves and decrease the possibility of their extinction. How conservation efforts will be implemented depends upon each type of species and its location. For instance, lessons from the red wolf recovery program have been a model for the introduction of other endangered species such as gray wolves and Mexican gray wolves across the United States.

Fortunately, there are scientists all over the world who have been working together to create comprehensive plans for other endangered species. My small part has been to play a role in the future of the red wolf.

Red wolves are playful and fiercely devoted to family, which is what drew me to this research in the first place. It is my hope that their howls will still be heard by my grandchildren and their grandchildren. The silence that would exist without red wolves would otherwise be deafening.

Aldo Leopold, known as one of the founders of the modern conservation movement and former professor at the University of Wisconsin, was a wolf hunter until he realized what killing the wolves had done. In his essay “Thinking Like a Mountain,” he said, “I have lived to see state after state extirpate its wolves. I have watched the face of many a newly wolfless mountain and seen the

south-facing slopes wrinkle with a maze of new deer trails.

“I have seen every edible bush and seedling browsed, first to anemic desuetude, and then to death. I have seen every edible tree defoliated to the height of a saddle horn. Such a mountain looks as if someone had given God a new pruning shears and forbidden Him all other exercise. In the end the starved bones of the hoped-for deer herd, dead of its own too-much, bleach with the bones of the dead sage, or molder under the high-lined junipers.

“I now suspect that just as a deer herd lives in mortal fear of its wolves, so does a mountain live in mortal fear

of its deer. And perhaps with better cause, for a while a buck pulled down by wolves can be replaced in two or three years, a range pulled down by too many deer may fail of replacement in as many decades.

“Perhaps this is behind Thoreau’s dictum: In wildness is the salvation of the world. Perhaps this is the hidden meaning of the howl of the wolf, long known among mountains, but seldom perceived among men.”

So does the red wolf continue to be endangered? Yes, but steps are being taken to bring it back from complete extinction before it’s too late. I am hopeful those steps will be successful.

"UNPRECEDENTED" THIRD COW ELK ATTACK IN 8 DAYS

Katie Langford | Boulder Daily Camera | June 10, 2024

Estes Park, CO — In barely a week, two children and a woman were stomped and kicked by elk in a Colorado tourist town, attacks that wildlife officials called unprecedented behavior.

The incidents occurred in Estes Park, the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department said.

- On May 30, an 8-year-old girl riding her bike was charged from 60 yards away by a cow elk, which then stomped her.
- On June 3, a 4-year-old boy at a playground was attacked by a cow elk.
- On June 7, a woman walking her dog on a leash was charged by a cow elk from about 20 yards away. The woman tried to run behind a tree for safety, but the elk knocked her to the ground and stomped and kicked her.

The three victims received treatment for unspecified injuries and did not require hospitalization.

In all the incidents, an elk calf was in the area.

“Cow elk with young calves are known to be aggressive; however, we’ve never seen a year like this,” Area Wildlife Manager Jason Duetsch said in a statement.

“All three attacks have been unprovoked and unfortunate accidents. We have no clear evidence to suggest these attacks were from the same animal, which underscores how uncommon the elk behavior has been,” he said.

A mature Rocky Mountain cow elk weighs about 500 pounds and stands 4½ feet at the top of the back.

CPW officials said they’re urging Estes Park residents and visitors to be extra cautious until elk calving season ends, in the early summer.



Photo: Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post

It's a pup! Colorado wildlife officials confirm Grand County wolves have reproduced.



Two of the nine surviving wolves transplanted to Colorado have mated. Their success means they're officially a pack, known as the Copper Creek pack.

The Colorado Sun | June 20, 2024

Colorado Parks and Wildlife released five gray wolves onto public land in Grand County on Monday, Dec. 18, 2023. Pictured is wolf 2302-OR, a juvenile female from the Five Points pack in Oregon, weighing 68 pounds. (Jerry Neal, Colorado Parks and Wildlife)

t least one pup was been born to a pair of wolves transplanted to Colorado from Oregon in December. Colorado Parks and Wildlife on Thursday evening said a gray wolf pup was spotted on June 18 in Grand County but said it is likely as many as five more were born. Biologists tracking location data noted in early April that a female's collar had stopped uploading GPS coordinates, but then resumed sending data later in the month. This led the biologists to believe she was likely in a den. Though CPW did not release a photo or video footage of the pup, a news release said biologists had observed the area where the female's collar was transmitting from the air and ground, using remote cameras and public reports. The biologists will continue to observe the denning area to see if there are more pups. "It is possible that other pups may be present, as wolf litters commonly consist of four to six pups," CPW wrote.

This is the first birth of a gray wolf since wolves were reintroduced at the direction of Colorado voters. At least three pups were born in Jackson County in spring of 2021 to a pair of wolves that migrated naturally into Colorado from Wyoming. That litter was the first in Colorado since the species was extirpated 80 years before. Colorado voters narrowly passed Proposition 114 in November 2020, directing state wildlife officials to begin reintroducing wolves west of the Continental Divide by the end of 2023. Because a pair of the 10 wolves released on state land has reproduced, that family group is considered a pack and has been named the Copper Creek pack by state wildlife officials. One of the transplanted wolves, a yearling female, was killed in Larimer County, likely by a mountain lion. "We are continuing to actively monitor this area while exercising extreme caution to avoid inadvertently disturbing

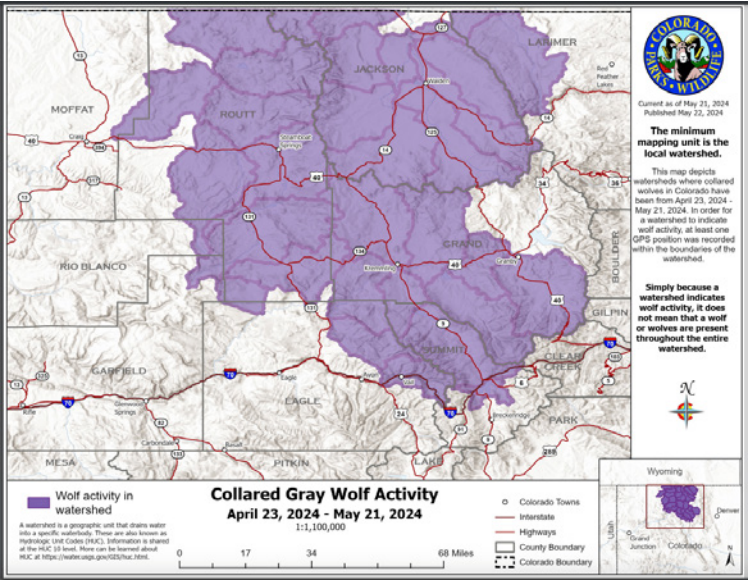
the adult wolves, this pup, or other pups," CPW Wildlife Biologist Brenna Cassidy said in the news release. CPW also said it will work with landowners in the area to implement practices to minimize the potential for conflict.



The reintroduction of wolves on the Western Slope of Colorado has been fraught with conflict, with ranchers in Grand, Jackson and Routt counties reporting at least a dozen cows and calves killed. On Friday morning, Merrit Linke, a Grand County commissioner and fifth-generation rancher, said news of the pup was no surprise to ranchers who had been informed "a breeding pair, thus pack, was forming based on behavior." And ranchers now "know it's just a matter of time that these pups are taught to hunt," he said. Darlene Kobobel, founder of the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center near Divide, said proper mitigation practices can reduce depredation. The advocacy group, she said, is "super excited" by the news of the successful breeding.

"We believe wolves belong on the landscape," she said. "As a pro-wolf facility, we are not against ranchers and their livelihood. We voted for wolves because they belong and are such an important part of the natural balance." "It's possible to work together and the pro-wolf side and CPW

have no problems doing that," she said. "We feel if there are non-lethal deterrents that can be used and compensation given for any losses, then can't we be fair with having wolves that are native on our Colorado landscape? If compensation is a question, then let's go back to the commissioners and vote to increase it." Since they were released in southwestern Grand County and at an undisclosed location in Summit County, GPS tracking data has showed the animals ranging as far west as Moffat County, east into Larimer County and near the Boulder and Gilpin county lines, and north to Wyoming.



The movements of gray wolves outfitted with tracking collars April 23-May 21, 2024. (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)

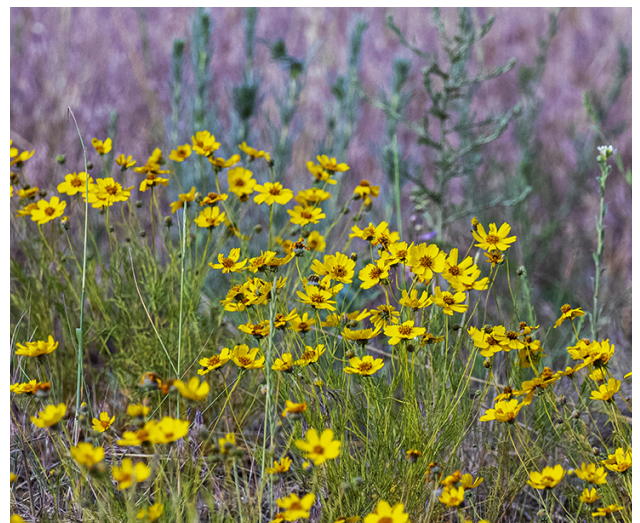
FROM A CWWC VISITOR:

"Absolutely incredible experience!!! Thank you so much! Please let Ethan and Lindsey they were fantastic! I will be sending them a Venmo tmrw for a tip! Much appreciation to you all!"

Brittany Backman

— COLORADO FLORA & FAUNA —

from Chatfield State Park – Southwest Littleton, CO



Photos by Carol Vogel

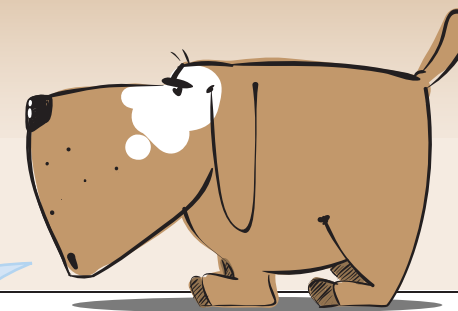
Adoption corner

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.]

CATIER »

Hello. No my name is not a typo, I'm my own designer kitty! Sounds like "Cartier" but I made it my own! I'm a shy girl, very sweet but need my own time to open up. I'd love a quiet home that is all my own where I can be spoiled with all designer kitty accessories!



« LINA

I may be an older gal, but don't let that fool you!! I love to go on adventures with my human out on hiking trails or staying in and playing! I like to please my human and know a few basic obedience, but I can always learn new things too! I would love to have a fenced in yard to play in and keep me safe! I can be a little picky with my canine friends as I like to be top dog and I'm not too keen on feline friends

TACOMA »

We love Tacoma, a 2 year old Great Pyrenees mix, about 60 lbs. who needs a buddy dog or two to play with. A bit shy, quiet. Neutered, all vacc's. He is getting vacuum groomed and well-behaved. He loves the attention.



**SLVAWS
ADOPTION FAIR**
Every Saturday at Petsmart
7680 N. Academy Blvd.
11:00am - 3:00pm



« STELLA

Stella is a 1 year old, 80 lb, Landseer/Newfie mix. She is mellow, loving and great with children and other dogs. What more could one want? Found as a stray at 6 months old. Fostered, spayed, all vacc's, microchipped.