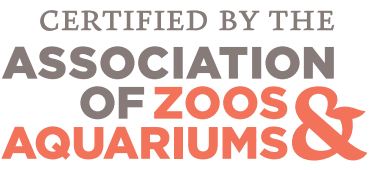




COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2025 • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • PRESERVATION





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.



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

CONTACT US
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PO Box 713 Divide, CO
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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.
- 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 now 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!



Governor Jared Polis
@GovofCO

The First Amendment is the foundation of our democracy — protecting free speech, a free press, and the right to assemble is who we are as Americans. These freedoms are not partisan, they're American, and we must safeguard our freedoms every day.

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances

GOVERNOR JARED POLIS

ALT

5:30 PM · Sep 19, 2025 · 18.1K Views



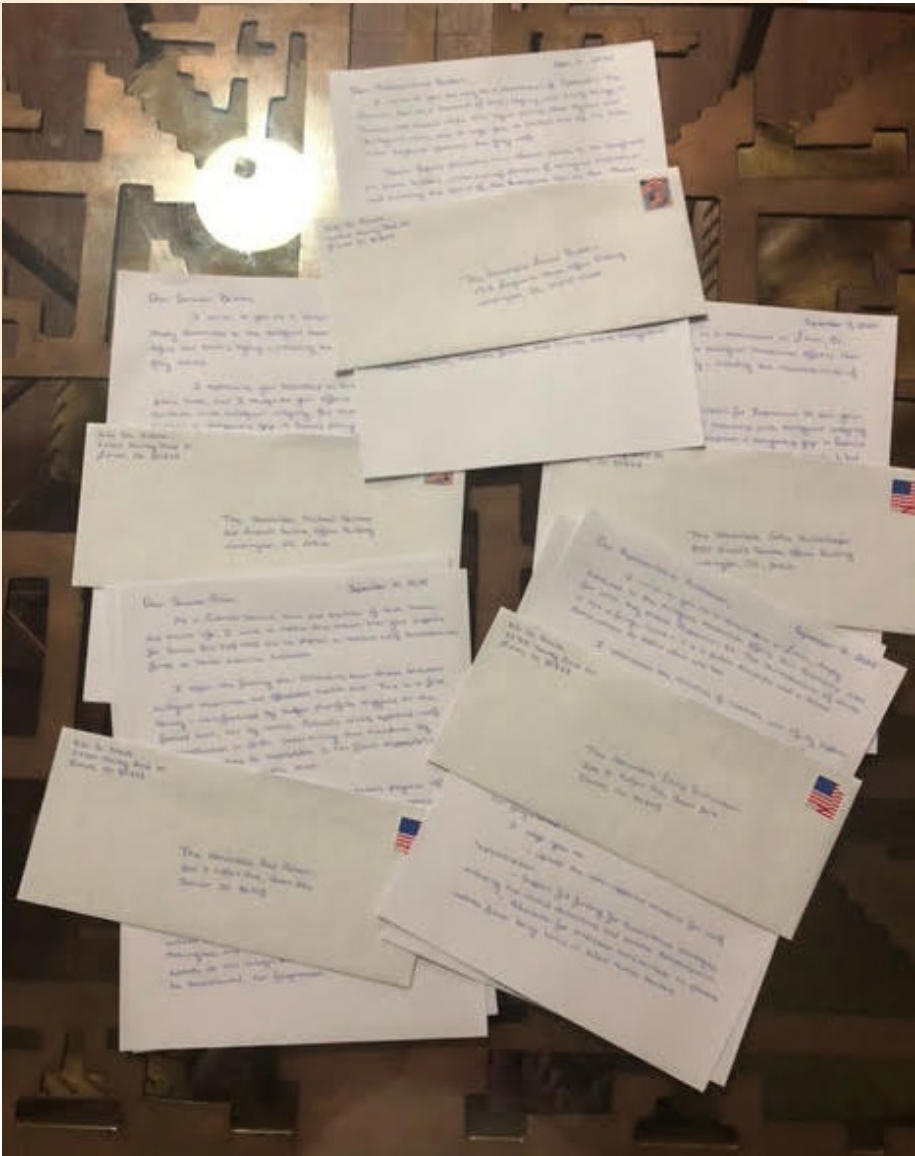
To: Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center
Subject: Recent Tour

Hi!

I just wanted to write a quick note to say that I was so moved by the information I received on wolves during a recent tour. I am always doing what I can to support conservation efforts. My main focus over the years has been birds, particularly parrots as I have rescued several. But hearing about the desperate struggle of wolves right here in our own backyard motivated me to write to all my legislators urging action on wolf reintroduction, continued funding, stronger federal protections, and interstate cooperation.

I just wanted you to know that you are making a difference not just for the wolves in your care, but to the actions of voters.

All the best,
Kiki



The Bureau of Land Management has begun the process of rolling back the Biden Administration’s rule allowing conservation leases on its land.

The agency on Wednesday released a proposal to rescind the 2024 Public Lands Rule, which aimed to put conservation uses of land on equal footing with grazing, energy production, mining, and recreation. The rule allowed the agency to issue conservation leases to individuals, businesses, nongovernmental organizations or tribal governments for up to 10 years to protect or restore habitats and ecosystems.

"The previous administration’s Public Lands Rule had the potential to block access to hundreds of thousands of acres of multiple-use land — preventing energy and mineral production, timber management, grazing, and recreation across the West," Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said in a release. "The most effective caretakers of our federal lands are those whose livelihoods rely on its well-being. Overturning this rule protects our American way of life and gives our communities a voice in the land that they depend on."

BLM’s proposal says the agency has determined the rule "is unnecessary and violates existing statutory

requirements." In addition, its leasing provisions "threaten to upset the appropriate balance that the BLM must strike when managing public land under principles off multiple use and sustained yield."

"The rule ultimately vests too much discretion in individual authorizing officers to preclude other, productive uses, such as grazing, mining, and energy development, as incompatible with the goals of the restoration or mitigation under the lease, potentially over large tracts of public land," the proposal says.

Environmental groups like the Conservation Lands Foundation, the Wilderness Society, Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club, Wild Montana, and the National Parks Conservation Association expressed disappointment in the decision.

"The Public Lands Rule is a tool in BLM’s toolbox to work with landowners and other interests to make sure land uses are equitably balanced to keep our lands healthy for future generations," Wild Montana member Wade Sikorsky said in a statement. "It’s extremely disheartening that this administration is trying to dismantle this rule less than a year after it went into effect."



Coyotes are swimming all the way to San Francisco's Angel Island

Amanda Bartlett | SFGATE | September 7, 2025



Photo: Kelly Liu/Getty Images

Staff at Angel Island State Park were on one of their morning boat runs last week when they came across an unusual sight.

As a seagull soared over the deep water, they noticed the creature's head first, assuming it must be a seal. When its large ears came into view, however, they realized it was no marine mammal, but one of Angel Island's resident coyotes, paddling across Racoon Strait in San Francisco Bay and headed in the direction of Tiburon. The canine made about a half-mile round trip journey before eventually turning back and climbing to shore at Ayala Cove, park interpreter Casey Dexter-Lee told SFGATE.

"Swimming here seems like a bit of a fluke," she said. The chance encounter captured on camera provides a glimpse into Angel Island's elusive coyote population that researchers are studying to learn more about their behavior.

Dexter-Lee has been living and working at Angel Island for the past 24 years and never saw a single coyote there for much of that time. Then one day in 2017, a ranger in her first year at the state park claimed she spotted one through the window of her residence. Her



The coyote after reaching land at Ayala Cove. Photo: Bill Miller

housemate quickly dismissed the observation and told her she must have been seeing things: Coyotes didn't live on Angel Island.

"If a visitor had told us about it, we definitely would not have believed them," Dexter-Lee said. So when another employee claimed he saw one crossing a fire road a couple of months later, "we interrogated him," she said. They wanted to know where it was, how long it had been in the area, and if he had seen it before. Was he sure it wasn't a dog? He assured them it wasn't — after

years of working in Death Valley, he knew a coyote when he saw one.

"From there, our mission was to get a photograph," Dexter-Lee said. Park staff posted signage throughout the island asking visitors to help by snapping a photo if they saw a coyote from a distance. It was a third employee who got the shot of the animal, but its tan fur was camouflaged by the dry grass it stood in.

"It was like, the 'Where's Waldo' of coyote pictures," Dexter-Lee said with a chuckle. By then, at least, they had confirmed their suspicions.



The view of the San Francisco skyline from Angel Island. Photo: Yiming Chen/Getty Images

Late at night, staff could hear the lone animal howling as it communicated back and forth with other coyotes in nearby Tiburon. Not long after, a second coyote swam out to join it. The first litter was reported in 2019, and as of last year, the pair are responsible for a growing population of at least 14 coyotes on Angel Island, according to Dexter-Lee.

Bill Miller, an environmental scientist for California State Parks — and one of the staff on the boat when the most recent coyote sighting occurred — said his team is working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on a multi-year study to glean more information from the coyotes and their broader impacts on the local ecosystem. The island may hold the record for the state's highest documented density of deer, according to Bay Nature; the deer could be impacted, alongside species that are endemic to the island like the Angel Island mole.

Part of their work includes collecting DNA samples from the coyotes' scat, which helped park staff determine the current population estimate as well as what they were eating. Results from data gathered last October revealed their diet is primarily made up of invasive species like black rats and house mice, but also much smaller percentages of chicken and pork. Those can likely be traced back to food accidentally dropped by visitors, if not intentionally fed to the animals, which park staff discourage. But as Dexter-Lee told Bay Nature last November, deer aren't off the

menu: She's found a hoof in coyote scat before, and said park staff haven't seen any of the prey animals grow into adulthood since the first coyote litter was introduced. She told SFGATE that raccoons, which were once a common sight both day and night because they had no true predators on the island, have all but vanished.

"I would love to know if there's still evidence of them here," Dexter-Lee said.

Since the first coyote sighting on Angel Island almost a decade ago, Dexter-Lee said she's seen the animals a handful of times on her morning runs, but only once in the water last April. "Swimming is definitely rare to see," she said.

Staff can only speculate as to why the animals are taking a dip, but seeking out more territory, chasing prey or seeking out a mate are all possibilities. It's a testament to their adaptability.

"We do know coyotes have been expanding south into Marin County and to San Francisco. They're already taking exploratory things like going across the Golden Gate Bridge," Brett Furnas, a CDFW quantitative ecologist, told Bay Nature. "So it's not a stretch that they would, maybe by accident, get swept across to Angel Island, or intentionally do that."



A coyote walks through a grassy meadow during a winter sunset in Point Reyes National Seashore. Photo: Chase Dekker Wild-Life Images/Getty Images

After Angel Island State Park shared the footage on Instagram, some commenters expressed concern about the safety of the coyote and whether it needed help, but Dexter-Lee said it was exhibiting natural behavior. She highlighted how in the video, one of the staff can be heard saying they didn't want to harass the animal.

"Coyotes are good swimmers," she said. "We try very hard not to interfere with natural behaviors of wildlife whenever possible, as long as it's not in conflict with the visitors. We let the animals do their thing."

Conservation groups decry decreasing diversity among Mexican gray wolves

Alaina Mencinger | Santa Fe New Mexican | September 23, 2025



Asha, a Mexican gray wolf, runs around a pen where she and her mate were kept at the Sevilleta Mexican Wolf Management Facility outside Socorro in September 2024. Photo: Gabriela Campos/New Mexican file photo

An administrator for the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program pleaded in 2004 to keep a “problem wolf” alive.

The wolf and his pack had been preying on livestock. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staffer advocated in a memo to capture him alive rather than kill him due to his genetic value — describing him as the “most genetically valuable wolf in the wild.”

The wolf was ultimately killed, according to Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity. More

than two decades later, genetic diversity remains a pressing issue for the growing Mexican gray wolf population, which comes from just seven founder animals.

“There is no known level of inbreeding as dire as this, where the species ... has not gone extinct, it hasn’t blinked out,” Robinson said.

In a letter late last week to state game officials in Arizona and New Mexico and federal administrators, wolf lovers decried a wild wolf population that has,

in recent years, become marginally more related, more inbred and less genetically diverse.

There are four metrics of note when it comes to genetic diversity:

- Two are related to the level of inbreeding and relatedness in a population,
- One is the percent of gene diversity retained.
- The fourth is known as the “founder genome equivalent,” an estimate of the number of founders that would produce the current genetic diversity of a population if all contributed equally to subsequent generations.

The first two numbers go down when diversity improves, while the second two increase.

For wild Mexican wolves, all four metrics are moving, albeit slowly, in the wrong direction, the letter indicates.

For example, the population’s founder genome equivalent has slipped from 2.1 in 2022 to 2.08 in 2025.

A founder genome equivalent of 2 would mean all wild wolves are as closely related as siblings, born to the same two parents.

Robinson said 2.08 isn’t much better. Even among captive-born wolves, which are more genetically diverse than their wild counterparts, the genetic diversity is dismal.

Arizona conservation biologist and population geneticist Philip Hedrick first got involved with Mexican wolf recovery when he started at Arizona State University in the 1990s. He was asked to help evaluate the genetics of captive wolves, analyzing pedigrees and molecular genetics.

Because the wild wolf population in Arizona and New Mexico comes from just seven founders, “potentially, we could have had descendants from all seven, equally,” Hedrick said. “Now there’s only two, and that’s because some of those lineages ... are not as represented.”

He added, “It’s probably as low as any species we know about or subspecies we know about, that low amount of founders.”

The dismal genetic diversity can result in what’s known as inbreeding depression, Hedrick said, which can lead to physical deformities, lower fertility or decreased survival rates.

Since the early 2000s, more than a dozen Mexican

wolves have been found with a rare form of cancer, nasal carcinoma, which in dogs is believed to have a genetic component, according to a 2012 paper on the species.

Hedrick also worries about the subspecies’ susceptibility to environmental changes.

“If you don’t have a genetic variation that can react to that, then the population is not going to be able to survive nearly as well,” Hedrick said. “You have to have genetic variation for future adaptation, as well as just being able to survive in the present day.”

But Hedrick sees hope in the genetic quandary.

If Mexican wolves were allowed to meet and breed with their northern neighbors, the northern gray wolf, he said, some genetic variation could be reintroduced. Historically, he added, the smaller and genetically distinct Mexican wolf interbred with the northern gray wolf, creating a gradation from Canada to Mexico.

Currently, however, the Mexican wolf recovery area in Arizona and New Mexico stops at Interstate 40 — a boundary often passed by wayward wolves.

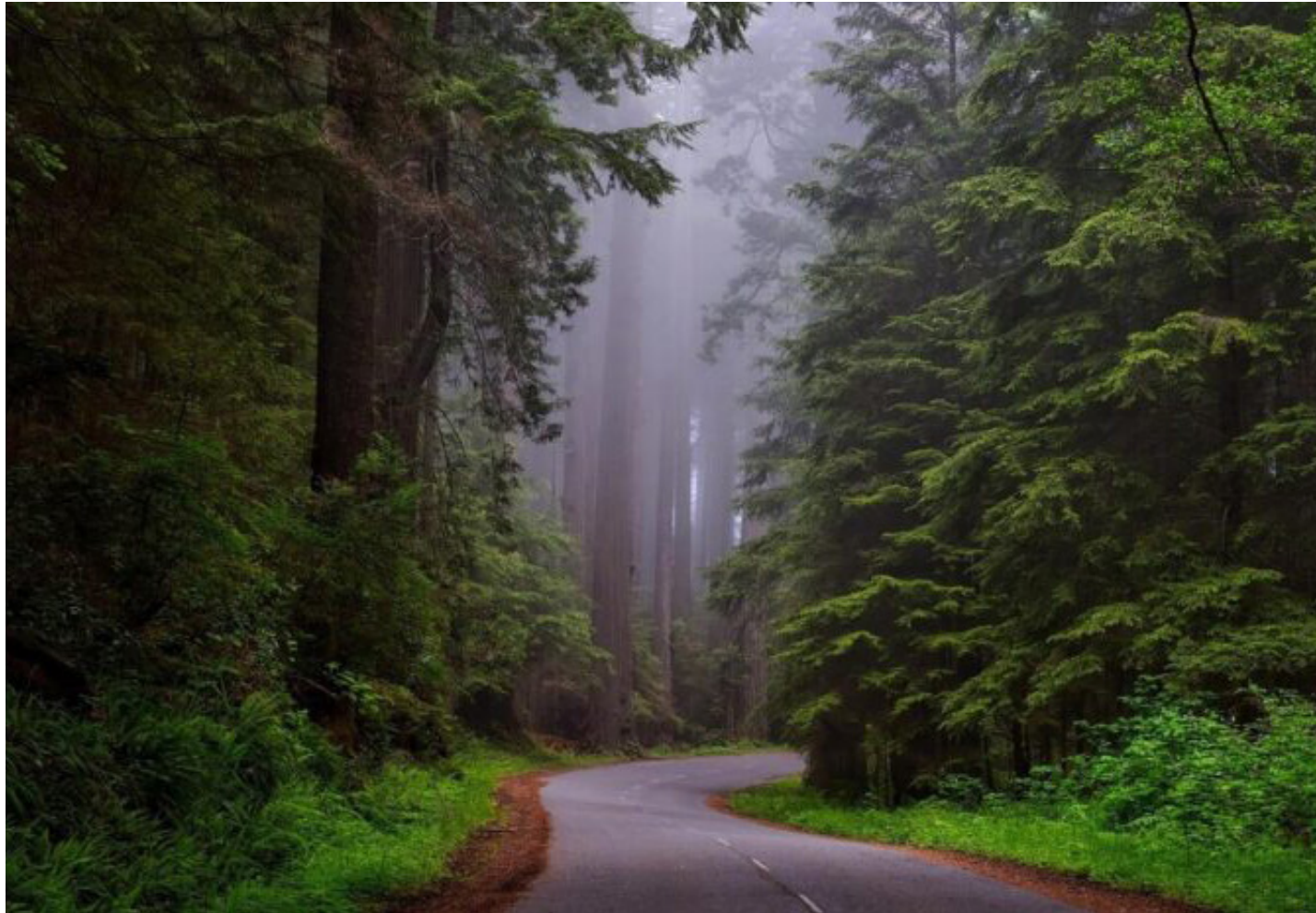
One such wandering wolf gained celebrity status for her travels to Northern New Mexico. Asha eventually was captured and held at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility near Socorro, where she successfully mated with a male wolf this year. She, her mate and their litter of pups were released together.

Robinson said releasing family packs could ensure more wolf pups reach breeding age.

It’s one of three management changes the advocates’ letter urges. The other two recommendations: allowing Mexican wolves to pass the I-40 boundary and breed with gray wolves in Utah and Colorado, and stopping the removal of genetically valuable wolves.

Advocates raised the alarm earlier this year over what they said appeared to be a troubling increase in federal killings of genetically valuable wolves. Last year, just one wolf was lethally removed, according to quarterly Mexican wolf program updates, but there have been a handful more this year.

“What I’m looking at, at this point, is the genetically valuable wolves,” Robinson said. “Without a doubt in my mind, it’s a lot more of them being removed.”



USDA moves to roll back protections on 59 million acres of National Forest land

Gail Marsh | RVtravel | September 11, 2025

A big rule change is moving through the federal process right now. It proposes rescinding the current “Roadless Rule” in some of the U.S. National Forests. The public comment period closes on September 19, 2025.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has started the formal process to rescind the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. This rule currently restricts road construction, reconstruction, and logging across roughly 58–59 million acres of Forest Service land

In announcing the rollback proposal, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke Rollins said, “*This administration is dedicated to removing burdensome, outdated, one-*

size-fits-all regulations that not only put people and livelihoods at risk but also stifle economic growth in rural America. It is vital that we properly manage our federal lands to create healthy, resilient, and productive forests for generations to come. We look forward to hearing directly from the people and communities we serve as we work together to implement productive and commonsense policy for forest land management.”

Two sides divided

Proponents, including USDA leadership, say removing the Roadless Rule will let foresters, local loggers, and land managers be more effective. Under the rollback, targeted road building and timber work will reduce

hazardous wildfire fuel, improve forest health, open access for fire crews, and support economic activity in rural timber-dependent communities. The USDA’s public statement frames the change as “common-sense” management meant to improve wildfire preparedness and restore local control over forest treatments.

Opponents include conservation groups, trail organizations, and many outdoor recreation advocates. They warn that opening roadless areas to new roadbuilding and industrial logging risks habitat loss, erosion, and degraded water quality. Opponents worry that rolling back the Roadless Rule will harm biodiversity and scenic values and could fragment long-distance trails and wildlands.

What’s next?

The USDA says about 30% of National Forest System lands are affected by the rule (roughly 58–59 million acres). Large areas that could see an impact include places like Alaska’s Tongass Forest, Utah, and parts of Montana.

The Federal Register notice sets the public comment deadline at September 19, 2025. The September comment window is about shaping the scope of a proposed environmental impact statement (EIS). Results from the EIS and another chance to comment are expected in 2026. A final decision will likely come later that year.

Potential effects

Roadbuilding and new logging work near previously roadless areas could change the character of scenic drives and backcountry campsites. This might mean potentially increasing industrial truck traffic on access roads or opening formerly quiet forest edges to work crews.

Increased mechanical treatment and access could

help create fuel-break roads that proponents say aid firefighting. However, it could also disturb wildlife, cut through trailheads, or change water runoff patterns that affect streams and campgrounds.

While rescinding a nationwide rule sets the parameters, local project-level decisions will determine actual roadbuilding and treatments.

Make your voice heard

The comment window that matters right now closes at 11:59 p.m. Eastern on September 19, 2025. Submit formal comments through the Federal Register notice or Regulations.gov using docket FS-2025-0001.

Even short, personal comments that explain how you use national forests for RV camping, scenic drives, wildlife viewing, or trail access are valid and often persuasive. Officials weigh both technical submissions and hundreds of personal-use statements.

To comment, use one of the following methods:

- Electronically (preferred): Go to the notice posted on Regulations.gov. After reading the notice, click on the Comment button.

- Mail: Hardcopy letters should be submitted to the Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination, 201 14th Street SW, Mailstop 1108, Washington, DC 20250-1124.

Long and short term

This proposed rescission is a policy-level move that starts a formal rulemaking and environmental review. That means short-term headlines don’t automatically translate into immediate road projects. Project-level National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses and local planning would follow if protections are removed.

The public comment you submit this month helps shape what the draft EIS evaluates, which alternatives are considered, and which impacts receive closer study.

CWWC is looking for winter interns & volunteers!



Contact: **Kelly@wolfeducation.org**





Coyotes, once confined largely to the Great Plains and Southwest, are showing up in more urban areas, such as Central Park in New York City. At least 20 coyotes now roam the city, including two — named Romeo and Juliet — who arrived in 2019 and 2023. The spread of coyotes in NYC shows how wild animals are adapting to cityscapes.

What's happening?

These animals are believed to have migrated east over time, driven by factors including fewer natural predators, according to The Guardian. Photographer and naturalist Chris St. Lawrence and other photographers tracked them to help city residents understand and coexist peacefully with the coyotes.

"We think it's important that people are aware that there are Central Park coyotes and to understand how sensitive they are and know that there is no reason to fear them," said David Lei, a Manhattan resident and photographer.

Why is peaceful coexistence important?

Though it's important to allow urban coyotes to share in a healthy environment, their increasing presence raises concerns about wildlife-human interactions. A study on San Francisco coyotes found that 73.8% of collected scat samples included small mammals and 78% included human-origin food, such as trash or scraps, which leads

to concerns about waste management in cities. If these animals rely heavily on human food, it may lead to more frequent encounters and conflict that will delay progress toward safer urban ecosystems.

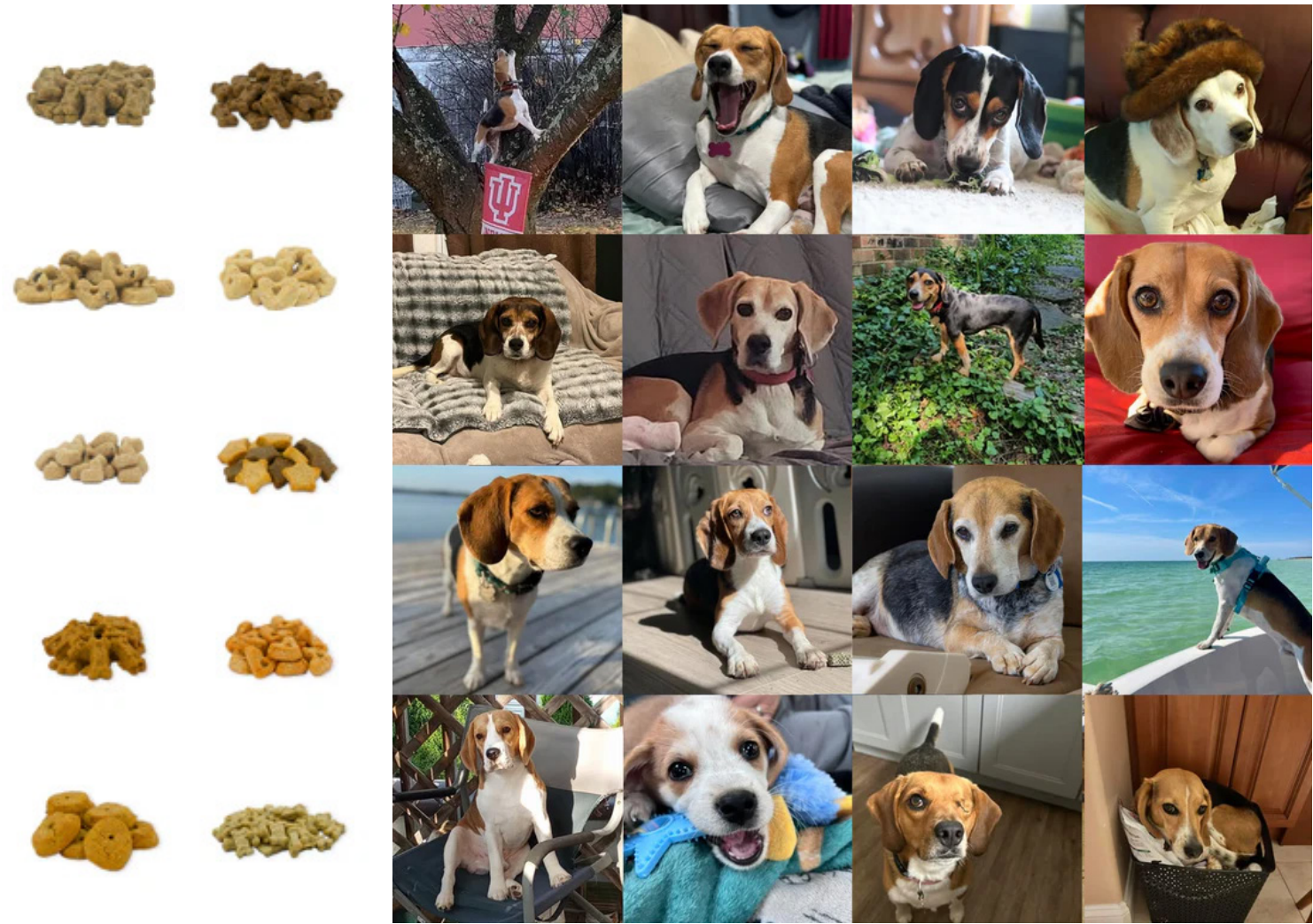
What's being done about urban coyotes?

In San Francisco, for example, officials have emphasized coexistence strategies rather than relocation. Relocation is illegal under state law and typically ineffective because coyotes often return or respond to disruption with large litters.

An effective way to help wild animals and humans coexist is by building wildlife corridors that allow animals to get to the spaces they want to get to while reducing the chance for interactions that might be especially dangerous for wildlife or people.

In New York, there is a program called WildlifeNYC, which was launched in 2016 to guide public policy and management toward coexistence.

"Our goal is to make sure that both people and coyotes can safely use our parks," Katrina Toal, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation wildlife unit deputy director, wrote in an email to The Guardian. "That means encouraging people to observe coyotes from a distance and to keep their pets leashed."



DOGS OF THE MONTH PUP TREATS

Congrats to the Dogs of the Month (left to right):
Little Bitty • Finley • Punkey Ruester • Baxter • Blue
Koln • Pixie • Charlotte • Kenna • Huckleberry • Chip
Milo • Tanner • Bandit • Gabby • Lola



This month, Beagle Coffee Co. is spotlighting the winners of our Beagle Photo Contest. These pups were selected from many entries, and their owners have graciously agreed to allow us to add their wonderful photos to our treats.

Each owner has selected a dog rescue charity to benefit, and \$5 from every bag sold will be donated directly to the rescue organization he or she selected.

Select the dog you want from the dropdown menu — his or her photo will be featured on the bag! Each purchase helps a rescue dog in need. It's an easy and meaningful way to support rescue efforts while giving your pup a delicious snack.

*You'll receive a 1 pound bag of treats. Treat flavors vary based on what's been freshly baked. All ingredients and flavor details can be found in our Dog Treat Collection. Leave a note with your order if there are allergies you want to avoid!

CLICK HERE TO ORDER!

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OCTOBER 26TH
4-6pm**

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TO ALL
THE WOLVES!**

**+ ENJOY A
BON FIRE AND
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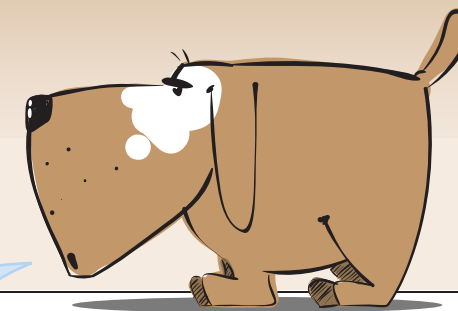
Adoption corner

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.]

CASSIE »

Hi there, my name is Cassie, and it's great to meet you. I came from Texas for my new beginning here in Colorado. I have a fun, outgoing personality once I feel safe and loved. While the people here at the shelter think I am great and have been wonderful to me, I want a home! I would love some windows to watch all the birds from and a really comfy couch and bed to sleep on.



« SOPHIE

Hello friends! I would love nothing more than to go out and play in all this sunshine! I'd love a yard to run around in and a family to play with! I'm very smart and eager to please, and especially active! I just need someone to show me the way to be an ever-better dog! I can be a bit strong-minded so I need someone ready with a regular schedule to help me best adjust to me home!



SLVAWS
Please check our website,
www.slvaws.org for our next
adoption fair in Colorado Springs,
every Saturday 10am-3pm.

RED & OREO

Boys Red and Oreo were abandoned in the mountains near San Luis, CO. They are both sweethearts and very affectionate. Two-year-old Red is appears to be an American bulldog mix. His best friend Oreo is a 6 month old heeler mix. They are neutered, current on all vaccinations, microchipped, about knee high. They would love a home together.

