



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

JANUARY 2022 • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • PRESERVATION



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**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

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

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



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

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



| SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

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

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:**
Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center

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

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!



Send us a photo of your cute animal couple. Our staff will vote for the cutest pair and the winner will receive a prize!

Email photo to tours@wolfeducation.org

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>

20 gray wolves shot and killed by hunters near Yellowstone in recent months



PHOTO: istock

Joseph Guzman | The Hill | January 7, 2022

Hunters shot and killed at least 20 gray wolves that wandered away from the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park in recent months, according to a report from The Associated Press.

Yellowstone National Park officials told the news outlet 15 wolves were shot after crossing the park's northern border into Montana, while five were killed in Idaho and Wyoming.

Officials called it "a significant setback for the species' long-term viability and for wolf research," and noted it was the highest number of wolves killed in a single hunting season since the animals were reintroduced into the area decades ago.

Just under 100 gray wolves are believed to be roaming the national park, where hunting of the predators is prohibited, according to AP.

Annual quotas previously prevented hunters and trappers in Montana from killing more than two wolves in wolf management units that border Yellowstone to the north, but quotas were lifted in August and wolf hunting and trapping regulations were eased by the state this spring. Baiting the animals has also been authorized under the state's new rules.

Park officials in September first announced three wolves from the Junction Butte pack, which is the "most-viewed wolf pack in the world," were killed during the first week of Montana's wolf hunting season. Two female pups and one female yearling were killed just outside Yellowstone borders where the pack was traveling in mid-September.

Officials said the rollback of restrictions to hunting and trapping in Montana have made Yellowstone's wolf population in the northern range extremely vulnerable.

"Yellowstone plays a vital role in Montana's wildlife conservation efforts and its economy. These wolves are part of our balanced ecosystem here and represent one of the special parts of the park that draw visitors from around the globe," Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly said back in September.

"We will continue to work with the state of Montana to make the case for reinstating quotas that would protect the core wolf population in Yellowstone as well as Montana's direct economic interests derived from the hundreds of millions spent by park visitors each year," Sholly added.

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.



"I was doing a research paper for school and I found so many extinct wolf species I felt like the wolf in the painting. Sad and alone because if we don't act now, all wolves may become extinct at the hands of humans."

— Isabelle Howe

Submit your art to
tours@wolfeducation.org

A Slaughter of Wolves Like This Hasn't Been Seen in a Century



By Thomas McNamee
The New York Times
January 17, 2022

LIVINGSTON, Mont. — A slaughter of wolves is underway in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming that has no precedent in the past 100 years.

Hunters in Idaho can shoot or trap as many as they like year-round on private land. They can lure wolves within gun range by putting out bait, run them down to exhaustion using A.T.V.s and snowmobiles and stalk them after dark using night vision technology.

Baiting and night hunting are also allowed on private land in Montana, where an individual can kill up to 20 wolves a year by hunting and trapping them. Both states allow bounty payments on dead wolves, which incentivize the bloodshed. In Wyoming, there is no limit on the number that can be killed across 85 percent of the state.

This is all legal. Lawmakers in those states have resumed their longstanding war on gray wolves now that the federal government no longer protects them as threatened with extinction in the region. In all three states, even wolf pups can be killed.

In the face of this all-out assault, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced in September that it would begin a 12-month review to determine whether “potential increases in human-caused mortality may pose a threat” to the wolves, perhaps exacerbated by new, more permissive regulations in Idaho and Montana. Those two states are home to about 75 percent of the gray wolf population in the Northern Rockies.

We shouldn't wait for this review to be completed to return these animals to federal protection.

Wolves in the Northern Rockies were exterminated in the early 20th century by federally sponsored predator control programs that were created in the mistaken belief that wolves would drastically reduce

wild game and destroy the nascent ranching industry. Then, some 25 years ago, nearly 70 were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park and the wilderness of north-central Idaho in an effort to restore their populations.

They have thrived. Last winter, there were more than 100 wolves in Yellowstone National Park, with hundreds more in the surrounding region and well over a thousand in Idaho. But this success has been their undoing. In 2011, federal protections were lifted in Montana and Idaho and in 2017 in Wyoming, leaving the fate of the wolves to those states.

Today, not even Yellowstone National Park's wolves are safe, despite their value to the ecosystem and to visitors who generate hundreds of millions of dollars a year in surrounding communities. In September, three wolves from the Junction Butte pack, a favorite of visitors, were killed by hunters when the animals ventured across the northern border of the park into Montana. Yellowstone's superintendent, Cam Sholly, said at the time that he would continue “to work with the State of Montana to make the case for reinstating quotas that would protect the core wolf population” in the park.

But at least 15 wolves have been killed by hunters in recent months after crossing outside Yellowstone into Montana, where quotas in the hunting districts bordering Yellowstone were removed last year. At least five others died in Idaho and Wyoming. Park officials recently told The Associated Press that one of Yellowstone's wolf packs, the Phantom Lake pack, was considered “eliminated” as a result.

Neither Montana nor the other states have paid much heed to Mr. Sholly's concerns. Idaho's new law could lead to the reduction of its wolf population by up to

90 percent. In Montana the governor, Greg Gianforte, is among the elected officials who have led the charge. Last February he trapped and killed a wolf near Yellowstone, though he had not taken a legally required trapper education course. He has signed laws making it much easier to kill wolves in his state. The methods allowed in these states are utterly at odds with the principles of ethical hunting as laid out by the Boone and Crockett Club, a hunting and conservation group. That approach is to pursue game animals in a way that “does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage.”

Ranchers whose livelihoods the state legislators cite as endangered by wolves are now complaining that elk are eating too much of their grass and raiding their haystacks — too many elk, in the middle of wolf country! The hunting seasons for elk actually are being extended.

Wolf depredation on livestock has been minimal. In 2015, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming had 1,602,100 cattle in counties where both cattle and wolves were present; there were 1,904 wolves. They killed 148 cattle: about 0.01 percent, or approximately one out of every 10,000 cows. All three states compensate livestock owners for proven losses to wolves.

The ecological consequences of the wolf's return have been complex. The subsequent reduction and redistribution of elk herds have allowed overbrowsed aspen groves to recover. Is that why the beaver population has increased? Maybe. Nesting songbirds? Probably. The changes ramify throughout the food chain. There can be no doubt that the restoration of one of Yellowstone's apex predators has been a net benefit. It is now one of the most intact large wild ecosystems in the temperate zones of the planet.

When the gray wolf in the Northern Rockies was removed from the list of species classified as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, authority over their well-being was placed with the states, on their promises that their management would be sound. Those promises ring rather hollow now.

The only way to stop this killing is to restore federal protection to the gray wolf of the Northern Rockies through the Endangered Species Act, which can be done overnight on an emergency basis.

Conservation groups, dozens of concerned wildlife biologists and managers in Montana, a number of former members of Montana's Fish and Wildlife Commission and dozens of Native American tribes nationwide have demanded change.

A group of 21 U.S. senators led by Cory Booker, Democrat of New Jersey, and Gary Peters, Democrat of Michigan, recently wrote to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland urging an emergency relisting of the wolf on the federal threatened and endangered species list. Mr. Booker said that the policies “in states like Idaho and Montana, if continued unabated, will result in the deaths of hundreds of gray wolves and pose a significant risk to the species' survival.” Nearly 80 members of the House have also called for emergency action.

Dan Ashe, a director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Obama administration, told me that “if Secretary Haaland wishes to stop this killing, the Endangered Species Act gives her ample authority and discretion to stop it — cold.”

That's what she should do.

RIP Betty White

lifetime lover of all animals



Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center would like to give a big, heartfelt “THANK YOU” to all of the people who donated to our Center in honor of Betty White.

As most of you know Betty White was not only a lover of all animals, but a strong advocate for them as well. I actually had the pleasure of having dinner years ago with Betty when she was a guest for the organization Dreampower Animal Rescue Foundation.

As a tribute to Betty White, Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center will be starting a dollar for dollar match starting February 1st 2022 on all contributions made during the month. I feel that February is a good month since it represents the month of love on Valentine's Day and the creation of CWWC on February 25th in 1993.

The donations received will go directly into the Colorado Wolf Co-Existence Fund.

What is this fund about?

This fund was established after Proposition #114 passed, which was the Gray Wolf Reintroduction initiative. This measure mandates CPW re-establish wolves back on the Colorado landscape by 2023.

CWWC started the fund to collect monies for unforeseen circumstances that could arise such as the use of non-lethal equipment, materials, education programs, and whatever else to help the wolves be protected.

For a quick background on my involvement with wolves, besides being the founder of CWWC for 29 years and countless educational programs to tens of thousands of people, I was chosen to be a proponent for the proposition which was quite an honor given that there were only 2 selected in the state to become a part of history by returning the Gray wolf. After we were successful in passing #114, I was again chosen to be part of a SAG (Stakeholders Advisory Group) for CPW (Colorado Parks and Wildlife). This is a 2 year commitment until 2023 that involves being a part in meetings with ranchers, outfitters, and other groups with the purpose of finding common ground together. I can say that it has been challenging and I feel honored again to be a voice for the wolves and for the people of Colorado who voted to bring back the Gray wolf to our state.

Since I started the *Colorado Co-Existence Fund* last year, and have now been involved, I understand more about how this process is evolving. I see in the future we need to save as much money as we can to help insure that the wolves are protected in 2023 and beyond. Funds will be needed for deterrents such as fladry, fox lights, collars, drones, ATV's, and a response team trailer among other things.

The public can help make a difference by attending public hearings and speaking at the public SAG meetings. I highly encourage everyone to become involved!

The Betty White Wolf Protection Challenge (BWPC), will be put towards the long term success of the Gray Wolf in Colorado. CWWC will match whatever your donation is dollar for dollar up to **\$50,000**. Please make donations payable to the Colorado Wolf Co-Existence Fund and include (BWPC) in the subject line. For PayPal donations include (BWPC) in the notes so we know to match the funds.

Let's Do This!!

Never Let The Howl Go Silent
Darlene Kobobel

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



Find more of Fanni's art
& follow her on instagram:
[@graphitepage](#)

ABOUT THE ARTIST |

"My name is Fanni Adrienn Vonza from Hungary, a self-educated artistess. I have been drawing since my childhood also developing myself all the time and animals always have special place in my heart. I create realistic works, so demonstration of emotions is crucial in my job. I chose this picture as a reference because love and peace imbued me when I saw them and I really tried to reflect it to the audience."

OUR 2022 CALENDARS ARE IN!



Wolf pups are born in the Spring and they live with their mother in the den until they are about 3 weeks old. All wolves in a pack help raise and take care of the pups.

RAYNE | GERONIMO

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

EARTH DAY

You can
order online
or shop in
our gift
store on site.

Enrichment is mental stimulation for animals being kept in captivity. Enrichment can be given in various different ways to encourage an animal to behave how they would in the wild or even just for the fun of it! We dedicate two days a week to giving our animals various types of planned enrichment, although we give spontaneous enrichment at other random times too. Here's some examples of enrichment our animals enjoyed over the last month.



Kong toys with special food/treats inside for an extra snack.



Fur/hair/wool from other animals like sheep is a great olfactory stimulator.



Toys with appropriate supervision and clean up are purely for fun.



Deer/elk/pronghorn hides donated by local hunters serve as a fast snack and a toy to shred.

Staff time with lots of scratches teaches socialization. Plus, what canid doesn't love belly rubs?



Puzzle feeders are an excellent way to promote problem solving and encourage the use of paws and a nose.





COLORADO LEGISLATORS JUST INTRODUCED A BILL THAT WOULD BAN BOBCAT, MOUNTAIN LION, AND LYNX HUNTING

Dac Collins | Outdoor Living | January 14, 2022

Legislators in Colorado introduced a bill on Wednesday, Jan. 12, that would ban all recreational hunting and trapping of bobcats, mountain lions, and lynx in the state. Although the bill allows for some exceptions to be made, it would “generally prohibit shooting, wounding, killing, or trapping a bobcat, Canada lynx, or mountain lion.”

S.B. 22-031 is being sponsored by State Senators Sonya Jaquez Lewis (D-Lafayette) and Joann Ginal (D-Fort Collins), along with State Representatives Judy Amabile (D-Boulder) and Monica Duran (D-Wheat Ridge). The bill has been sent to the Senate Agriculture and Resources Committee, where Lewis serves on the committee as Vice Chair.

If passed, the recently introduced legislation would punish violators with fines of \$500-\$2,000 or up to one year in jail, along with the potential suspension of the violator’s hunting license for up to 5 years. The law would allow for some exceptions, and it states that a bobcat, lynx, or mountain lion could be killed or trapped if it is an immediate threat to a person and/or livestock. (There are additional exceptions made for relocating animals, and for peace officers, health officials, scientists, zoologists, etc.)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has regulated hunting seasons for bobcats and mountain lions, both of which are currently underway. The state prohibits the hunting and trapping of Canada lynx, which are protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species. If passed, the bill would preemptively prohibit the hunting and trapping of lynx should the species be de-listed at any point.

Several pro-hunting and conservation organizations have already spoken out against the bill. They say that hunting has been and should remain an important wildlife management tool, and that the legislation would have detrimental effects on the state’s deer, elk, and other wildlife—not to mention the personal safety of citizens living in mountain lion country.

“Colorado hunters have been under attack by animal-rights activists for year. This bill isn’t just a Colorado issue, and it’s not just a predator-hunting issue,” said Brian Lynn, vice president of communications for the Sportsmen’s Alliance. “Senate Bill 22-0331 is an issue for every deer and elk hunter in Colorado, and for every non-resident hunter who has dreamed, saved money for, and plans to hunt the state in the future.”

COCO FOR MAYOR



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

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

EACH VOTE WILL COST \$2.00

**STAY TUNED FOR OUR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
FOR VOTING INFORMATION!**

Bring your Sweetheart

and celebrate the history!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH • 9-11AM

Join us on a
mini tour of our
resident animals
and take a special
tour on Chinook's
nature trail,
where you will hear
the story of
"THE LOVERS".



Guests Will Receive a Flower, Snacks, & Seasonal Drinks

12 & OLDER \$40 • 8-11 YEARS \$20

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Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center

wolfeducation.org

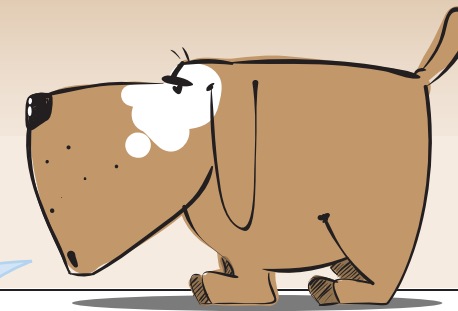
Adoption corner

TCRAS

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter
tcrascolorado.org · 719.686.7707

SLVAWS

San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society
slvaws.org · 719.587.woof (9663)

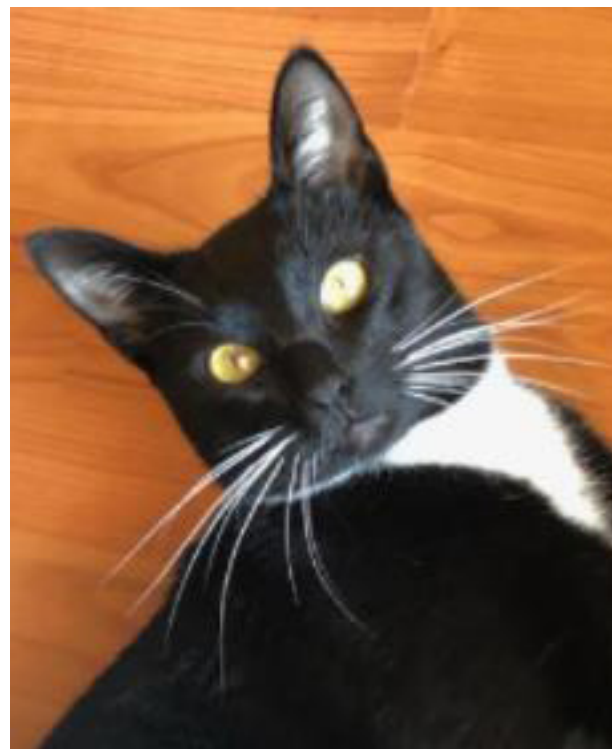


[NOTE - Our shelter is still open for adoptions, but we are asking that you call ahead and make an appointment before coming in to the shelter - 719-686-7707.]

BRYN »

AGE: 2 years 3 months
SEX: Male/Neutered
Domestic Shorthair/Mix

I'm a little shy and very easy going. I tend to be quiet but I will try to talk softly to you when I'm trying to get your attention. Once I know you're safe I love to cuddle up next to you and just purr the day away.



« NORA

AGE: 2 years 1 months
SEX: Female/Spayed
Terrier, American Pit Bull/Mix

I am a little shy at the initial meeting but once I get to know you I'll be your best friend! I've had some great people working with me on my training, if you've ever wanted a smart dog who can bark on command, that's me! I even come with some free training upon my adoption!



SLVAWS ADOPTION FAIR

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



« DIESEL & COCONUT

Diesel, 1 1/2 years old &
Coconut, 3 years old, are best
friends. They would love to
go home together. Neutered/
spayed, chipped, all vacc's.

HENDRIK & HAYDEN »

4 month old mellow Beagle mix
brothers. ~35 pounds. Neutered,
chipped, all vaccinations.

