



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

AUGUST 2022 • 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.



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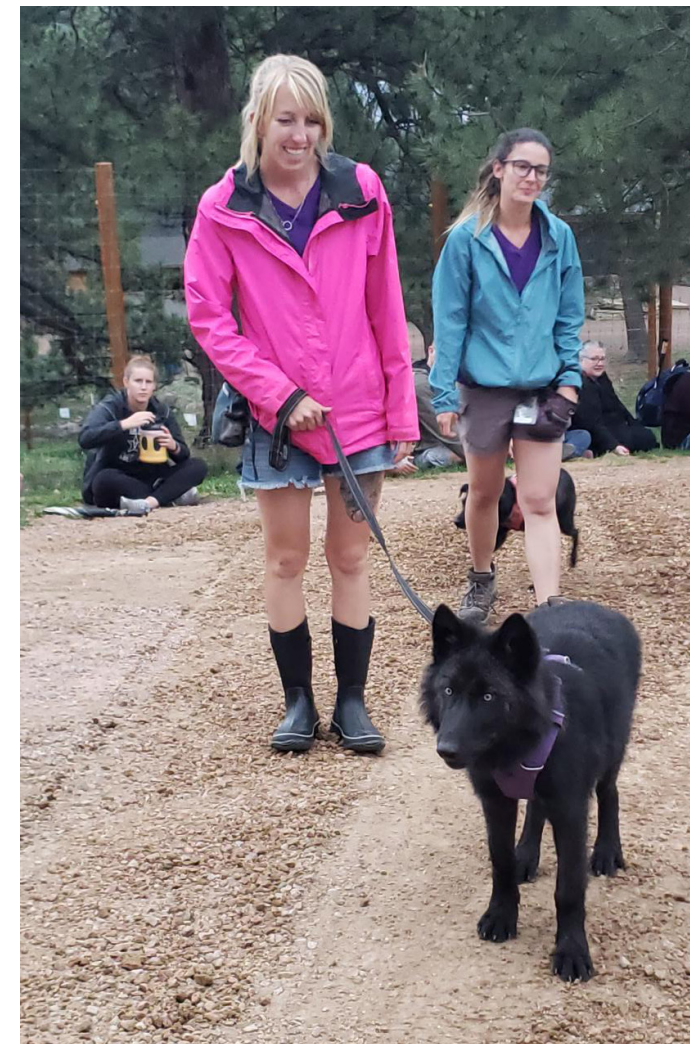
| SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

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.
- 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!

RANGE RIDING



Raven's Full Moon Meet & Greet



STATE CONSIDERS DESIGNATING WOLVES REINTRODUCED TO COLORADO AS EXPERIMENTAL

Ruling would allow livestock producers more flexibility to harass, injure or kill the animals

By Eliza Noe | Aspen Times | August 7, 2022

As Colorado Parks and Wildlife continues its meetings and process to reintroduce grey wolves back to the Western Slope, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is beginning its process to introduce a 10(j) rule at the request of the state. On Wednesday, leadership from Parks and Wildlife and the Fish and Wildlife Service met in Silverthorne to continue public engagement about the process.

Under a 10(j) rule in the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service may designate a population of a listed species as “experimental” if it will be released into suitable natural habitat outside the species’ current range.

“A 10(j) rule provides special management considerations and enhances management flexibility for species relative to a fully listed species, for example, one that’s listed as fully endangered, which grey wolves are right now in Colorado,” John Hughes, wildlife biologist with the service, said. “This management flexibility is needed for reducing potential conflicts for livestock producers, other stakeholders and increasing the likelihood that the overall reintroduction effort being put forth by (Parks and Wildlife) will be successful.”

Hughes said that the endangerment status of wolves has gone back and forth over the past several decades. Active wolf reintroduction efforts began in 1995 in the north Rocky Mountains, with introductions to central Idaho, western Montana and in northwestern Wyoming. Because wolves have far ranges when it comes to territory, it’s not uncommon for them to show up miles from where they were introduced. This, he said, is potentially why wolves have been documented in the northern part of Colorado, like in Moffat County and in Walden. However, this doesn’t mean they constitute a population, which is two animals producing at least two offspring for two consecutive years.



Photo: istock - Jeff439

The Fish and Wildlife Service has three alternatives to consider. The first is what was requested by Parks and Wildlife, the 10(j) rule. The service would determine if a population is essential or non-essential through an internal rulemaking process, and it would establish a boundary for this population, which is currently anticipated to be the entire state of Colorado. If there is an experimental population, then the rule would establish management provisions for experimental groups that may or may not be different from the protected group.

The second alternative would be more of a hybrid one, Hughes said. It addresses the possibility that there is an identified population of wolves in the state. If that happens, the service would issue a Safe Harbor Agreement for the population, and a separate 10(j) rule would exist for any experimental population of reintroduced wolves. It would also create a separate boundary for experimental groups.

The third option is no action. This would mean that the state would introduce wolves, and they would remain endangered and would not

have the flexibility that the other alternatives have, Hughes added.

“The key is, (a 10(j) rule) allows us to define when ‘take’ is going to be allowed, under certain situations, and take means harass, injure or kill,” Scott Becker, regional wolf coordinator, said. “When we talk about endangered versus experimental population, it’s really a difference between — under endangered, all you can do is non-injurious harassment, but under experimental populations, or even threatened status, you can conduct some injurious harassment as well. This will just define exactly when those situations might be allowed.”

In recent weeks, Parks and Wildlife has continued its process to reintroduce wolves on the Western Slope after voters approved the initiative in 2020. The department has faced criticism from environmental groups for not being transparent enough in its processes, and a group has created its own wolf plan as a response.

Rainwater is no longer safe to drink anywhere on Earth due to 'forever chemicals' linked to cancer, study suggests

Morgan McFall-Johnsen | Insider | August 13, 2022



Eight-year-old Chelsea Symonds carries a bucket of collected rainwater in the drought-affected town of Murrurundi, New South Wales, Australia, on February 17, 2020. *Loren Elliott/Reuters*

Rainwater is no longer safe to drink anywhere on Earth, based on US contamination guidelines, a team of environmental scientists has found.

That's because rainwater across the planet now contains hazardous chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. In a paper published in the journal "Environmental Science & Technology," on August 2, researchers at University of Stockholm, which has been studying PFAS for a decade, found evidence that these substances have spread throughout the entire atmosphere, leaving no place untouched.

There are thousands of PFAS, all human-made, used in food packaging, water-repellant clothing, furniture, carpets, nonstick coating on pots and pans, fire-extinguishing foams, electronics, and some shampoos and cosmetics. During manufacturing and daily use, they can be released into the air. They also leach into ocean water and get aerosolized

in sea spray. From there, they spread through the atmosphere and fall back to Earth in rain.

They're often called "forever chemicals" because they linger for a long time without breaking down, allowing them to build up in people, animals, and environments.

PFAS have been found in Antarctica and in Arctic Sea ice. Their prevalence across the planet is a hazard to human health, and peer-reviewed studies have linked them to some cancers, decreased fertility, reduced vaccine response, high cholesterol, and developmental delays in children.

Like microplastics, it's difficult to identify all the long-lasting health effects of PFAS exposure because they include so many different compounds and they're so prevalent. The new paper suggests that everybody on Earth is at risk.

Under EPA limits 'rainwater everywhere would be judged unsafe to drink'

Perhaps the most notorious among these substances are perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, or PFOS. In June, based on new evidence about health impacts, the Environmental Protection Agency significantly tightened its guidelines for how much PFOA and PFOS can safely be present in drinking water.

Previously, EPA had set the acceptable level for both substances at 70 parts per trillion. The new guidelines cut that by a factor of up to 17,000 — limiting safe levels to 0.004 parts per trillion for PFOA and 0.02 parts per trillion for PFOS.

The University of Stockholm researchers assessed the levels

of PFOA, PFOS, and two other PFAS in rainwater and soil across the planet, and compared them to regulators' limits. Both substances' levels in rainwater "often greatly exceed" EPA limits, the study authors concluded.

"Based on the latest US guidelines for PFOA in drinking water, rainwater everywhere would be judged unsafe to drink," Ian Cousins, the lead author of the study and a professor at the University of Stockholm's department of environmental science, said in a press release.

"Although in the industrial world we don't often drink rainwater [directly], many people around the world expect it to be safe to drink, and it supplies many of our drinking water sources," Cousins added.

The paper also found that soil across the globe was "ubiquitously contaminated" with PFAS. Because PFAS persist for so long and cycle through the planet's oceans, atmosphere, and soil so effectively, the researchers expect levels will continue to be dangerously high.



A rainwater tank used for washing and cleaning in San Miguel Xicalco, on the outskirts of Mexico City. *Henry Romero/Reuters*

Ultimately, the researchers conclude that PFAS have exceeded the safe "planetary boundary" for human health.

"It is vitally important that PFAS uses and emissions are rapidly restricted," they wrote.

Wildlife scientists want to increase wolf habitat in 11 states and Idaho is among them

Megan Marples | CNN | August 15, 2022

Gray wolves may be getting a major habitat upgrade, if these experts have any say, that is.

A group of researchers from across the United States wrote a proposal that would include setting aside a significant amount of federal land as a sanctuary for gray wolves and other animals such as beavers, and it's known as the Western Rewilding Network, according to a report published August 9 in the journal BioScience.

"Although gray wolves and beavers currently have low risk of extinction, we are very concerned that these keystone species have been lost from many ecosystems across the American West," said report coauthor Christopher Wolf, a postdoctoral scholar in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Keystone species are animals that an ecosystem heavily depends on for overall health.

If federal action creates protections that allow gray wolf populations to rebound, they could offer significant ecological benefits, including controlling the number of ungulates, which are hooved animals like elk and deer.

Keeping these grazers in check in turn would aid in the regrowth of plants and trees like aspen that have been negatively affected by the drop in biodiversity, said report coauthor William Ripple, distinguished professor of ecology in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University.

The proposed area would total approximately 191,500 square miles (496,000 square kilometers) across 11 Western states, which is about 16% of the total land mass of those states, Wolf said.

Some of the proposed protected regions include Yellowstone National Park, the Northern and Southern Rockies, and the Mogollon Plateau, the report said.

The federal government owns about 47% of the Western region of the US, so the area would take up roughly 34% of federal land in the West, he said. Wolves require a vast amount of territory to live, so a large quantity of land is key to their survival, Wolf added.

The 11 states are Arizona, California, Oregon, New Mexico,

Washington, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah.

Federal law has protected gray wolves on and off since the 1970s with the creation of the Endangered Species Act, which protects species that are at risk of extinction, Ripple said.

Wildlife conservationists have credited this act with saving species like the bald eagle from extinction, he added.

The government has received pushback from some people who want to prioritize predator management programs to reduce predation.

As of February 2022, gray wolves are generally protected in the continental US under the act, except for wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, Ripple said.

Gray wolves and beaver populations are currently stable, but are still much diminished from historic mass killings, Wolf said.

Why do gray wolves and beavers need to repopulate?

Most gray wolves disappeared in the early 1900s because ranchers moved into the wolves' habitats with their livestock, said coauthor Robert Lee Beschta, professor emeritus in the department of forest ecosystems and society at Oregon State University.

The wolves posed a threat to ranch animals, so the predators were often killed, he said. Because gray wolves are federally protected, hunting them now is illegal, according to the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The ruling does not extend to gray wolves in the Northern Rocky



Photo: Jacob W. Frank, AP via CNN

Mountains that are able to be hunted in accordance with individual state laws, the organization said.

Trappers heavily hunted beavers for the fur trade in the 1800s, reducing the North American population by about 90% to 98%, but the species made a comeback in the early 1900s, Wolf said.

"Despite this recovery, beavers are still absent from many streams that they likely formerly inhabited," he said.

Why is it important to revive wolf and beaver populations?

Gray wolves are apex predators, meaning they are at the top of their food chain, Ripple said.

When they are all but removed from the ecosystem, the populations of ungulates grow dramatically since wolves are not there to prey on them, he said.

This can lead to the ungulates overgrazing, which stops some plants and trees from growing and lowers the biodiversity, Beschta said.

Beavers play a crucial role in ecosystems and act as engineers building dams, which offers numerous benefits to the environment, the report said.

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The structures created by beavers enrich the fish habitat, aid in water flowing during droughts, improve water quality, better the habitat of numerous plants and animals and more, according to the report.

“The ponds and wetlands constructed by beavers can serve as natural fire breaks in the case of wildfire,” Ripple said.

Reducing grazing permits

As part of the proposal, the researchers also recommended limiting grazing permits on that federal land in the West. The federal government gives grazing permits to ranchers to allow their herds to graze on certain public lands.

The livestock have been associated with the reduction of many native plant and animal species due to trampling or grazing, Wolf said.

The researchers suggested the federal government offer buyouts to ranchers to incentivize them to leave, the report said.

Ranchers could use the money however they want, like retiring or purchasing private land to continue

with their livelihood, Beschta said. CNN reached out to the US Bureau of Land Management, the agency in charge of federal lands and issuing grazing permits, and it has not yet commented on the record to CNN on the proposal.

Next steps for protection

The researchers have not yet discussed their proposal with the federal government, Ripple said.

It would also be a significant financial investment, Beschta said, but he hopes the government will be willing to accept their recommendations because of the vast ecological benefits.

There are also numerous agencies and groups of people who would need to coordinate the execution of the proposal, Wolf said.

“The decision to move forward with these recommendations ultimately depends on the wishes of the American people and various stakeholders, including local communities, livestock ranchers, hunters, and various other groups,” he said.



WAYS TO CO-EXIST WITH WOLVES

www.woodriverwolfproject.org/tools



<https://tinyurl.com/RestoreWolfProtection>

SAY NO TO LETHAL MANAGEMENT OF OUR WOLVES!

Now more than ever, you need to be a voice as the SAG meetings will come to a close August 2022. In developing the plan, there is talk of lethal management and recreational hunting of our wolves. I believe that we do not need to kill wolves for recreation and I believe that there are other methods that we can do for wolves that may become troublesome with livestock such as translocation and producers who can benefit from using non lethal-deterrents such as fladry, fox lights, range riders and various other practices before lethal control.

Below is a link that is not a survey nor a petition, however it is a tool that can be used to present to CPW to make them aware that we want our wolves to live and they deserve our respect as a native species, an animal who is intelligent, who lives as family, and is an ancestor of your best friend.

WWW.TINYURL.COM/NO2LETHAL

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.

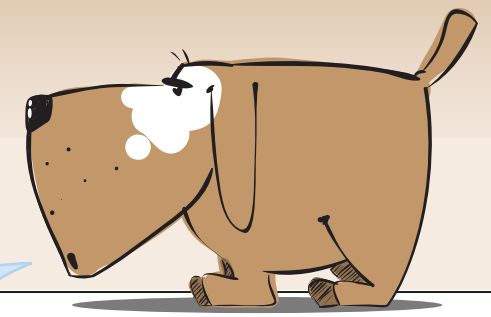
Adoption corner

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.]

GRACIE »

Gracie is a 2 year old beauty with a smooth, shiny coat that feels like silk. Gracie is skittish when she meets new people, but when given space and time, she is affectionate, curious, and playful. It may take time for Gracie to become acquainted with older cats, but she has an instant affection for kittens. Are you the person to give Gracie the love and attention she needs?

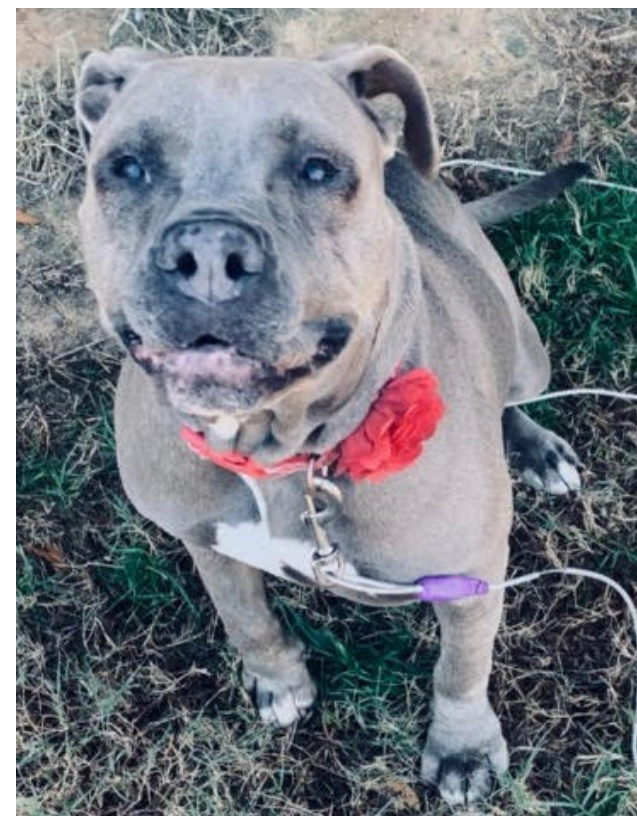


« LEO

My name is Leo. Do not let my pictures deceive you I am a big boy weighing just over 100lbs. When I first meet you, I get a little nervous and can sound very scary. I just need time adjust and get used to. I take my job as a big dog seriously and want to make sure that my family is safe. I am also a very goofy loveable boy once you get to know me. Please understand I need some time to get to know you.



GRACE



Sweet girl Grace desperately needs a foster home. Her caring foster has spent thousands on her. She had her 3rd treatment but still has 6 months to go. Great with other dogs & children. Very active, playful! Not contagious to other dogs.

SLVAWS ADOPTION FAIR

Every 1st Saturday of the month 11:00am-3:00pm
at the Petco in Colorado Springs
5020 N. Nevada

DAIN



Dain's foster kitty Velcro needs a home as he cannot spend enough time with him. He likes lots of attention! Good with other cats. Neutered, vaccinated, one year old. Affectionate!!