



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

JULY 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.



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

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| SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

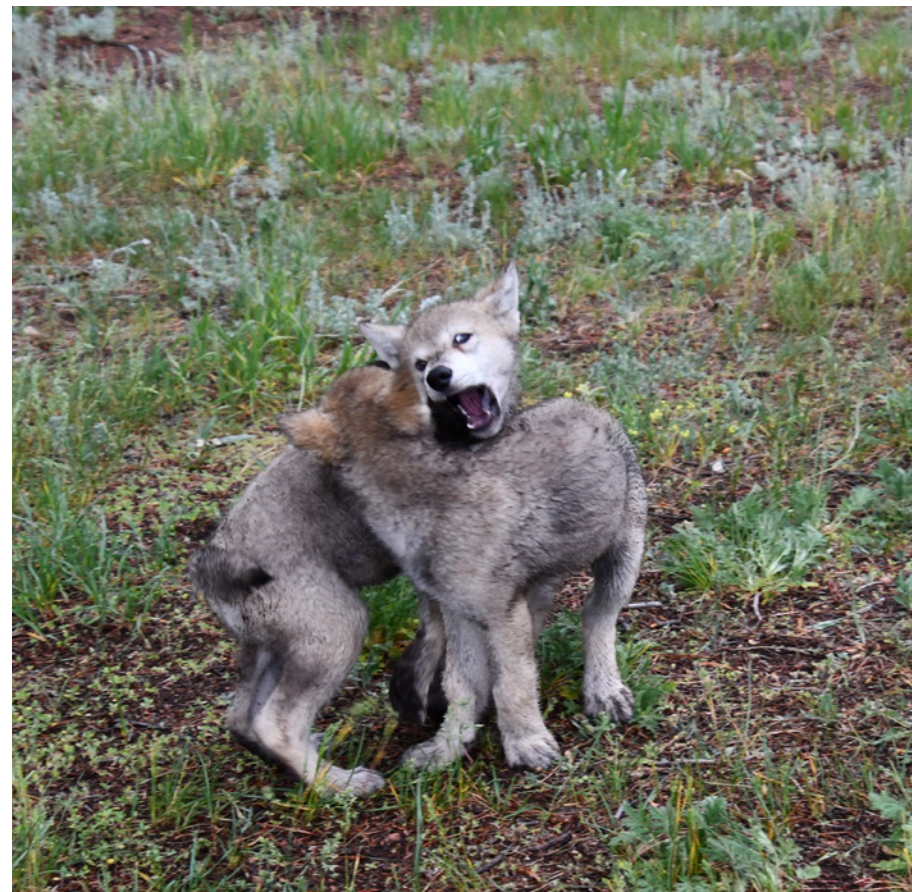
Stay up to date with the animals at CWWC, wolves and wildlife in the news, and advocacy opportunities.

-  **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!



Photo & Cover by Ryan



Photos by Barb Burton

WHAT MAKES SENSE TO A WOLF

By Erika Moore

Wolves experience the 5 basic senses: touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste. Hearing, smell and sight are the most important senses for a wolf moving through its surroundings.

Taste: Wolves have 4 of the 5 taste receptors that humans do: salt, bitter, acidic and sweet. You may wonder, why would a wolf need to taste sweet? Well, berries and fruits can play a minor part in a wolf’s diet depending on their habitat. The sense of taste can be difficult to study since smell plays a huge role in the way things taste.

Sight: Humans have 3 color receptors in their eyes: blue, green and yellow. Wolves have 2 color receptors: blue and yellow; making them red-green color blind. A wolf’s eye structure allows them to distinguish more shades of gray than humans. They have good peripheral and night vision, meaning they can see well in low light conditions and have a wider field of view. The structure of a wolf’s eye and ability to intake information leads some people to describe wolves as being able to see the world faster than we do.

Hearing: The average adult human cannot hear sounds above 20 thousand hertz. A wolf can hear sounds up to 25 thousand hertz, some researchers believe wolves can hear closer to 80 thousand hertz. This would make their hearing better than a domestic dog’s. Wolves can hear as far as six miles away in the forest and ten miles in the open.

Smell: Humans have about 5 million scent cells while wolves have 200 million. The olfactory center in a human’s brain is the size of a pea, while a wolf’s is the size of a fist. Wolves can smell other animals from more than a mile away, using pheromones to gather information about that animal. A wolf can recognize a member of their pack just by scent. Their specialized scent glands are as unique as a human’s fingerprint.

The wolf’s ability to thrive in an ever changing and relentless wilderness may lie in their heightened senses and ability to react quickly. Humans could learn a thing or 2 from a wolf; as Fritz Perls said, “Lose your mind and come to your senses.”



ERIKA MOORE

"I came to the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center 4 years ago as an intern. The education became the passion and the wolves became the drive. I never cease to be amazed by the intuition of the wolf."



Coexisting with Wolves

Aspen Daily News | July 10, 2022

Editor:

Recreational wolf hunting must never happen. Wolves are intelligent, social animals. Pack structures, prey and territorialism combine to regulate wild wolf populations. Science indicates that there is no need to “cull” or keep a population “in check.” Hunting wolves is trophy hunting and only done as a blood sport.

Colorado has an opportunity to get wolf restoration right. While our neighbors in the Northern Rockies have failed and are now engaged in a full-on war on wolves, Coloradans have the spirit and leadership to #COexist with native carnivores.

Both Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have a responsibility to do right by wolves, do right by Coloradans and get paws on the ground by 2023.

Colorado’s wolf plan must restore wolves throughout suitable, historical habitat in western Colorado in order to bring about the desired ecological benefit, fulfill the spirit of “Proposition 114” and track with the best-available science. A half-hearted, superficial effort that sees only token wolf populations will fail Colorado and wolves.

Conflict avoidance must be proactive. Wolves are native to Colorado and are highly-adapted carnivores. They are naturally inclined to feed on deer, elk and other native wildlife. But when non-native unprotected livestock are on the landscape, they represent easy feeding opportunities for wolves. State officials and livestock owners must do their part by taking robust and proactive conflict-avoidance measures.

Diane Kastel
Wheaton, Ill.

Opinion: Let the wolves regulate themselves

The less we shoot them, the fewer cattle and sheep they kill

Erik Molvar | The Colorado Sun | July 4, 2022

As the State of Colorado drafts its plan for the reintroduction of gray wolves to western Colorado, the livestock industry is already clamoring for “lethal control” of wolves that take to hunting cattle or sheep.

However, killing wolves in response to cattle or sheep predation does not prevent — or even reduce — future livestock losses. The myth that killing wolves in response to livestock losses protects cattle and sheep is also incompatible with sound wildlife management.

The science demonstrating the futility — or even counterproductive nature — of killing wolves after predation on livestock is quite clear. Multiple studies show that it simply doesn’t work. Twenty-five years of data from wolves in the Yellowstone ecosystem and Idaho have been analyzed in three separate studies.

The first study found that killing wolves actually increased the numbers of livestock lost to predators. A second study argued that the original study used inappropriate statistics, and found a small benefit to killing wolves in terms of livestock losses.

But then a third team of researchers reanalyzed the same data, finding that the second study applied an ecologically inappropriate model, and in the final analysis wolf killings initially increase the numbers of cattle and sheep lost; cattle and sheep losses show no reductions for the first 25 years after wolf reintroduction, when wolf populations reach stable populations and population growth slows.

These findings are bolstered by results from a Michigan study, which found that while killing individual wolves responsible for livestock predation did decrease animal losses on the farm where the wolf killing occurred, the likelihood of livestock losses to wolves on neighboring farms within 3 miles of the wolf killing actually increased as a result.

On the other hand, rigorous scientific studies that purport to demonstrate that livestock losses to wolves can be significantly reduced by killing wolves are completely lacking.

In short, killing wolves serves no beneficial purpose for livestock-wolf conflict management. It is merely a sop to aggrieved ranchers, to assuage their feelings of loss and make them feel vindicated. Thus,

the state should follow the science and exclude lethal methods from its wolf management plan, incentivizing coexistence with wolves by requiring nonlethal techniques that actually work.

This brings us to the second myth that the state should avoid in its wolf management planning: the fanciful notion that “social tolerance” for large carnivores can be created or enhanced by allowing some of the carnivores to be killed.

A study of human behavior in Wisconsin showed that when wolf hunting seasons were initiated after wolves were briefly delisted from the Endangered Species Act in that state, illegal poaching of wolves actually increased. Thus, the bloodlust of anti-wolf violators was stoked, rather than satiated, once recreational killing of wolves was officially allowed through a hunting season. Happily, Proposition 114, passed by Colorado voters in 2020, specified that wolves would be managed as a “non-game” species, making recreational killings illegal.

The recent scandal in New Mexico, where ranchers and government agents blamed wolves for livestock losses they didn’t cause, then collected compensation payments, led to management removals and killings of innocent Mexican wolves in retaliation. When wolf-killing is employed as a “tool in the toolbox,” fraudulent compensation claims by ranchers are used as evidence that leads to wolves being killed under false pretenses. Let’s take this broken tool out of the toolbox in Colorado.

“Lethal control” is a euphemism coined to sanitize the dirty business of killing native wildlife – for no legitimate reason. Wolves are territorial, and require no human management to keep their populations in check. Instead, wolf killings serve only to appease base human interests, and advance the agendas of those who would like to keep wolves extinct in Colorado despite losing the election.

Wolves naturally self-regulate. We don’t use “lethal control” when cattle and sheep violate expectations by overgrazing, or even when they illegally trespass on public lands where they’re not allowed. Colorado should apply the same standard of coexistence and tolerance for wolves as they return to their natural habitats in the Colorado mountains.

Erik Molvar, of Laramie, Wyo., is executive director of Western Watersheds Project. He is a wildlife biologist with scientific publications on the effects of wolf and grizzly bear predation risk on Alaskan moose.

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

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

RED WOLVES ARE COMING TO CWWC



Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center is proud to announce that this fall we will be receiving a pair of **American Red Wolves**!! We will also be the only wildlife center or zoo in the state of Colorado to have this rare wolf.

The two that were chosen for us is Van Gough who is 10 year old male and Shawnee who is a 10 year old female. Both will be from Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Texas.

Red wolves are the most endangered wolves in the world. It is reported that there are only 9 left in the wild. There are 42 zoos and licensed wildlife facilities that are holders of the American Red wolf. There are approximately 230 in captivity.

To learn more about the American Red wolf, here are a couple links. <http://redwolves.com>, <http://endangeredwolfcenter.org>

We are excited to have this pair as they will be an important part of our educational tours. When you take a tour this fall, you will be able to see our Gray, Tundra, Arctic, Mexican Gray and Red wolves. Additionally, we have our Red fox, Swift fox, coyote and New Guinea Singing dogs.

Be part of our history! Make reservations this October.

2022 American Red Wolf SSP/SAFE Planning Meeting

Hosted by Point
Defiance Zoo and
Aquarium

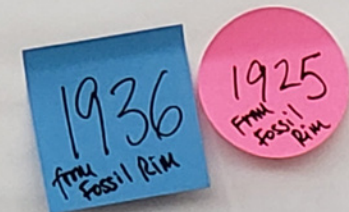
Tacoma, WA

July 19-21



- ◀ You are seeing a collection of wolves who will be going to different zoos.
- ▼ The blue is the male and pink female. Selected pair.

DIVIDE





RANGE RIDING IN NORTH PARK COLORADO



Last edition I had wrote you all about my first experience with range riding. It is different that most may imagine. I can tell you that I am a very hardy woman, but it was truly a test for me to be in a strange land of sagebrush for tens of thousands of acres, 95 degrees and wearing jeans, long sleeved shirt, gloves and a billion mosquitoes that no amount of Deet would detour. I road with a seasoned woman named Tiffany who showed my the landscape where cattle roamed and the heat was relentless. I try and find beauty in everything and I do have to say that while riding our horses they would step on the branches of the sage brush and it would emit an aroma of earthy scent. The purple-blue Mountain Lupine (which the name Lupine comes from the Latin word “lupus”, meaning wolf) had graced the plains and hillsides for miles and gave off a sweet scent that was nice amongst the dry dust that filled the air. There was countless Pronghorn and their babies, and a lot of rabbits.

I learned about cattle groupings, what yearlings looked like, strays that could be vulnerable to any predator and at the end of the day I watched cows be artificially inseminated. We road every morning for about 4 hours checking on cattle from a ridgetop and when the afternoon heat was to much, we rested our horses until evening and road again. By the 3rd day, I could actually walk straight again and I developed a better understanding of living in an environment that had limitations and the work that was never ending. Of course whether a cattle ranch or wolf ranch, the work is a bit different, but the same when it comes to long hours.

I am actually looking forward to my next ride knowing that each one gives me more experience in preparation for the wolves that will be reintroduced in December 2023. I feel that I will have a better understanding of range riding and what it takes to make it through all types of climate and knowing what to look for.

We did not see any wolves on my watch and that was good for the wolves, however I was honestly wanting to see the North Park wolves even at a distance where only binoculars could allow me to see them.

I will keep you all updated on my next ride. Please feel to email me at: tours@wolfeducation.org Range Riding with any questions.

~Darlene





COCO & PONO
ENJOYING THE DAYSPA!



Listed below are our CPW Commissioners who will be the decision makers for the future of our wolves. Please email them to express your thoughts.

Carrie Hauser: carrie.hauser@state.co.us

Dallas May: Dallas.May@state.co.us

Marie Haskett: marie.haskett@state.co.us

Taishya Adams: Taishya.Adams@state.co.us

Betsy Blecha: betsy.blecha@state.co.us

Duke Phillips: Duke.Phillips@state.co.us

James Tutchton: James.Tutchton@state.co.us

Eden Vardy: Eden.Vardy@state.co.us

Karen Bailey: karen.bailey@state.co.us

Dan Gibbs (*non-voting member*): dan.gibbs@state.co.us

Kate Greenberg (*non-voting member*): kate.greenberg@state.co.us



WAYS TO CO-EXIST WITH WOLVES

www.woodriverwolfproject.org/tools



<https://tinyurl.com/RestoreWolfProtection>

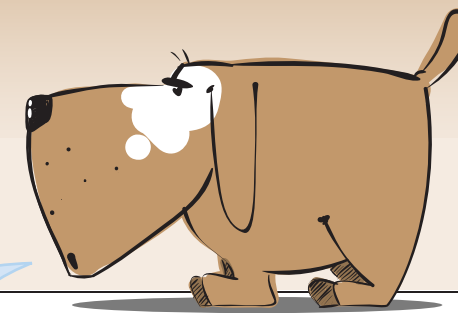
Adoption corner

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?



« JERSIE

When I first came to Colorado, I didn't like dogs at all. In fact, other dogs have caused me a lot of stress. With the help of my human friends in my foster home and at TCRAS I am able to be with certain dogs. I will need a meet and greet with other dogs so that I can feel comfortable with them. I absolutely love people and I can't wait to bring a smile to my new family's face.

SLVAWS ADOPTION FAIR

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

PIPER



This is Piper. Sweet, mellow. Husky mix, 3 1/2 years old. Gets along great with other dogs. Loves to play. ~50 lbs., spayed, all vacc's, chipped.

LAVINIA



Lavinia is perhaps a labradoodle/ border collie mix. ~2 years old. ~50 lbs. Very sweet, may not want to share her food. Spayed, all vac's, chipped. Found with her brother.