



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

MARCH 2026 · CONSERVATION · EDUCATION · PRESERVATION



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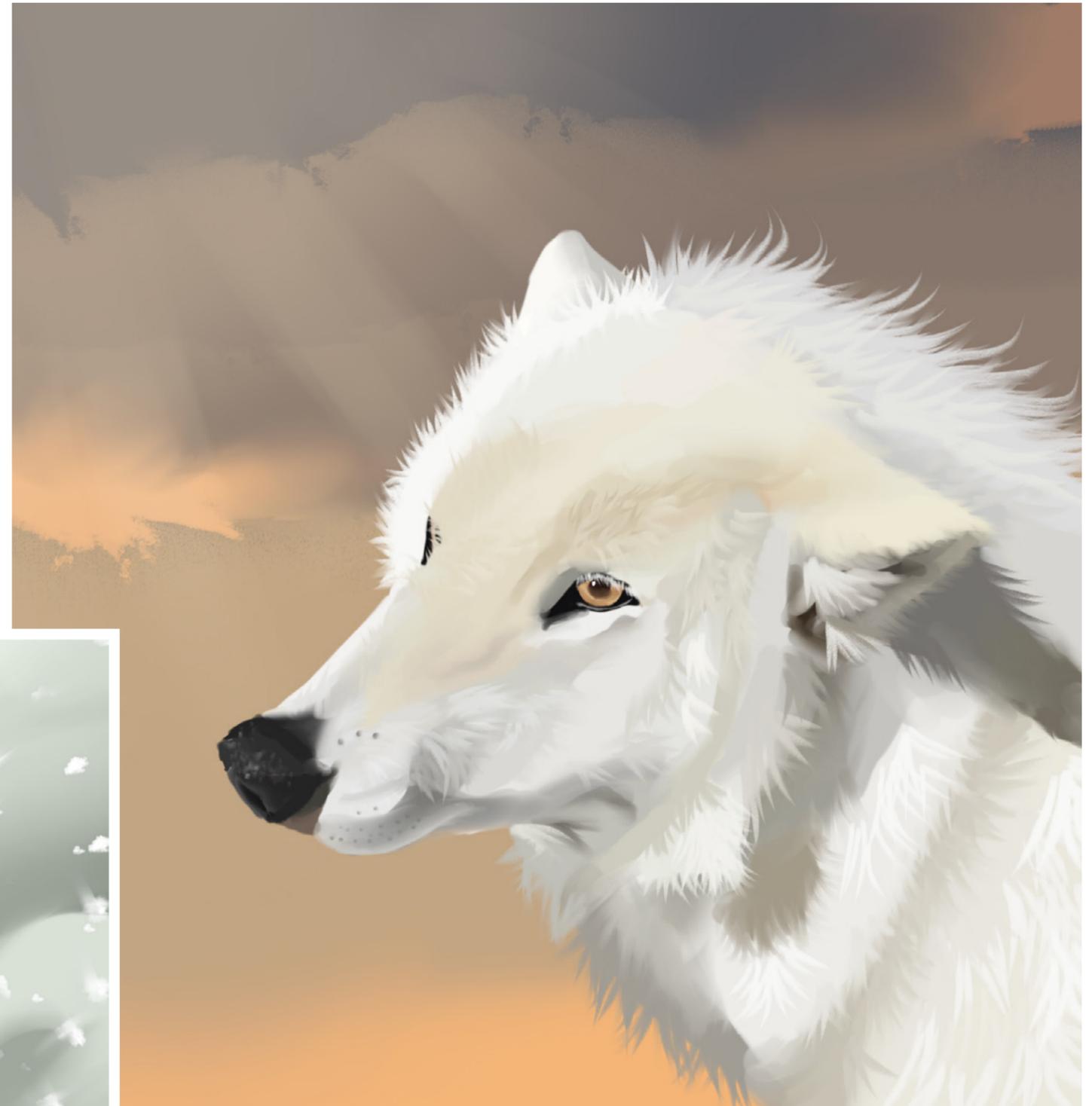


Follow us on Twitter: @Wolves_at_CWWC to see photos of our animals, read fun facts, and hear about events happening at CWWC.



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!



Lovely artwork of our dear Raksha by Isabella Samonte:
"Thank you so much for letting me use your photo of Raksha as a reference. This was so much fun to work on, and a lot of my classmates think the art is beautiful!"

FREEDOM'S FIGHT—AND THE POWER OF SHOWING UP AND SPEAKING UP

On March 4th and 5th, Colorado Parks and Wildlife held a Commission meeting. The meeting on the 4th was mainly about "fur bearers." That word seems to diminish each individual species. Several of us attended on the 5th, when the agenda turned directly toward the work that defines us: advocacy, coexistence, and the protection of the wolves whose lives depend on public voices.

I have attended more of these meetings over the years than I can count. They never get easier. The rooms are often filled with opposition—loud, organized, and determined to see these animals removed from the landscape. The energy can be hostile, especially when they feel challenged. And yet, this is where the real work happens. This is where courage matters. At this meeting, the public was given just 90 seconds to speak. Ninety seconds to defend a life. Ninety seconds to stand between a wolf and a lethal order.

Our fight was for the young Copper Creek male we named Freedom—a wolf who has endured more than most animals ever will. He survived being shot. He survived the chaos around him. And he surpassed the 30-day window with no new depredations, officially clearing him from the lethal order that once hung over his head.

That is the reality we are up against.

Below, you will find the speeches delivered by our staff—each one a testament to courage, conviction, and the belief that this wolf deserved to live. Their words were spoken in a room filled with tension, hostility, and overwhelming opposition. Yet they stood firm. They stood proud. And they stood for Freedom.

And because of that, our voices were heard.
Freedom is allowed to live.

But let's be clear: this victory is fragile. The battle for the remaining wolves is not over—it is an everyday fight. Policies can shift. Orders can change. And without public pressure, more wolves will be lost before they ever have a chance to contribute to a sustainable population.

We need every voice now.

We need a moratorium before more lives are taken.

This is our mission.

This is our moment.

And this wolf—this survivor—reminds us exactly why we cannot stop.

CATHERINE CROTHERS:

Commissioners, I need to speak honestly about something that has become impossible to overlook. Again and again, it appears that the loudest demands in this process come from a small but powerful group of livestock producers—and those demands are met, no matter how much support, compensation, or assistance they already receive. They are offered reimbursement for losses, access to nonlethal tools, field support, and resources that many wildlife programs never see. And still, it never seems to be enough. Every time a new accommodation is made, another request follows. It leaves many of us wondering: When does it end? What will finally satisfy those who oppose wolves—will it only be when every wolf is gone?

I am not questioning the importance of ranching or the challenges they face. I am questioning the imbalance. Wolves are being held to an impossible standard—expected to navigate a landscape full of livestock, expected to understand rules they cannot comprehend, and punished with death for a single mistake. Meanwhile, the humans who share this land are not held to equally strong expectations to prevent conflict. That is not coexistence. That is not fairness. And it is not the vision Colorado voters supported when they approved wolf restoration.

This wolf, and every wolf in this fragile population, deserves a chance to live in a system that does not tip the scales so heavily against them. A system where their lives are not negotiable, not expendable, and not sacrificed to satisfy those who will never support their presence no matter how much they are given.

Thank you



PHOEBE YOUN:

Good afternoon Commissioners,

I am here today to advocate for the Copper Creek wolf who is currently slated to be killed. I urge you to really sit on this decision and think about what this death will do to our already very fragile restoration program. This wolf is NOT a chronic depredator by the definition that CPW has set as he did not have three depredations with evidence that confirms it was him within a 30-day period. This program is already incredibly generous with compensation for lost assets, accessibility to deterrents and other resources, and technical support. It should not have to sacrifice another life of a wolf who is doing the only thing he can do after being left alone with no pack and a significant injury that this very department inflicted. The Copper Creek wolf is still surviving and defying the odds that were set against him, and he deserves to live. Think about the example you set if you go through with killing this wolf. There will always be push from the opposition to condemn another wolf to its death. When is enough, enough? Where does the line get drawn? Do not give in to the political pressure that continues to demand more and more from you when it has already hindered this program by stopping the release of more wolves this season. While I am empathetic to the ranching community and the hardships they face during this reintroduction, Nonlethal management tools are not required to be used and livestock continue to be grazed on public lands, yet it is always the wolves that pay the price for being, well, wolves. Conservation and science-based leadership and decision-making is what this department should aim for with this program, not political or the ranching community's influence. You should be the gold standard that other departments countrywide look up to. Again, I urge you not to kill this wolf. Allow him to live and have a lasting impact on the future of wolf restoration in Colorado.

Thank you for your time.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR MARCH 5TH MEETING](#)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE MARCH 4TH CPW MEETING](#)

continues on next page...

DARLENE KOBABEL:

I'm here today to speak for the Copper Creek wolf who has survived more hardship than any animal should have to, and stands at the center of Colorado's promise to restore wolves Responsibly AND Transparently.

This wolf was shot, but survived that injury and healed. He continues to live on the landscape, being a wolf, looking for a mate and surviving. He has shown extraordinary resilience.

I believe the 30day window has closed with no new incidents, so this wolf no longer qualifies as a chronic depredator under CPW's own definition and if there was a future depredation it would start a new 30day clock, not a continuation of the old one. The wolf then returns to the 10(j) rule and Colorado's nongame regulations.

I would like clarification on the level of training and field experience required for any agency to officially confirm a wolf depredation. What concerns me is a wolf can be killed based on an incorrect conclusion or compensation is paid out for losses that were not caused by wolves, and the public loses trust in the agency.

Unfortunately, CPW does not require hard proof such as capturing the act with game camera footage, DNA sampling, and producers are not required to use non-lethal tools that are provided by the state.

Are our decisions being guided by science and Colorado's legal mandate, or are they drifting toward the preferences of forprofit producers who have opposed wolf restoration from the beginning?

Because Colorado has the smallest wolf population of any wolf state, I believe CPW should place a moratorium on killing wolves until we achieve the viable, selfsustaining population that voters mandated under Proposition 114.

GAVIN PENDERGRASS:

First, I want to say this: I respect ranchers. I know your livelihood depends on your cattle. I know money can be tight. And I know you deal with predators face-to-face in a way most city folks never will.

But we also need to remember why Colorado passed Proposition 114. It wasn't just to put a few wolves on the map. It was to bring back a healthy wolf population that can survive and grow on its own. If we start killing wolves without clear, recent and documented proof that they've attacked livestock, especially when old claims have already expired under our laws, then we're going against everything we stand for as Americans. Democracy.

Right now, Colorado doesn't have many wolves. The population is still small. A lot have already died. When you remove breeding adults, it can actually break up packs and cause more tension and problems, not fewer. That doesn't help y'all ranchers. It doesn't help wildlife officers. And it doesn't follow the plan people voted for.

I also want to speak to something many of us share, faith. The Bible teaches that we are caretakers of God's creation. That means we don't wipe out animals just because they're hard to live with. Wolves aren't outsiders. They lived here long before we did. Respecting God's creatures means showing patience and self-control, especially when we have other non-lethal tools besides killing.

My comment isn't about choosing wolves over ranchers. It's about following the law, listening to science, and honoring our responsibility as stewards to manage wildlife the right way. If we believe in accountability and limited government oversight, then we should expect wildlife decisions to follow clear rules, not fear, not pressure, and not politics.

We can protect ranchers and still protect God's creation. And if we do this right, our great-great grandkids will get to see these animals on the land where they belong, instead of only reading that, and not for the first time, we decided to erase wolves from our beautiful state again.

KELLY MURPHY:

I'm asking CPW and Director Clellan to call off the lethal removal of the Copper Creek wolf.

This wolf was left behind as a pup when his pack was captured. He had no family to hunt with or learn from. He was abandoned, uncollared, and navigating an enormous landscape alone. And yet, he survived. Instincts for survival put a target on his back and he was shot for breaking rules he didn't know existed. He lived anyway.

Despite all odds against him, he has demonstrated just how remarkably resilient wolves are. I urge you to look into the documented cases across North America that show wolves surviving severe leg injuries, even full limb loss, going on to find mates and reproduce. This wolf has proven that his injury is not a death sentence.

We have lost half of our reintroduced wolf population. For perspective's sake, there are more commissioners here than there are collared wolves. Every single wolf remaining in this state carries enormous biological value and must be protected. He still has potential to find a mate, establish a pack, and contribute his valuable genetics to our struggling population.

To continue hunting a wounded - yet resilient, native-born, breeding-age male who's traveling alone and not actively engaging in pack-led depredation is not sound wildlife management. It is a waste of state resources and a violation of the recovery mandate. Please give this wolf the chance he has already proven he deserves.

Thank you.

LATEST UPDATE ON FREEDOM — WE DID IT!

Today, we celebrate a victory that belongs to every single one of you. Freedom lives because people refused to stay silent. When government officials feel the weight of public pressure, they listen — and this win proves it. Your voices mattered. Your persistence mattered. Every one of you made a difference.

I also want to take a moment to honor my staff.

Your dedication, your courage, and your refusal to give up on this wolf made this outcome possible. I am deeply grateful for each of you who fought tirelessly, who spoke up, who stood firm. In my heart, I know this victory carries your fingerprints.

Celebrate! because we earned this moment. But remember: our opponents never take a day off.

We won a battle, not the war.

That larger fight continues: ensuring that no more wolves are killed until Colorado has a sustainable, self-sustaining population, exactly as the law requires, and exactly what I fought for during my 18 months on the Stakeholder Advisory Group. I worked to help build a plan that would give the Gray Wolf a real chance to survive in Colorado. That mission is far from over, and we will stand together again.

I am profoundly proud of all of you, advocates, educators, protectors, who refuse to back down from this essential work. Your strength, your heart, and your commitment are the reason Freedom is still alive today.

NEVER LET THE HOWL GO SILENT.

HOWEVER... Media Statement: Colorado Gray Wolf 2310 Mortality 3/13/26

OR 2310, has died. Her death has left their four 10-month-old yearlings orphaned. Their chances of survival is poor due to not having the skills taught by the parents and living with no established pack.

On Wednesday, March 11, Colorado Parks and Wildlife received a mortality signal in northwest Colorado for gray wolf 2310, the maternal member of the King Mountain pack. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is leading the mortality investigation in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A final determination of the cause of death will not be made until the investigation is completed, including the necropsy, a foundational component of the overall investigation process. No additional details are available at this time.

We are fighting again to save the remaining wolves. PLEASE make comment to the QR code listed or you can write a personal letter to CPW Director Clellan urging her to please put a moratorium on our wolves until we have a sustaining population as mandated Colorado voted for in Proposition #114.

Director Laura Clellan
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

PROTECT COLORADO'S WOLVES

COLORADO'S WOLF RESTORATION: CURRENT STATUS - CRITICAL

- Only 11 collared wolves remain in Colorado, and more than half of the reintroduced wolves have already died. With just three established packs statewide, the population is far from stable or recovered.
- The King Mountain pack has lost both members of its breeding pair. Without experienced adults to provide hunting and survival skills, the remaining juveniles are likely to disperse, and the chances of survival is slim.

LETHAL CONTROL MUST STOP

- To comply with Proposition 114's mandate to restore and maintain a viable, self-sustaining wolf population, Colorado must revise its chronic depredation definition. The current standard allows lethal removals from a population that is far below viability, undermining both biological recovery and the legal obligations established by voters.

NON-LETHAL DETERRENTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE REQUIRED FIRST

- Livestock producers must be required to fully exhaust non-lethal tools and provide documented evidence they've been implemented and maintained before any lethal action is considered.

REINTRODUCTION IS STALLED BECAUSE OF POLITICS

- No new wolves were sourced this year, and future releases are uncertain. Without protection and new additions, the population will continue to decline.

GENETIC DIVERSITY IS AT STAKE

- Every wolf lost represents irreplaceable genetics in an already tiny population. What remains must be protected!


NEVER LET THE HOWL GO SILENT
-DARLENE KOBABEL



SCAN TO EMAIL CPW
DIRECTOR CLELLAN &
EXEC. DIRECTOR GIBBS



Bureau of Land Management proposes opening up federal lands formerly convicted Hammond ranchers once grazed

Alejandro Figueroa | OPB | February 24, 2026

Cars drive down U.S. Highway 20 among the sagebrush-filled landscape stretching for many miles in Harney County, Ore., on Dec. 18, 2025. Photo: Eli Imadali / OPB

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management is proposing a plan that could eventually allow the ranchers whose prison sentences sparked a standoff at the 2016 Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to resume grazing cattle on federal lands – but that’s not certain.

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to issue one or more new 10-year grazing permits for federal allotments near Steens Mountain in southeast Oregon.

Two nonprofits, Western Watersheds Project and Oregon Natural Desert Association, are formally protesting the agency’s decision to open up this land. They argue that if the government reopens the land for grazing, it could undo years of recovery and

further harm ecologically sensitive soils and wildlife habitat.

Dwight and Steven Hammond once had grazing privileges here, but the BLM declined to renew the Hammonds’ grazing permit in 2014, after the father-son duo was convicted of setting fire to federal lands. BLM grazing permits are 10-year privileges to run livestock on federal lands.

That conviction became a rallying cry two years later, when anti-government militants took over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and occupied it for 41 days.

The land near Steens Mountain has sat mostly

empty since then, with some grazing in 2019.

The Hammonds have tried and failed to regain their grazing rights, which cover roughly 26,000 acres of public land across four allotments that bump up to the Steens Mountain Wilderness area.

Dwight Hammond told the *Oregonian*/*OregonLive* that his family would likely submit a permit to graze the land. He said the family has been unable to use their private lands because they are adjacent to federal lands and are not fenced.

OPB was unable to get a hold of the Hammonds before this article was published.

President Donald Trump pardoned the Hammonds, clearing their arson convictions, in 2018.

The following year, the administration restored the Hammonds’ grazing rights, but then, a federal judge rejected that decision.

Then, in January 2021, former Interior Secretary David Bernhardt reinstated the Hammonds’ permit right before Trump left office. The Biden administration rescinded it a month later.

And now, the BLM is again proposing to open the land back up for grazing following a years-long environmental impacts review process.

“The BLM is moving forward now because grazing permits for these allotments have expired, requiring the agency to complete environmental review and make new long-term management decisions,” said Tara Thissell, a public affairs specialist with the Bureau of Land Management Burns District office.

Thissell said the agency’s environmental impact statement only analyzes land conditions, alternatives, and potential environmental effects. It does not choose who gets a permit to graze the land – that’s a separate process.

Legally, the agency must wait for an application to come in before it can evaluate the history or compliance of that applicant.

The nearby Steens Mountain Wilderness is a protected area that serves as habitat for wildlife such as the greater sage grouse, bighorn sheep and pronghorns.

“Livestock grazing is ecologically incompatible with the dry arid landscapes of the West, and this area around Steens Mountain is no different,” said Adam Bronstein, the Oregon director with the Western Watersheds Project. “There’s sage grouse habitat out there. There’s antelope and mule deer. It’s a very fragile ecosystem.”

Bronstein said the agency often fails to apply enough scrutiny to the environmental consequences of its decisions, and this case is no different.

He pointed to provisions in the agency’s environmental impact statement that would allow more cattle on the land and also allow it to issue more temporary grazing permits during years where there is more grass.

“The agency’s environmental analysis for this project is written to paper over the harmful and deleterious effects from livestock grazing in one of the most biologically rich and beloved areas of Oregon’s high desert,” he said.

Bronstein added the federal government does not need to allow grazing on that land, and could manage the site differently.

The plan is currently in the administrative review phase.

The timing of the agency’s final decision depends on the “number and complexity of any protests received and how they are resolved,” Thissell said.

Trump administration ends protections for rare dancing prairie bird

Mead Gruver | AP News | February 26, 2026



A lesser prairie chicken is seen amid the bird's annual mating ritual near Milnesand, N.M., on April 8, 2021. Photo: Adrian Hedden/Carlsbad Current Argus via AP, File

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) — A ground-dwelling bird known for elaborate mating dances on the southern Great Plains will no longer be federally protected after the Trump administration agreed with arguments by three states and the beef and petroleum industries that the species was listed improperly.

Thursday's delisting by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formalized a recent court ruling that acknowledged the federal agency has now sided with opponents of federal protections for the lesser prairie chicken.

The ruling by a federal judge in Midland, Texas, in effect ended Endangered Species Act protections for the bird last summer. The protections required the energy industry and ranchers to take steps to avoid disrupting the

birds' habitat and especially their mating areas, called leks.

The crow-sized birds once numbered in the millions. Habitat loss from energy and agriculture development has shrunk their population to about 30,000 across parts of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Wildlife watchers delight in the male birds' spring dances and their warbling, clucking and stomping ruckus to attract mates. Native American tribes mimic the flamboyant displays — also a behavior of the more common greater prairie chicken — in some of their dances.

The lesser prairie chicken has been federally protected twice in recent years. In 2015, a federal judge in U.S. District Court in Midland reversed

the bird's listing as a threatened species the year before, siding with petroleum developers who argued that sufficient protections were already in place.

In 2022, President Joe Biden's administration listed the lesser prairie chicken as threatened in the northern part of its range in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and as endangered in a "distinct population segment" to the south in New Mexico and Texas.

The listing prompted a lawsuit filed by Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas and groups including the Permian Basin Petroleum Association and National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

After President Donald Trump took office last year, the Fish and Wildlife Service reevaluated the bird and agreed with the states and groups that it lacked justification to classify the lesser prairie chicken into two distinctly different populations.

Last August, another judge in U.S. District Court in Midland granted a Fish and Wildlife Service motion to reverse its Biden-era listings for the lesser prairie

chicken.

"Fish and Wildlife's concession points to serious error at the very foundation of its rule," District Judge David Counts wrote in his Aug. 12 ruling praised by Texas officials.

Texas oil and gas regulatory officials including Texas Railroad Commission spokesperson Bryce Dubee and Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham welcomed the delisting.

"It will ensure American oil and gas production in the Permian Basin remains robust and our economy steadfast," Buckingham said in an emailed statement.

Environmentalists vowed to fight on in court.

"It's shameful that the Trump administration sees fit to sacrifice these magnificent birds for oil and gas industry profit," Jason Rylander, legal director at the Center for Biological Diversity's Climate Law Institute, said in a statement. "Lesser prairie chickens may be lost forever without Endangered Species Act protections."



Bald eagles at Chatfield State Park, Littleton CO | Douglas County, Front Range, Rockies

Cody Roberts apologizes, pleads guilty for cruel treatment of an injured wolf in Wyoming bar

Sublette County man carried injured wolf “like a baby” before taking it outside and shooting it. His actions amounted to felony animal cruelty, the prosecutor said.

Mike Kosmrl | WyoFile | March 5, 2026



Cody Roberts exits his change of plea hearing at the Sublette County Courthouse on March 5, 2026 in Pinedale. Roberts pleaded guilty to felony animal cruelty. Photo: Amber Baesler/WyoFile

PINEDALE—Cody Roberts apologized Thursday for an infamous stunt he pulled two years prior, when he brought an injured wolf into a western Wyoming bar, sparking worldwide outrage.

“I sincerely regret my actions and apologize to the community and my family,” Roberts told Sweetwater County District Court Judge Richard Lavery. The comments, his first public remarks since the incident came to light, came after he pleaded guilty to felony animal cruelty in a deal with the prosecution that could keep him from serving time in prison.

The lifelong Sublette County resident told the courtroom in Pinedale that he hopes to move past the incident and looks forward to “healing.” The 44-year-old was clean shaven, wore a black suit coat and looked stoic during the appearance, showing little emotion. Most of his remarks were formulaic, affirming questions from Lavery about the legal process with succinct answers like “yes, sir” and “no, sir.”

One of those pithy retorts was to achieve the primary purpose of the hearing.

“Guilty, your honor,” Roberts told Lavery.



Attorney Robert Piper exits the courtroom after his client Cody Roberts pleaded guilty to felony animal cruelty at the Sublette County Courthouse on March 5, 2026 in Pinedale. (Amber Baesler/WyoFile)

New information about incident

Thursday’s proceedings offered new details about the Feb. 29, 2024, incident, which culminated with Roberts bringing the injured wolf into the Green River Bar in Daniel. The wolf limped during a reluctant walk into the establishment, but by the end of the night it evidently did not have the capacity to move on its own. Roberts carried the injured wolf “like a baby” before taking it outside and shooting it, Sublette County Prosecuting Attorney Clayton Melinkovich told the court.

Roberts’ guilty plea was expected. His attorney, Robert Piper, signed a plea agreement Feb. 17. It calls for a prison sentence of 18 months to two years, which would be suspended in favor of 18 months of supervised probation and a \$1,000 fine. Agreed-upon conditions of his probation include: no hunting or fishing; no alcohol, no presence at bars or liquor stores; and a requirement that Roberts follow recommended addiction treatment.

Roberts’ actions put a harsh spotlight on Sublette County, and it divided the small community of 9,000 residents. Details of the incident fueled the public response. Roberts, who owns a trucking company, acquired the canine by striking it with a snowmobile until it was “barely conscious,” according to a Game and Fish official. Melinkovich on Thursday did not detail how the wolf was captured — striking predators with snowmobiles remains legal in Wyoming — other than specifying that he took possession of it on private land.

At the bar, the father of four made a joke of the whole ordeal,

according to an eyewitness. While clutching a beer, he posed for photos with the animal, which had its muzzle taped shut. The wolf, meanwhile, stayed prone on the floor for much of the evening. That’s unusual behavior for a captive wild wolf that suggests it was suffering from severe internal injuries, according to biologists who’ve reviewed the footage.

Asked on Thursday if Melinkovich provided the correct account of Feb. 29, 2024, Roberts said “pretty close.” Pressed by Lavery, he did not dispute any specific details.

Public outrage

When photos and videos of Robert’s stunt became public in April 2024, an intense, widespread uproar resulted, with state-run social media pages even going dark because of the global criticism. Outrage was exacerbated by what the public perceived to be a light punishment: Wyoming Game and Fish Department wardens fined Roberts \$250 for possession of warm-blooded wildlife, even though steeper penalties were available.

The state wildlife agency maintained that the wolf — because it was classified as a “predator” where Roberts acquired it — was not covered by Wyoming’s animal cruelty laws. But Sublette County law enforcement had a different legal interpretation. The local sheriff launched an investigation, and in August the local prosecutor convened a grand jury that indicted Roberts for felony animal cruelty.

If a jury had convicted him, the Daniel man faced a maximum of two years in prison. Initially, Roberts pleaded not guilty, and his attorney Robert Piper sought to have the case dismissed, making the same contention as the Wyoming Game and Fish Department: that wolves were exempted from animal cruelty statutes. Lavery, however, wasn’t persuaded and moved the case toward an early March trial.



Sublette County Attorney Clayton Melinkovich (Erin Burk/WyoFile)

CONTENT WARNING

The following video contains footage of animal cruelty and a warning for the use of explicit language.

WyoFile has chosen to publish it here in order to corroborate, and to fully communicate, the severity of previously described allegations. Viewer discretion is advised.

CONTENT WARNING: This video contains footage of animal cruelty. WyoFile has chosen to publish it here in order to corroborate, and to fully communicate, the severity of previously described allegations. Viewer discretion is advised. (Wyoming Game and Fish Department)

The judge will hang up his robe in the coming weeks. On Wednesday, Gov. Mark Gordon announced he'd appointed the Sweetwater County District Court judge's replacement due to an upcoming April retirement. Clark Stith, a Rock Springs attorney and former member of the Wyoming House of Representatives, will be taking Lavery's place.

Lavery on Thursday walked through some of the next steps in Roberts' protracted legal case. The judge told the parties he "appreciates the work" on the plea agreement, but would not rule on it pending a standard pre-sentencing investigation.

Legal repercussions are already unfolding for Roberts, who remains out on bond with a number of conditions. The avid sportsman can no longer possess firearms and proactively removed firearms from his possession, according to Piper.

There will be related longer-term implications of the felony conviction, Lavery told Roberts before he pleaded.

"It will restrict your rights to have a gun," said Lavery, who noted the consequences for both "hunting and outfitting."

The bond conditions also prohibit Roberts from consuming alcohol or controlled substances and from going to bars or "private parties."

5,000 emails

Roberts' guilty plea and the agreement that triggered it caused a flood of outreach to Lavery's office. He told the court he was "struck" by the response, which included

"countless phone calls" and "at least 5,000 emails."

"There are a lot of people out there who want to know why there was a plea agreement in this case," Lavery told the court.

The judge was clear that the outreach "falls on deaf ears."

"I won't be reading those emails and I won't be talking to those [folks] on the phone," Lavery said. "It would be improper for me to do that."

There have been mixed views in Sublette County

and beyond about Roberts' plea deal. Many locals thought he would have beat the charge at trial, which would have started Monday. Wildlife advocates who ventured to Pinedale and paid attention to the Thursday proceedings from afar continued the trend of a split reception.

"If running over a wolf with a snowmobile and displaying it wounded in a bar doesn't lead to jail time, that leaves us asking: 'What does?'" said Dagny Signorelli, the Wyoming representative for Western Watersheds Project.

But Jackson Hole resident Lisa Robertson, an animal rights activist, said last week she found the agreement satisfactory — and on Thursday she argued there was a broader meaning to Roberts' declaration of guilt.

"It's not just Cody Roberts on trial here," Robertson said. "It's Wyoming, too."

Wyoming Wildlife Advocates Executive Director Kristin Combs was on a similar page.

"Wyoming is finally coming into the 21st Century," Combs said. "I know a lot of people don't feel like this is enough, but in the grand scheme of things, we are making huge progress."

Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

APRIL 10th - 12th
4PM TOUR

SEE THE WOLVES
UNWRAP THEIR GIFTS -
ENRICHING AND
UNFORGETTABLE!

719-687-9742

WOLFEDUCATION.ORG



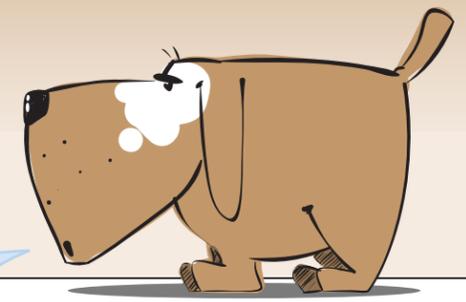
Adoption corner

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.**]

ROLO »

Awooo! My name is Rolo, and I'll tell you that loud and clear when you meet me! I may be a little older but my energy level sure isn't. I love having dog friends to play with and working my brain!



« MINNIEHALA

I'm a very shy girl and I take a bit of time to get used to people around me. I do love having another kitty companion, it really helps my confidence! When I'm comfortable I enjoy playing, I think wand toys are the best. I prefer to have a quiet space and maybe a box to hide in, it helps me feel safe.



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



LEO

Cane Corso Leo wants to go home with you. 9 months old, fully vetted, came from a champion blood line. Cane Corso are Italian words pronounced Kah-neh Corso, meaning Dog Protector. This beautiful, sweet pup was rescued 2 hours before euthanasia!!! The owner had abandoned him at a boarding facility for 4 months and wouldn't pick him up. As a result owner was charged by police for cruelty, abandonment and neglect. Bonds quickly with humans, good with other dogs and cats. Keen sense of smell and hearing. High prey drive for smaller critters.