



“Voice of the Western Slope Since 1953”

A coalition of individuals, businesses and local governments

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04-9 NR 2

WOLF MANAGEMENT IN COLORADO

WHEREAS Wolf populations have been reintroduced in adjacent states to Colorado; and

WHEREAS Wolf populations in the northern Rocky Mountains have achieved and exceeded the recovery goals set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS it is likely that gray wolves have migrated into Colorado from both Wyoming and New Mexico; and

WHEREAS North of I-70 in Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf is considered Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and governed by the Section 4(d) Special Rule 50 CFR 17.40(n), known as the “4(d) rule;” and

WHEREAS South of I-70 in Colorado, the Mexican Gray Wolf is considered Endangered and given the full protection of the Endangered Species Act. Special Nonessential/Experimental Populations (Section 10(j) of the ESA) has not been assigned in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of a migrating wolf population in Colorado, The Division of Wildlife proactively appointed a diverse group of individuals to serve on the workgroup to develop the Colorado Wolf Management Plan and this worthwhile effort and resulting Plan have been undermined by the decision of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

CLUB 20 supports the Colorado Division of Wildlife’s new Wolf Management Plan for Colorado, including the original, reasonable population objectives adopted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

CLUB 20 supports the de-listing of the Gray Wolf and encourages the State of Colorado to actively support its de-listing, especially since the US Fish and Wildlife Service recovery goals have been met in the Western Distinct Population Segment.

Club 20 encourages the Interior Department not to appeal the recent court ruling, but to use it as a springboard to propose new regulations for management of the species, working closely with the affected states and working toward removal from the threatened and endangered lists as soon as possible, based on full recovery westwide.

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CLUB 20 encourages active wolf management to assure the protection of private property, livestock, and wildlife resources.

CLUB 20 recommends the Colorado Wolf Management Plan insist on adequate funding to immediately implement the plan.

CLUB 20 recommends the Colorado Wolf Management Plan assure local economies do not experience lost income due to the presence of the Gray Wolf (such as livestock producers that may experience extra costs of production due to the presence of wolves).

CLUB 20 supports regular education opportunities to the public regarding rules, regulations, and endangered species act implications for wolf management. Education opportunities should at a minimum include livestock and wildlife resource protection options.

CLUB 20 believes that sound science should be the basis for all objectives and decisions pertaining to the Endangered Species Act.

CLUB 20 recommends that the dividing line between the management areas for the northern Gray Wolf and the southern Mexican Wolf be moved south from the current location along Interstate 70 to the Colorado/New Mexico state line.

Adopted 9/10/04
Amended 4/1/05