

Governor Jared Polis  
State of Colorado  
200 E. Colfax Ave  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Director Dan Gibbs  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources  
1313 Sherman St., #718  
Denver, Colorado 80203



09-Sep-2020

Dear Governor Polis and Director Gibbs:

On behalf of our members from Colorado and across the nation, the undersigned conservation organizations endorse the reintroduction of gray wolves to western Colorado. Reintroducing wolves would go far to restore the natural balance to Colorado's Rocky Mountains for generations to come. It would also complete the return of wolves across the entire Rocky Mountain chain from Alaska to the U.S. Southwest, a wildlife restoration success of global significance.

Gray wolves inhabited the southern Rocky Mountains of Colorado for thousands of years until 1945, when the last one was killed in southwestern Colorado. Wolves evolved alongside their prey such as deer and elk. Their absence has altered both prey and landscapes. Bringing wolves back will help restore this predator-prey balance, helping keep both the prey and the landscapes they graze healthier.

Wolf reintroduction to Yellowstone National Park and the northern Rockies in 1995-96 resulted in documented benefits to the fish, wildlife, and plant communities of the region, including growth of streamside vegetation that has benefited fish, amphibians, beaver, and songbirds. Moreover, scavenging animals such as bears, eagles, and wolverines have benefitted from the leftovers of wolf kills.

Today, roughly 1,800 wolves live in the northern Rockies region of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, alongside robust populations of deer, elk, livestock, and of course people, including wolf-watching visitors from all over the world. But those benefits have not accrued to Colorado because the very few wolves that have migrated south from the northern Rockies have not been numerous enough to establish a population. Colorado requires wolf reintroduction for a viable population to reoccupy the vast, highly suitable public wildlands of the western half of the state.

Just as occurred in the northern Rocky Mountains, reintroducing wolves to western Colorado would restore the natural balance to the southern Rocky Mountains. Reintroduction would also provide an inspiring example of Coloradans correcting a mistake of the past – the extermination of wolves – through science-based restoration.

We strongly support the reintroduction of wolves to the public lands of western Colorado. Returning the missing howl of the wolf to the Colorado wild would greatly enhance the natural beauty and ecological health of Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

Respectfully yours,

**[Signatories listed on Page 2]**

Name	Signatory Organization	Members / Supporters
Erik Molvar	Western Watersheds Project	12000
Mike Phillips	Turner Endangered Species Fund	0
Mike Garrity	Alliance for the Wild Rockies	2000
David Jenkins	Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship	20000
Kelly Burke	Wild Arizona	2000
Craig C. Downer	Wild Horse and Burro Fund / Andean Tapir Fund	5000
Dave Willis	Soda Mountain Wilderness Council	300
Amanda Dumenigo	Save Our St Vrain Valley, Inc	
Michael Stocker	Seven Circles Foundation	3000
Dan Silver	Endangered Habitats League	
Hailey Hawkins	Endangered Species Coalition	
Suzanne Roy	American Wild Horse Campaign	200000
Michael Kellett	RESTORE: The North Woods	1000
Michael J. Robinson	Center for Biological Diversity	1600000
James Anaquad Kleinert	Horse Medicine Productions	
Rick Meril	Coyotes, Wolves and Cougars Forever	
Charlotte Roe	Wild Equid League of Colorado	200
Kimberly Baker	Klamath Forest Alliance	500
Thomas Wheeler	Environmental Protection Information Center	1200
Lisa Robertson	Wyoming Untrapped	1600
Melanie Hill	WILD Foundation	
Laura Leigh	WILD HORSE EDUCATION	163000
Robert Hall	Christian Council of Delmarva	15
Jonathan Way	Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research	
Courtney Vail	Oceanic Preservation Society (OPS)	80000
NANCY WARREN	National Wolfwatcher Coalition	

Name	Signatory Organization	Members / Supporters
Joseph Butera,	Northeast Ecological Recovery Society	
Michael J. Painter	Californians for Western Wilderness	950
Jonathan Carter	Forest Ecology Network	1000
Nedim C Buyukmihci	Unexpected Wildlife Refuge	
Earl L. Hatley	LEAD Agency, Inc.	353
Karen Tuddenham	Sheep Mountain Alliance	700
Jason L. Christensen	Yellowstone to Uintas Connection	
Kim H Crumbo	The Rewilding Institute	
Courtney Vail	Oceanic Preservation Society	80000
Lois Barber	EarthAction	
Tehri Parker	Rocky Mountain Wild	1000
Jonathan Proctor	Defenders of Wildlife	1800000
Shelley Coldiron	W.O.L.F. Sanctuary	270000
Stephanie Jane Harris	Animal Legal Defense Fund	4600
Jennifer Thurston	Information Network for Responsible Mining	150
Peter McCollum	Save Animals Facing Extinction	
Mark Pearson, Executive Director	San Juan Citizens Alliance	1000
Shelley Silbert	Great Old Broads for Wilderness	8500
Lindsay Larris	WildEarth Guardians	
Norman Bishop	Wolf Recovery Foundation	10
KIRK C ROBINSON	Western Wildlife Conservancy	1000
Ariel Moger	Friends of the Earth U.S.	1708907
Delia G Malone	Sierra Club, Colorado Chapter	
Rob Edward	Rocky Mountain Wolf Action Fund	100000
Michael Petersen	The Lands Council	2000
Delia Malone	Colorado Sierra Club	
Mary Harris	Roaring Fork Audubon	



Name	Signatory Organization	Members / Supporters
Tim Whitehouse, Executive Director, PEER	Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility	
Tom Sobal	Quiet Use Coalition	300
Christine Canaly	San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council	400
JoAnn T Hackos	Evergreen Audubon	
Tracy Coppola	National Parks Conservation Association	1300000
Wally Sykes	Northeast Oregon Ecosystems	
Jessica Plachta	Lynn Canal Conservation	388
Beth Allgood	International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)	
Kelly Nokes	Western Environmental Law Center	
Moana Bjur	Conservation Council For Hawaii	
Marc Cooke	Wolves of the Rockies	188000
Dan Ritzman	Sierra Club	3400000
Darlene Kobobel	Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center	330000
Leesa Carter-Jones	Captain Planet Foundation	
Camilla Fox	Project Coyote	28000
Adam McCurdy	Aspen Center for Environmental Studies	
Richard Pritzlaff	Biophilia Foundation	
Noah Long	Natural Resources Defense Council	3000000
Heidi McIntosh	Earthjustice	2100000
<b>Total Members / Supporters</b>	<b>16,459,073</b>	

