



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOLF PROJECT

---

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR WOLVES & PEOPLE

### Colorado General Assembly, Joint Budget Committee

Senator Jeff Bridges, Chair  
Representative Shannon Bird, Vice Chair  
Representative Judy Amabile

Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer  
Representative Emily Sirota  
Representative Rick Taggart

December 13, 2024

### Subject: Unified Support for Colorado's Wolf Restoration Program

Dear Members of the Joint Budget Committee,

On behalf of the undersigned Non-Governmental Organizations, representing hundreds of thousands of Colorado residents, we urge you to maintain full funding for Colorado Parks and Wildlife's wolf restoration program. Cutting funds at this critical juncture would not only contradict the will of Colorado voters but would also prove fiscally and biologically irresponsible.

#### Fiscal Responsibility:

- Colorado has already invested significant resources in planning, public outreach, and initial wolf releases. Cutting funding now would waste these investments and potentially require even greater expenditures in the future to restart the program.
- Colorado Parks & Wildlife designed the current program for cost-effectiveness, leveraging existing resources and partnerships.

#### Voter Mandate:

- Voters mandated Colorado's wolf restoration program, a fact that underscores the need for careful legislative stewardship to ensure success.
- Defunding the program would undermine democratic principles and erode public trust in government responsiveness.

#### Progress to Date:

- CPW has successfully released the first of several waves of wolves, with the next wave soon on deck.
- Comprehensive conflict minimization programs are in place, including the new Range Rider program.

#### Scientific Necessity:

- Continued releases are essential to reach the 150-200 wolves needed for a self-sustaining population.

- Ongoing translocation bolsters genetic diversity, crucial for long-term viability.

We respectfully ask that you honor Colorado voters' wishes and maintain fiscal responsibility by fully funding the wolf restoration program. This initiative represents Colorado's commitment to conservation, democratic values, and sound fiscal management.

Thank you for your consideration.

For the Wild,

*Rob Edward*

Rob Edward, President  
Rocky Mountain Wolf Project  
rob.edward@rockymountainwolfproject.org  
+1 (970) 236-1942

On Behalf of:

Jim Alexee, Director  
Colorado Nature League

Tracy Coppola, Colorado Senior Program Mgr.  
National Parks Conservation Association

James Pribyl, Chair  
Colorado Nature Action

Kaitie Schneider, Colorado Wolf Representative  
Defenders of Wildlife

Delia G. Malone, President  
ColoradoWild

Gary T. Skiba, Wildlife Program Manager  
San Juan Citizens Alliance

Chris Applegate, Chair  
Colorado Sierra Club

Delaney Rudy, Colorado Director  
Western Watersheds Project

Darlene Kobobel, Founder/President  
Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center

Chris Smith, Wildlife Program Director  
WildEarth Guardians

Ryan Sedgeley, Southern Rockies Representative  
Endangered Species Coalition

Aubyn Royall, Colorado State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States

---

Cc: The Honourable Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado  
Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources  
Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
Nicole Rosmarino, Policy Advisor for Wildlife, Agriculture, and Rural Economic Development