

Citizen Perspectives for Colorado Public Forum

Wildlife manager from Colorado

Department of Parks & Wildlife

Any wolf reintroduction effort to Colorado needs to take some factors into consideration. There are many people in Colorado. Many are recreationalists who enjoy natural space and are used to using these lands without wolves. Figuring out where wolves can fit in safely and with the least amount of human conflict will be important. Decisions also need to be made about how to pay for wolf management. Currently, the money made by selling hunting licenses and permits covers the cost of wildlife management in the state, but that might not be the best approach for Colorado with the addition of wolves to the state.



Hunter

I think the people that want to introduce wolves to the park are the same people that want to ban hunting, trapping, fishing, and other recreational activities. Eliminating livestock from public lands is just one more thing they want to take away. I can't get behind this. I'm concerned that if wolves are reintroduced to the park, the big game like elk and other species that I hunt will be killed off by the wolves and there won't be anything left for me to hunt.



Image by JamesDeMers from Pixabay.

Native American (Ute, Cheyenne, Navajo, Arapaho, Jicarilla Apache)

Wolves are an important part of the natural world and should be reintroduced back to their native range. These animals are important to Indigenous cultures and I believe that we should be doing all we can to coexist with them.



Image by [steve felberg](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Rancher

I think people who aren't from this area shouldn't have a say in the matter. They don't know what's going on, they aren't familiar with the land, and they don't understand how it will impact our way of life. If wolves are released in Colorado, very few people are ever going to see them. Landowners and ranchers would continuously have to deal with wolves killing their livestock. If wolves are introduced, I feel the government should compensate me for any livestock losses due to wolves.



Image by [ArtTower](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Wildlife biologist

Reintroduction is important for wolves to be able to establish healthy, strong populations in Colorado. Though individual wolves have been seen in CO, wolves travel in packs and require help from other pack members to hunt and survive. The chances of individual wolves surviving on journeys from Wyoming to Colorado are low, since wolves have been delisted in the state and thus aren't protected there.



Image by [Rain Carnation](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Outdoor recreation enthusiast

Option 1: I am an outdoor lover and have experience being safe around other large predators. Wolves have potential to restore some balance to the places I like to camp, and I'm excited about that.

Option 2: I love to be outdoors, but I'm not very experienced. I feel reintroducing wolves will have a negative impact on my experiences outdoors in Colorado, since I'm fearful of encountering a wolf in the wild and wouldn't want to spend energy worrying about them.



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Government official

Part of the ballot measure requires creating a plan to pay ranchers for livestock losses due to wolf predation. Parts of the Colorado government would need to determine how compensation would be given for livestock losses due to wildlife.



Tourist

I've never seen a wolf before. I think I'd make a special trip to Colorado just to see wolves! I'd bring my whole family and make a vacation out of it.



Image by [piviso](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Animal rights advocate

Public land is for everyone and everyone deserves a say in what happens on that land. Western ranchers have grazed on federal lands for years. Since we taxpayers are subsidizing the livestock industry, we should have the right to demand that the wolves be part of the landscape.



Image by [christels](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Homeowner

I'm afraid that wolves will leave the place where they are reintroduced and kill my dogs and cats. I'm also worried that my life and my children's lives will be endangered by having wolves nearby. What's to stop them from attacking my family?



Image by [David Mark](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Moderator

You will facilitate and moderate the Public Forum. To prepare,

- Write procedural norms.
- Decide, with the teacher, the length of time each person will have to present his or her views.
- Read articles to know who will be in the forum and to help prepare questions you want to ask to group or individuals.
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