

Colorado Wolf Opinion Survey

The last gray wolf, a species native to Colorado, was killed by people in the 1940s. Minnesota was the last remaining home to wolf populations in the United States until the 1980's, when small numbers of wolves began to naturally move into Montana and recolonize. Wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1995, and have migrated into their historic native ranges in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming public lands outside of the park. The Southern Rockies in Colorado represents the last missing link in this animal's historic range. The state is currently considering reintroducing wolves onto public land west of the Continental Divide.

Wolves evoke a range of strong feelings and perceptions in people. Examining your own views will help you think about what might be important to know about wolves in Colorado, to help you make an informed opinion on this issue, and provide guidance for having a respectful conversation with others in your community about the issue.

1. What is your age? Circle one. 14-16 17-18 19-30 31-45 46-60 60+

2. Gender (optional): _____

3. How would you describe your feelings about wolves being reintroduced into Colorado? Check one.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very favorable | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat unfavorable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat favorable | <input type="checkbox"/> Very unfavorable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure | |

4. What best describes where you live in Colorado?

NOW	PAST
<input type="checkbox"/> Front range <input type="checkbox"/> Mountains <input type="checkbox"/> West slope	<input type="checkbox"/> Front range <input type="checkbox"/> Mountains <input type="checkbox"/> West slope

5. What best describes the type of community where you live?

NOW	PAST
<input type="checkbox"/> On a farm or ranch <input type="checkbox"/> Rural, but not a farm or ranch <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Suburb <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal reservation	<input type="checkbox"/> I have never moved from my current home. <input type="checkbox"/> On a farm or ranch <input type="checkbox"/> Rural, but not a farm or ranch <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Suburb <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal reservation

6. Please indicate which of the following roles or activities you are involved with:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdwatcher | <input type="checkbox"/> Government employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreationalist (e.g., hiker, camper, mountain biker, skier/snowboarder) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business owner | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter | <input type="checkbox"/> Trapper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservationist | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature lover | <input type="checkbox"/> Urbanite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmentalist | <input type="checkbox"/> Rancher | <input type="checkbox"/> Wolf advocate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farmer | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fisher | | |

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wolves? Circle one.

Wolves were an essential part of the wild habitat of Western Colorado and we should encourage an increase in their numbers here and ensure their protection for future generations.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Wolves were an important part of the habitat of Western Colorado, but their re-establishment would do more harm than good, as they attack livestock and pets and could even attack humans.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Wolves are dangerous predators that should be kept out of Western Colorado.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Wolves are special animals that deserve our admiration.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Wolves provide no benefits to people.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
People and wolves should be able to coexist.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The previous generations were right in eliminating wolves from the landscape.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Predators like wolves keep nature in balance.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Wolves are a nuisance to people.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree

8. People have discussed a number of different reasons for reintroducing wolves to Colorado. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following reasons for reintroducing wolves to the state?

So future generations can enjoy them.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Because they are important members of the ecological community.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
To be able to harvest their fur.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
To photograph them.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Because of their value to science and research.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Because they may attract tourists.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Because they have a right to exist.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
So that some people will be able to trap them.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
To help keep deer and elk in balance with their habitat.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Because they will boost tourism in the state.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree

People have different levels of comfort regarding wildlife species. In questions 9-12, consider how you feel about wolves and other predators living in Colorado.

9. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about **WOLVES**. Please circle one in each row.

I would worry about my personal safety while outdoors in areas where wolves live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I would worry about the safety of my pets while outdoors in areas where wolves live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I would worry about the safety of children who are outdoors in areas where wolves live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree

10. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about **BEARS**. Please circle one in each row.

I would worry about my personal safety while outdoors in areas where bears live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I would worry about the safety of my pets while outdoors in areas where bears live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I would worry about the safety of children who are outdoors in areas where bears live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree

11. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about **MOUNTAIN LIONS**. Please circle one in each row.

I would worry about my personal safety while outdoors in areas where mountain lions live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I would worry about the safety of my pets while outdoors in areas where mountain lions live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I would worry about the safety of children who are outdoors in areas where mountain lions live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree

12. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about **COYOTES**. Please circle one in each row.

I would worry about my personal safety while outdoors in areas where coyotes live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I would worry about the safety of my pets while outdoors in areas where coyotes live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I would worry about the safety of children who are outdoors in areas where coyotes live.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree

13. As you may know, the gray wolf has been extirpated, or completely eliminated from CO and is listed as endangered in CO under federal law. Do you believe the wolf should be protected in CO and remain on the state's endangered species list or do you think the wolf should be taken off CO's endangered species list?

- Yes, I believe that wolves should remain protected.
- No, I don't believe that wolves should remain protected.

(Optional): Why? _____

14. How important are the decisions regarding wolf management in Colorado to you personally? Check one.

- very important
- somewhat important
- somewhat unimportant
- very unimportant

15. The question of reintroducing the gray wolf is being presented as a ballot initiative in Colorado, which means that the voters are making this decision directly. How appropriate/confident/comfortable do you feel it is for voters to be making this decision?

- very appropriate
- somewhat appropriate
- somewhat inappropriate
- very inappropriate

16. Which of the following would you consider reliable sources of information about reintroducing wolves in Colorado?

- Animal rights organizations (Humane Society, PETA)
- Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife
- Hunters
- National Cattlemen's Association
- National Rifle Association
- Politicians
- Ranchers and farmers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Wildlife and conservation organizations (National Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club)
- Wildlife and wolf biologists
- Zoos (Denver Zoo, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Pueblo Zoo)

17. What parts of your identity and experience do you feel have the most influence on your personal opinions about wolves and their reintroduction that haven't been otherwise captured by this survey? Identity can include (but is not limited to) your occupation, gender, race, ethnicity/culture, education, interests/hobbies. Experience can include (but is not limited to) influences from your family, friends, pop culture, documentaries, news sources, where you live, and any personal experiences you may have had with wolves).

18. How would you describe your feelings about wolves being reintroduced into Colorado? Check one.

- Very favorable
- Somewhat favorable
- Unsure
- Somewhat unfavorable
- Very unfavorable

19. Do you have any other comments about wolves or about this survey you would like to include?
