



SPECIAL EDITION

Colorado Wolf Reintroduction

Douglas Creek Board

- President : Bill Hume
- V. President : Rosaly Coombs
- Sec./ Treasurer : Scott Robertson
- Supervisor : Ron Reich

White River Board

- President : Marc Etchart
- V. President : Chris Collins
- Sec./ Treasurer : Bill Lake
- Supervisor : Neil Brennan
- Supervisor: Kathy Nelson

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How Can Your Voice Make a Difference?

Colorado Wolf Restoration & Management Plan (Plan)

1. Learn more about the Plan and how to make comments:
 - a. When and where to make your voice heard
 - b. Highlights of the Plan
 - c. Talking points for you to build from
 - d. Review the Plan
2. Share your concerns (YOUR VOICE)
 - a. Engage in the State Process:
 - i. There will be 2 more State wide hearings to acquire information from the public. The hearing dates and locations are listed below with approximate times:



Date: February 16, 2023
Location: Virtual via Zoom
Time: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

How to Get to the Virtual Meeting:
Go to CPW.state.co.us
[About Us](#)>[Commission](#)>[Meetings](#)

Date: February 22, 2023
Location: Denver
Time: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

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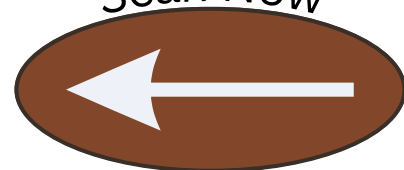
Written comments must be submitted online by **Feb. 22, 2023.**

Link: <https://engagecpw.org/draft-wolf-plan-comments>



Scan the QR code on the left with your phone camera, it will take you to the comment form.

Scan Now



How will producers be compensated for losses?

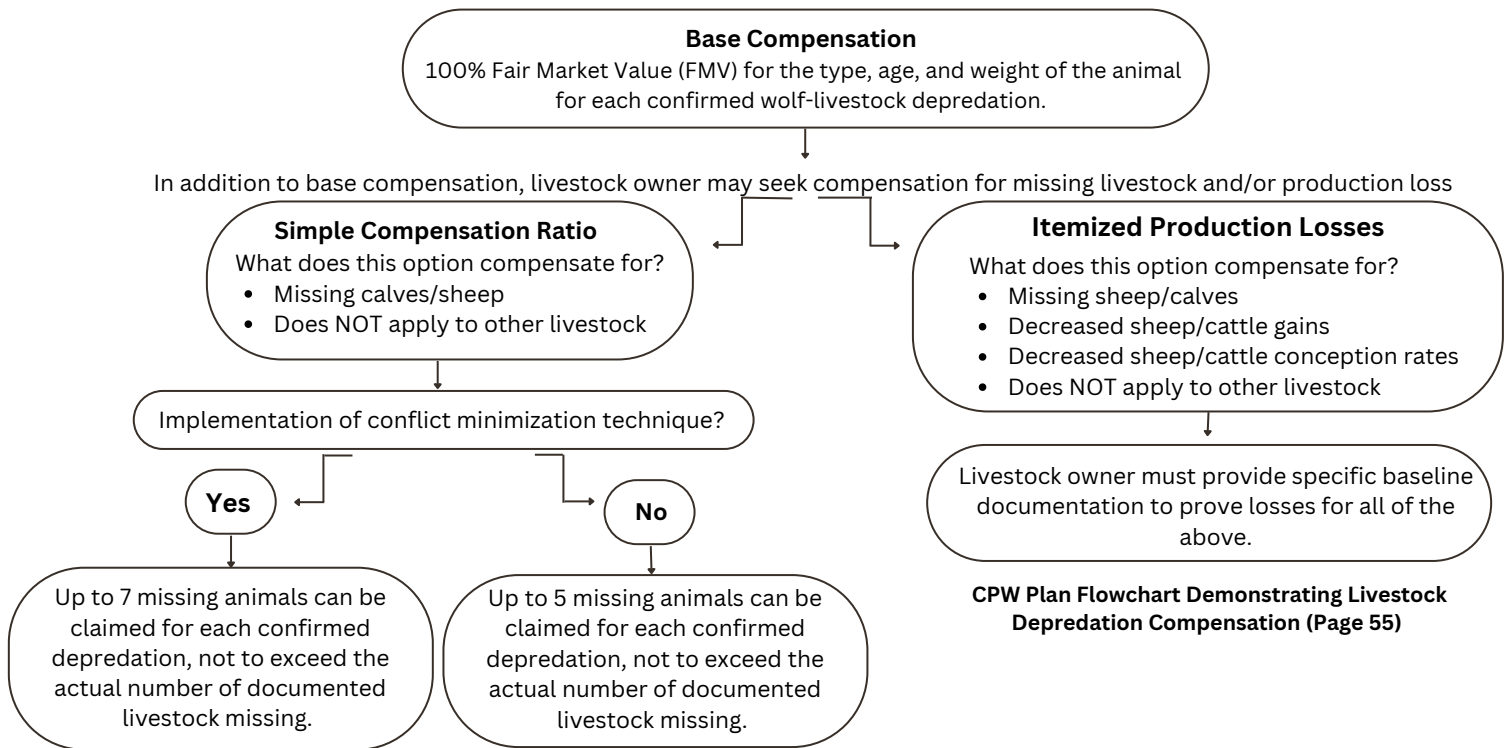


CPW Compensation Program (Chapter 6 of the Plan) is 100% of fair market value (FMV), up to \$8,000 for confirmed death of livestock and guard/herding animals. Conflict minimization techniques are not required to be eligible for compensation but are planned to be incentivized through a multiplier on a simple compensation ratio (fig. 5). Veterinarian costs for the treatment of livestock and guard/herding animals will be compensated up to the FMV of the animal.

See the Plan for details.

Livestock Compensation Process

After a confirmed depredation of cattle or sheep, the livestock owner can choose between options detailed in figure 5, **but cannot do both**. Below is a chart from the Plan that provides an overview of the options.



The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts encourage each of you to review the Plan for details. Copy the link (<https://cpw.State.co.us/Documents/Wolves/DRAFT-CO-Wolf-Plan.pdf>) or scan the QR code to read details of the plan. The topics discussed throughout the newsletter are listed below.

Plan QR Code



Where to Find More Information in the Plan

- [Chapter 4: Recovery of Wolves in Colorado \(Page 36\)](#)
- [Chapter 5: Wolf Management \(Page 41\)](#)
- [Chapter 6: Livestock Compensation \(Page 49\)](#)
- [Chapter 7: Monitoring, Ungulate Management, Research, and Reporting \(Page 56\)](#)
- [Table 2: Phase start and end points in Colorado \(Page 38\)](#)
- [Figure 5: Flowchart Demonstrating Livestock Depredation Compensation \(Page 55\)](#)

How can you write an effective comment?



Comment Form QR
Code

Your voice is valuable. This newsletter goes to over **700** landowners in Rio Blanco County. If each person reading this will attend a meeting and/or submit written comments, Rio Blanco County's voice will be heard. Below are a few talking points for you to expand upon, giving your own experience and situation. Please be respectful in your written and verbal comments.

Talking Points to Consider for Writing Your Comments:

- **Give Credit Where Credit is Due:** Acknowledge the commitment by the CPW to utilize the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) recommendations.
- **Depredation:** The impact of wolves on a localized basis is understated and is covered up with the percent of **total** livestock in Colorado.
 - Depredation and production losses/costs are unevenly distributed and localized, with some livestock owners suffering much greater losses than others. Example: Walden rancher.
- **Collaring Wolves:** Request radio tracking collars on at least two of each wolf pack and keep livestock producers informed when the wolves are in the area.
- **Lethal Take:** Non-lethal tools are listed as the first step. While this may make sense in many cases, the Commission and CPW must ensure the full suite of wolf management options are available, including take when necessary.
 - Lethal take should be allowed in order to protect livestock and livestock guardian dogs. Failure to implement the full suite of management tools will unduly burden livestock producers and landowners, who will bear disproportionate costs for conflict minimization.
 - For example: problematic wolves must be eliminated in order to reduce the teaching of young and others to kill livestock.
- **Funding:** Both the ballot initiative language in Proposition 114 and State law explicitly requires funding for wolf-livestock conflict minimization and fair compensation for livestock losses.
 - **Any funding shortfalls for these programs would undermine these assurances to livestock owners in Colorado and impose significant burdens on landowners and livestock producers in violation of State law and plan objectives.**
- **Compensation:** The draft plan does **NOT** provide for adequate compensation by...
 - a. Requiring there to be a death before compensation can be paid on the remainder. For example, the draft plan appears to provide compensation for indirect impacts on production via the Itemized Production Losses formula but provides compensation only after there has been a depredation.
 - b. Placing limits on the number of missing animals that can be claimed.
 - c. Requiring compliance with conflict minimization techniques in order to qualify for aspects of the Simple Compensation Ratio. (page 2)
 - d. Requiring documentation such as certified veterinarian reports and other detailed documentation going back years may be infeasible in some instances.
 - i. Many producers pregnancy test their own livestock so requiring vet certification is unreasonable and unacceptable .
- **10j Rule:** The 10j Rule must be in effect before a single wolf is introduced to ensure there are lethal options to address depredating wolves in Colorado.

It is critical that you send written comments in before the deadline of February 22nd, 2023.

Phase start and end points in Colorado (CPW Plan, Page 38)

	Phase 1 (Denote State endangered Status)	Phase 2 (Denote State Threatened Status)	Phase 3 (Denote State delisted, nongame status)	Phase 4 (Denote State delisted, game status)
Start	Current	Minimum count of 50 wolves anywhere in Colorado for four successive years	Phase 1 and Phase 2 conclusion requirements are both met. Phase 2 requirements may be met concurrently with Phase 1 requirements	Not required under CRS 33-2105.8
Conclude	Minimum count of 50 wolves anywhere in Colorado for four successive years	Minimum count of 150 wolves anywhere in Colorado for two successive years c -OR- Minimum count of 200 wolves anywhere in Colorado with no temporal requirement	No prescribed conclusion	Not required under CRS 33-2105.8
Action Upon Conclusion	Downlist to State Threatened	Delist from Colorado State list of threatened and endangered species	Consider reclassifying to game species	N/A
Criteria to move back into this phase	After downlisting, a minimum count of less than 50 wolves anywhere in Colorado for two consecutive years initiates review of relisting to State Endangered status	After delisting, a population estimate with a lower 80% confidence limit of less than 150 wolves anywhere in Colorado for two consecutive years initiates review of relisting to State threatened status	To be determined dependent on overall health and stability of the population	N/A

Talking Points to Consider for Writing Your Comments:

Number of Wolves

- ☑ All thresholds are noted as statewide. There should be a threshold by game management unit as well, since having a large population in one area will likely have severe consequences while the remainder of the State may see limited impacts.
- ☑ 50 wolves for 4 consecutive years is required to down-list to a threatened species. Learning from other States, numbers will likely compound quickly and Colorado could have 200 wolves by the 4th year when they should be moving to non- game species, according to the Plan.
- ☑ Recognize that any number identified as enough wolves (no longer T&E species), the State will be litigated and it will take many years to be able to begin managing them appropriately.
- ☑ Learn from other States where numbers have grown to over 1,000 wolves with severe impacts before management was initiated. Wolf management will be very similar to “wild” horse management.
- ☑ Expect 7 – 10 times the carrying capacity before management will be initiated, therefore keep threshold numbers to a bare minimum.
- ☑ Support phase 4 where wolves become a game species before the numbers get out of control.

It is critical that you send written comments in before the deadline of February 22nd, 2023.

White River Conservation District Annual Meeting

The WRCD Annual Meeting was held on January 12, 2023, with approximately 150 people in attendance.

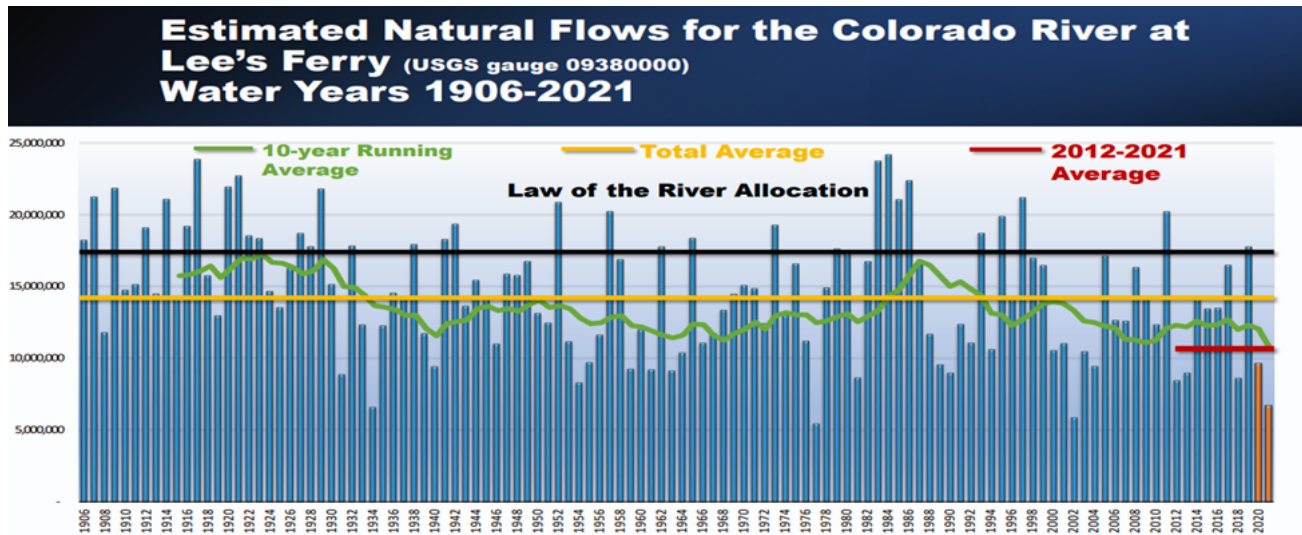
Topics and speakers included:

- Colorado River Update (CRD) - Dave Kanzer, Director of Science and Interstate Matters
- Colorado Division of Water Resources Update - Kevin Rein, State Engineer
- White River Call and Administration - Erin Light, Division 6 Engineer & Betty Kracht, White River Water Commissioner
- BLM Environmental Impact Study (EIS) on Wolf Creek Reservoir- Bill Mills, BLM Field Manager
- State of the Range - Kyle Arnold, BLM Assistant Field Manager & Troy Osborn, Osborn Industries

The below charts and graphs are highlights from the presentations.

Please visit the Districts' website to view the presentations and as always, please feel free to call the District office with any questions.

The graph below is from the CRD presentation. Augmentation can be utilized in times of water shortage and/or on an over appropriated river. Reservoirs above and below the location of a call can be valuable.



Division Engineer, Erin Light, reviewed water administration and who could make a call for what reasons.

To the right is the information provided on the current White River Call.

Current Call on White River

Calling Location: Taylor Draw Power Conduit (WDID 4302571)

Call Priority: Taylor Draw Power Conduit, Admin Number 41091.00000

Admin Number: 41091.00000

Previous Adj Date: 11/26/1958 Adj date: 11/21/1966 Appropriation Date: 07/03/1962

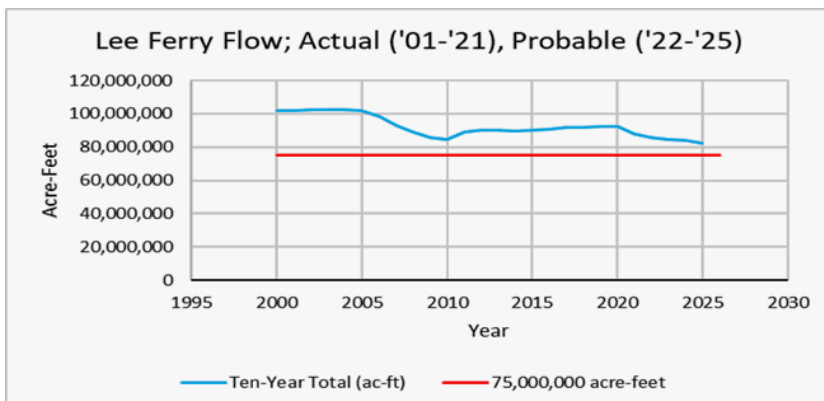
Decreed Use: Power Generation

Decreed Amount: 620 cfs

Measuring Device and Type of Data: Pressure Sensor

Type of Data: Average of data collected every 15 minutes over 24 hours

Other water rights decreed to Conduit: 1982 water right with Admin Number 48507.00000



State Engineer Kevin Rein's presentation shows the probability of the Upper Basin states falling short of Compact compliance before 2025 is unlikely, even with predicted low flows. Hopefully this great snow year will help with this average.

Douglas Creek and White River
 Conservation Districts
 351 7th Street
 PO Box 837
 Meeker, CO 81641



Office Hours

Monday– Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

Due to minimal NRCS staff, please call Nakayla Lestina at 970-693-3001 to make an appointment for NRCS business.

District Board Meetings

Douglas Creek Conservation District

First Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.
 2253 E. Main Street, Rangely, CO 81648

White River Conservation District

Second Thursday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.
 351 7th St., Meeker, CO 81641

*Check the websites for any changes to meeting dates

The Districts offer the following conservation-related products for sale or rent:

- Tire tank for stock water
- No-till drill
- Broadcast Seeder
- PAM (irrisal)
- Weed Sprayer
- Pipe Fusion Machine

If you are interested in purchasing or renting, please contact the Office or visit the Sales & Rentals tab of the Districts’ website.

District Contact Information

970-878-9838

WhiteRiverCD@gmail.com

<https://wrcd-dccd.colorado.gov>