

January 18, 2021

CPW Commission Approves Three-Year Wolf Introduction Plan

Last week's Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission (Commission) virtual meeting included six hours of presentation, discussion, and comments on the process of wolf introduction. Many eyes and ears were fully focused on them. The voters of Colorado have spoken and forced introduction of wolves will occur in Colorado. The question is how, where, and when.

Wednesday, Governor Polis requested the Commission fast track the planning process and place wolves in Western Colorado in 2022. Thursday the Commission heard from First Assistant Attorney General, Lisa Reynolds, explaining the Commission's responsibility to abide by the language in Proposition 114 which set this process in motion. Other speaker topics included Wolf Biology, The Importance of Stakeholder Engagement, and the Process and Timeline of the Wolf Plan.

The CPW Commissioners received hundreds of public comments via email. Many of which came from the western slope, and specifically Rio Blanco County, requesting the Commission to honor the process that was promised in Prop. 114 including statewide public input and a three-year planning process. County Commissioner, Gary Moyer; Conservation District Exec. Director Callie Hendrickson; Elk Creek Ranch outfitter, Colton Brown; and rancher/outfitter, Lenny Klingsmith provided oral comments to the Commission. Thank you to all who submitted written and oral comments to the Commission! When we speak up in numbers, it makes a difference! Please stay engaged!

Throughout the meeting, the commissioners referenced the hundreds of emails received requesting planning meetings to be held on the western slope and not to rush this process. In the end, the Commission supported the CPW staff recommendation to implement a plan based on the three-year draft timeline.

You are encouraged to listen to the recordings of the Commission meetings and view the presentations by visiting www.WhiteRiverCD.com/wolves and clicking on the January 2021 CPW Commission Meeting button or by scanning the Zapcode below.

Zapcode - www.WhiteRiverCD.com/wolves