

August 9, 2021

Colorado Wolf Plan Input

Do you have any say in the development of the Colorado Wolf Plan? Yes, you can. But you must speak up and speak up now. As the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission discussed how to go about gathering public input and the development of the Plan, northwest Colorado residents made it clear they expected the Commission to hold meetings on the western slope where wolves would potentially be released. We expected them to come and talk with us since we would likely be impacted the most by their introduction. The Commission heard us loud and clear and have provided multiple opportunities. There has been 30+ public input sessions and multiple focus groups across the western slope, several virtual townhall meetings and now the on-line input form at <https://www.wolfengagementco.org/online-open-house-comment-form>.

The on-line input form is due by August 31, 2021. Now is one of the critical times for you to engage if you want your voice heard. The questionnaire provides opportunity for your suggestions regarding additional public input, logistics for making the Plan a success, management strategies, monitoring, funding, reducing conflict with livestock, compensation program, and other details. While most people in our community are not supportive of forced introduction of the wolves, this is your opportunity to have input to make the best of what many see as a bad situation.

The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to share your productive and solution-oriented comments for each question so that our community can help influence the outcome since our County or neighboring counties are likely to be a targeted location for release of wolves. The Districts encourage you to request additional in-person meetings here in Meeker as the process moves forward so our community can engage with CPW leadership. Visit the wildlife tab on the Districts website at www.whiterivercd.com