

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING INITIATIVE 107 TO REINTRODUCE WOLVES TO
COLORADO.**

WHEREAS, Douglas County, State of Colorado is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Colorado for which the Board of County Commissioners is authorized to act in the interest of health, safety and welfare of its citizens and environment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") has established as one of its six primary goals to: *Practice and promote responsible stewardship of historic and natural resources in both rural and suburban areas*; and

WHEREAS, the Board has established a Wildlife Resources plan within the Douglas County Comprehensive Master Plan to protect and improve habitat and maintain the viability of wildlife populations within Douglas County and the surrounding region, and wolf populations could undermine that plan and the tens of millions of dollars public and private organizations have invested to sustain the viability of wildlife populations in Douglas County's developing landscape; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County has perhaps the only large-scale, protected land movement corridor across the I-25 corridor from Ft. Collins to Ft. Carson, which is being further constrained by the recent, much-needed improvements to the interstate; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County is home to several distinct and isolated populations of rare wildlife such as bighorn sheep that would be vulnerable to extirpation from wolf predation; and

WHEREAS, pronghorn have declined significantly and deer populations fluctuate in Douglas County; and

WHEREAS, wolf populations are known to increase rapidly, and would expectedly make their way to the Front Range within a few years; and

WHEREAS, wolves would easily navigate highway barriers where ungulates are reluctant to cross even properly designed wildlife underpasses, and wolves could easily prey upon bighorn sheep, deer, elk and pronghorn restricted to isolated habitat blocks without effective means of escape; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission has determined that deer and elk herds in southern Colorado are having less young, poor fawn/calf survival rates, and many of the herds are well below population objectives and would suffer further decline due to the additive mortality from wolf predation; and

WHEREAS, additive mortality from wolf predation would reduce surplus herd numbers, reducing hunting opportunities for Colorado citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, hunting and fishing recreation is a \$1.8 Billion-dollar industry and supports 21,000 jobs in Colorado, and additive mortality from wolf predation would reduce hunting license numbers and reduce recreational opportunity and income in the State; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State listings of the gray wolf as an endangered species

preclude wolf population control or the lethal control of depredating individuals; and

WHEREAS, current wolf populations in other states kill several hundred livestock each year and are expected to do the same in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, there is no fund or mechanism established to compensate ranchers or farmers for such losses in the State; and

WHEREAS, game damage compensation funds have historically been established through sportsmen license fees, and it is unfair to reduce hunting opportunities yet pay predation payments from funds paid by sportsmen; and

WHEREAS, in Douglas County's dispersed development pattern juxtaposed against national forest and other public lands, with a robust wildlife corridor system allowing access to most of the County, pets and companion animals such as horses are also at risk from wolf predation in Douglas County, and these animals are typically excluded from compensation from game damage predation funds; and

WHEREAS, there would be increased, unfunded, staffing, resource, and monetary requirements to CPW, which is already financially constrained, to implement a wolf reintroduction program, which would have to include monitoring wolf populations; monitoring ungulate population responses; monitoring disease changes; investigating wolf predation claims; assisting landowners & ranchers on wolf predation counter-measures and prevention techniques; public relations; and working through changes to wildlife management plans, population modeling including wolves, and resetting hunting license numbers; and

WHEREAS, there is an increased potential for the spread of disease and parasites to other wildlife and domestic animal populations from wolf activity; now, therefore,

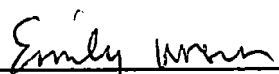
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Douglas, State of Colorado:

1. Opposes any efforts to introduce or expand the populations of wolves into Colorado.
2. Supports recommendations of the Colorado Wolf Working Group, which were adopted by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission in 2005.
3. Supports the position taken by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission in its Resolution 16-01.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of December, 2019, in Douglas County, Colorado.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

BY: 
ROGER A. PARTRIDGE, Chair

ATTEST: 
~~KRISTIN RANDETT~~, Clerk to the Board
