



Commissioners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What about the Wolves?

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Moffat County – Many of our local residents are asking “What are you doing about the re-introduction of wolves in Northwest Colorado?” Moffat County, being one of the first counties in Colorado, passed resolutions in 2004 (Resolution 2004-86) and again in 2018 (Resolution 2018-34) in opposition to the gray wolf reintroductions. The current Board of Moffat County Commissioners continues to uphold that position. Moffat County Commissioners have been active in ensuring that we have a seat at the table for the chance to have meaningful impacts on the decisions that are being made on the gray wolf reintroduction plans in Northwest Colorado.

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Moffat County Commission activities surrounding the forced wolf reintroduction:

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- **Weekly Strategic Calls:** Moffat County Commissioners have been participating in weekly strategic planning calls with Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) since the passage of Prop 114. These meetings are focused on ensuring that the counties affected by this legislation continue to have a seat at the table in the planning process. The most recent result of this stakeholders group has been the letter of petition *Request to Create Local Government Advisory Group* presented to the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Commission. We are seeking a cooperating status that would allow for pre-decisional input into the reintroduction planning.
- **Monthly Coordinated Planning:** Moffat County Commissioners have participated in monthly meetings with Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI), Department of Natural Resources Director, Dan Gibbs, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director, Dan Prenzl. This stakeholder group, working alongside CCI’s statewide membership, and with the support of partner stakeholders through Club 20, AGNC, the Colorado Woolgrowers Association, and the Colorado Cattlemen’s Association is actively seeking strategies to maximize local expertise and input to ensure the final plan is thoughtful and respectful of local land/property/business owners with an emphasis on the local land use plans that have been created through public processes that offer guidance on both state and federal land management.

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- **Testifying on Legislation:** Commissioner Bohrer has testified on Moffat County’s behalf on HB21-1037 Concerning a limitation on the designated lands onto which gray wolves may be reintroduced – specifically only introducing them in the counties where they approved the reintroduction and counties with no other introduced species, as well as HB21-1040 Concerning the requirement that the costs associated with the reintroduction of gray wolves in the state be paid exclusively from the general fund – specifically not using any sportsman’s dollars to pay for predation damages caused by the gray wolves. Commissioner Broom has testified on Moffat County’s behalf on SB21-105 Concerning the implementation of Proposition 114 concerning the restoration of gray wolves in Colorado – specifically the processes for public participation, reintroduction and management financing plans, request to conduct environment impact analysis and process for delisting of the gray wolf as endangered or threatened after resolution of any litigation contesting federal delisting validity has been resolved.
- **Application to CPW Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG):** Commissioners Broom, Villard, and Bohrer as well as Natural Resources Director, Jeff Comstock, have all applied for a position on the Colorado Parks & Wildlife’s SAG for wolf reintroduction and management.

On March 16, 2021, Rio Blanco County Commissioners passed a Resolution establishing their County as a Gray Wolf Reintroduction Sanctuary County, stating “our County will only accept wolves through natural migration, not a forced reintroduction”. Rio Blanco County has asked other counties to do the same, including Moffat County, prompting our residents to ask if Moffat County will pass the same resolution. Moffat County Commissioners remain steadfast in our opposition to wolf reintroductions. Moffat County feels that making that statement through a coordinated effort may be most impactful, and that continuing to request a local governmental role in the planning process is the most effective use of our resources as this time.

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