



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOLF PROJECT

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## WORKING TOGETHER FOR WOLVES & PEOPLE

Honourable Randene Neill, Minister  
Honourable Lori Halls, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship  
British Columbia, Canada

December 3, 2024

### Subject: Unified Support for the Wolf Translocation Agreement with Colorado

Dear Minister Neill and Deputy Minister Halls,

On behalf of the undersigned individuals and Non-Governmental Organizations, representing hundreds of thousands of Colorado residents and millions of American and Canadian citizens, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the Ministry's decision to enter the 2024–2025 agreement with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to translocate gray wolves from British Columbia to Colorado. This collaborative effort is an inspiring example of cross-border conservation and showcases British Columbia's leadership in supporting the restoration of this iconic species in the American West.

An affirmative vote of the state's citizens mandated Colorado's wolf reintroduction program in 2020, marking a historic moment in conservation. This decision shows not only a strong public commitment to restoring wolves to their historic range, but also an acknowledgment of the vital ecological role these apex predators play in maintaining healthy ecosystems. The program exemplifies ecological stewardship and is a testament to the democratic will of the people.

Unfortunately, there are now voices, particularly within some segments of the livestock industry, trying to disrupt this agreement and hinder Colorado's efforts by pressuring your government to withdraw its support. **These calls are a direct affront to the decision made by Colorado's voters and to the spirit of cooperative conservation between our regions.**

Your Ministry's role in facilitating the translocation of gray wolves is critical to fulfilling Colorado's statutory mandate to establish a self-sustaining wolf population, as outlined in C.R.S. 33-2-105.8. Multiple state and tribal denials of cooperation to source wolves for Colorado's program underscore the urgency of sourcing wolves from British Columbia. These denials have left Colorado with few options to source wolves.

British Columbia's wolves are well-suited to Colorado's carefully selected habitats and prey base (as they were to the original Northern Rockies wolf reintroduction in the 1990s), and the success of this initiative depends on the timely and collaborative implementation of this agreement. While there have been predictable challenges—such as natural wolf mortality and occasional livestock conflicts—adaptive management and properly deployed nonlethal coexistence strategies, informed by decades of global experience, are key to mitigating and minimizing conflicts.

The livestock industry's portrayal of this program as a "calamity," as noted in their September 2024 petition to "pause" further translocation, grossly mischaracterizes the actual success of wolf reintroduction efforts. Far from being disastrous, CPW's actions find root in sound science, thoughtful planning, and robust stakeholder engagement. For instance, Colorado's approved Wolf Restoration and Management Plan includes detailed habitat suitability analyses to identify optimal release sites, ensuring that Colorado transplants wolves into areas with minimal conflict potential and substantial habitat suitability.

Notably, the number of livestock lost to wolves in Colorado this year is relatively minimal, and in line with expectations. Further, proactive measures, including range rider programs and nonlethal conflict mitigation tools, are being implemented to minimize future conflicts. These measures affirm that coexistence is not only possible but already underway.

In sum, we urge you to resist any calls to break or reconsider this vital agreement. To do so would undermine a visionary partnership and embolden those seeking to disregard the democratic process in Colorado.

Your leadership in this matter is of utmost importance. By standing firm, you will reassert British Columbia's commitment to biodiversity, ecological stewardship, and respectful cross-border collaboration. Together, we can ensure the success of this historic initiative and inspire future cooperative endeavors for the benefit of wildlife and our shared environment.

Thank you again for Canada's forward-thinking approach to this critical conservation effort. Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

For the Wild,



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On Behalf of:

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Cc: The Honourable David Eby, Premier, British Columbia  
The Honourable Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado  
The Honourable John Hickenlooper, U.S. Senator  
The Honourable Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator  
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