

2018-31
**Rio Grande County Resolution
Regarding Wolf Management in
Rio Grande County, Colorado**

WHEREAS: Wolf populations have been reintroduced in states adjacent to Colorado; and there have been numerous sightings of wolves in Colorado, documented by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

WHEREAS: Wolf populations in the northern Rocky Mountains have achieved and exceeded the recovery goals set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming; and Rio Grande County acknowledges wolves have been delisted as endangered species in Montana and Idaho, and Wyoming.

WHEREAS: The livestock industry and big game hunting are two of many economic and social drivers in the Rio Grande County economy.

WHEREAS: Wolves are known to pass along parasitic diseases detrimental to other wildlife, household pets, as well as humans.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Rio Grande County supports the May 2005 Colorado Wolf Management Working Group Recommendations for Managing Wolves that Migrate into Colorado.

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: Rio Grande County supports the Colorado Wildlife Commission's January 1982, September 1989, and January 13, 2016 resolutions opposing wolf reintroductions. The January 2016 resolution affirms the continued opposition of the intentional release of any wolves into Colorado, in addition to reaffirming support for the May 2005 Colorado Wolf Management Working Group Plan. The 2016 resolution also recommends Mexican wolf recovery efforts be confined to the subspecies' historic range.

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: Rio Grande County supports delisting satellite wolf populations such as those in Colorado, which would allow state management of wolf populations.

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: Rio Grande County encourages the State of Colorado to actively support the Gray Wolf delisting.

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: Rio Grande County encourages active wolf management to assure the protection of private property, livestock, and wildlife resources.

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: Rio Grande County encourages specific implementation criteria be amended to the Colorado Wolf Management Working Group Recommendations for Migrating Wolves, in addition to planning for resident wolves in Colorado. This planning process should include diverse stakeholders, including local governments. Issues that need to be addressed are: impacts to local economies, ungulate herds, threatened or endangered/rare species (i.e. sage grouse), livestock, hunting, recreation, and disease management.

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: Rio Grande County supports the funding recommendations as provided in the Colorado Wolf Management Plan for Migrating Wolves, as well as additional funding that will be needed for the above listed specific planning criteria for potential resident wolves.

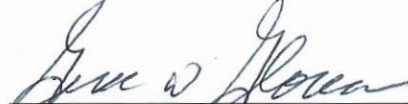
THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: Rio Grande County recommends future management efforts protect local economies so they do not experience economic losses due to the presence of the Gray Wolf. Financial compensation strategies must be in place to offset livestock, wildlife, and other impacts of wolf presence.

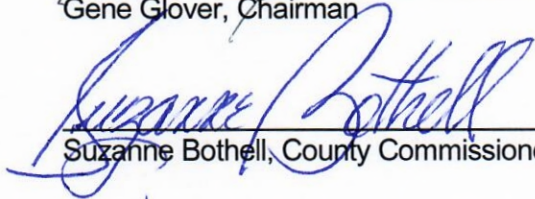
THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: Rio Grande County supports regular education opportunities to the public regarding rules, regulations, and endangered species act implications for wolf management. Educational opportunities should at a minimum include livestock and wildlife

resource protection options.

Adopted this ____ day of August, 2018

RIO GRANDE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Gene Glover, Chairman


Suzanne Bothell, County Commissioner


Karla Shriver, County Commissioner

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Board