The governing document for wolf reintroduction in Colorado is Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) 2023 wolf plan. The plan states that "CPW will aim to capture 10-15 wild wolves annually from several different packs over the course of 3-5 years." There are currently 27 collared wolves on the ground.

Following a court order in February 2022, grey wolves in the contiguous 48 states and Mexico, with the exception of the Northern Rocky Mountain population, are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). They are labeled "threatened" in Minnesota and "endangered" in the remaining states.

Earlier this year, three wolf-related ballot initiatives were filed. Of the three, only one will be moving forward: Initiative #13. This initiative seeks to amend Proposition 114 (the 2020 voter-approved wolf reintroduction measure) by prohibiting further wolf imports after December 31, 2026. Critics are concerned that the state is already planning to wrap up wolf introduction by that point, which befs the question of efficacy, and what shall happen with the existing wolves.. There are still two more release and denning seasons between now and 2026.

CPW has utilized lethal take of a wolf in Pitkin County, after the urging of Colorado Farm Bureau (CFB) and other agricultural voices to exercise lethal take because the wolf met the threshold as a "chronic depredator". *"Chronic depredation" as three or more depredation events (confirmed based on a preponderance of evidence) caused by the same wolf, wolves or pack within a 30-day period, provided there is clear and convincing evidence for at least one of the depredation events.*

It is imperative that producers keep updated and detailed records for their livestock, included but not limited to weaning weights, birth weights, conception rates, etc. CPW has been working with Dr. Frank Garry of Colorado State University and Veronica Yovovich, CSU extension specialist, to form a Livestock Data Working Group to standardize livestock data. CFB is currently involved in this standardization process and will keep members updated as we learn more. Depredation info can be found here.

CFB has worked to amplify the voices of our members as it relates to wolf reintroduction issues. Our president Carlyle Currier and CFB staff are on weekly phone calls with a coalition including the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA), Colorado Wool Growers Association, Club 20 and more to stay updated and plan on how to hold the state accountable for the programs they've promised in the wolf plan. That coalition is planning to go around Western Colorado and hold press conferences to show how ranchers are having issues getting help with the programs from the state. One of those press conferences will likely take place at CFB's Summer Ag Issues Summit in Gunnison, Colorado.

President Currier and CFB's Vice President of Strategy & Advocacy Ashley House have been participating in monthly calls with CPW Senior Leadership and other ag. group executives. CFB has also supported many initiatives such as Rep. Boebert's Livestock Protection Act, a signed letter to British Columbia requesting that they not send any more wolves, state legislation that would protect landowner privacy when it comes to names in public records for game damage or depredation claims, and messaging directed at our federal delegation urging for delegated third party authority when it comes to confirmation of wolf depredations. Additionally, CFB consistently messages Endangered Species Reform as a priority of the organization.

Also on the federal level, CFB continues to place pressure on the federal agencies for timely updates of Resource Management Plans (RMPs). We know that to solve this problem, it will take collaborative efforts by all levels of government and between many agriculture organizations. Solutions may not come as quickly as we like, but CFB will always act in the best interest of our constituents.

For more wolf resources, please visit these links:

- Colorado Wolf Plan
- Wolf Conflict Mitigation Guide
- Livestock Depredation Guide
- Wolf Sightings with Updated Collar Activity
- Subscribe to the CPW Wolf Update List