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New Bipartisan Poll Finds Majority of Coloradans Support Gray Wolf Reintroduction and Trust CPW to Lead Efforts

DENVER – A new poll shows that a growing majority of Coloradans support the reintroduction of gray wolves by a margin of over ten percent and expresses strong confidence in Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to manage the process effectively.

Public backing for gray wolf reintroduction has increased since the 2020 election, when voters approved the measure to restore wolves to the state. Today, 55% of respondents support moving forward with the plan, while 45% are opposed. Including those with no opinion, 52% support, 42% oppose, and six percent have no opinion. Similarly, by a ten-point margin 55% of respondents believe that continuing the reintroduction is a good idea, compared to 45% who view it negatively.

CPW, tasked with leading the reintroduction efforts, enjoys widespread public trust. The agency is viewed favorably by 85% of respondents, and 56% express confidence in CPW's ability to manage wolf reintroduction. By contrast, only 38% report having "just a little" or "no" confidence in CPW's management, demonstrating that some of those who might oppose the concept of wolf reintroduction still trust CPW to do a good job managing wolves.

James Pribyl, former chair of the Parks and Wildlife Commission and current chair of Colorado Nature Action, highlighted the resilience of public support despite opposition campaigns. “For months, conservative, anti-wolf forces have tried to persuade Coloradans that gray wolf reintroduction is a bad idea, but the public isn’t buying it,” said Pribyl. “Support is growing, with 52–56% now in favor and 42–45% opposed. A strong majority of Coloradans by a ten-point margin continue to back CPW’s efforts to restore wolves to the Western Slope.”

Pribyl also emphasized the ecological benefits of wolf reintroduction. “As a former chair of the Parks and Wildlife Commission, I’m gratified that most of the public recognizes the remarkable work CPW is doing. Reintroducing wolves helps restore ecological balance, reduce Chronic Wasting Disease in deer and elk, and enhance the overall health of our ecosystems,” he said.

He concluded, “It’s time to move forward with the next phase of reintroductions, ensuring CPW can build the self-sustaining wolf population that voters approved in 2020.”

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