



Montrose County Commissioners Introduce Ordinance to Oppose Introduction of Non Native Wolves

On October 15, the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners introduced Ordinance 2025-01 for first reading. This ordinance prohibits the introduction, translocation, support, facilitation, or habitat establishment of non-native animal species within unincorporated Montrose County. Its primary intent is to prevent the release of the Canadian Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus occidentalis*) into Montrose County, Colorado.

As County Commissioners, we believe the State of Colorado grants us the legal authority to protect our farmers, ranchers, and residents from the unintended consequences of introducing an apex predator into our region—one that could reproduce and expand its presence throughout our county.

We invite you to review our ordinance. While it may not be perfect, it initiates an important conversation from the perspective of rural Colorado. Now is the time to stand up and speak on behalf of the citizens who elected us to represent them. Together, we can form a strong, unified voice—one that can be heard by the Governor and the State Legislature.

We urge you to join us in opposing the further introduction of the non-native Canadian Gray Wolf to rural Colorado. Please consider drafting a similar ordinance for your own county.

For reference, below is an excerpt from an email dated October 16, 2025, from Tiffany Phil at AGNC. The memo cites official correspondence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the State of Colorado and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). It clearly states that wolf introductions must originate from the lower 48 states, which contradicts efforts to translocate animals from Alaska and/or Canada.

Commissioners,

10/16/25

I just received a phone call from John Swartout letting me know that yesterday the State of Colorado and CPW received official correspondence from the head of the US Fish and Wildlife, Brian Nesvik, notifying Colorado they are only allowed to obtain new wolves from the lower 48. This ruins their plans to obtain them from either Canada or Alaska - both were in negotiations. CPW Director Jeff Davis has confirmed to John that the letter was received and the governor is VERY unhappy.

It has not yet been made public, but it will be any minute. I wanted to give you all the heads up that there is likely to be a media storm around this and I didn't want you to be caught unaware should you receive a call.

Please reach out to John Swartout for further details. He will also be doing a full wolf update at our board meeting next week. There may be an ask of the counties at that meeting and I would suggest we have at least one rep from each county in the room or on Zoom for that update.

Thank you,
Tiffany Dickerson, AGNC

I have attached a copy of our ordinance for your review. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Vice Chair Sean Pond with any questions you might have.

Yours truly,

Scott Mijares
Chairman, Montrose County BOCC
970-650-0902