

House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

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HB24-1375 Wild Carnivores & Livestock Nonlethal Coexistence

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
William Tidmore Against themselves	I testify against this bill. The changes implemented in this Bill restrict Ranchers and Farmers to one type of guard animal. Whilst none can argue the usefulness or importance of a guard dog on a farm or ranch; we must remember that these animals work best in conjunction with other animals. Donkeys for example are very territorial and sound alarm whenever predators or unwelcome guests come about. What happens if a guard donkey, goose, or alpaca were to be injured or killed in service of the farm or ranch? I ask of you to not pass this Bill, as it would do nothing but lessen the importance of guard animals other than dogs. Thank you.
Jerry Mallett For Colorado Headwaters	Dear Chairperson, I'm Jerry Mallett, the President of Colorado Waters. I've hunted in Colorado since 1947. I have also be involved with a number of protected wilderness areas for the past 50 years. I strongly support HR24-1375. it is critical to provide the livestock industry with the necessary and support for any animal damage or loss. At the same time, HR24-1375 provides protection to the native carnivores in Colorado. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important matter. Jerry Mallett President Colorado Headwaters
Kathryn Schlatter Against themselves	Dear Colorado State Representatives, I'm writing this into the many concerns I have regarding this proposed bill and change to the current wolf reintroduction plan. After reviewing this proposed bill I believe it's a blind sided change to the Wolf Reintroduction Plan that the State and Committee worked hard with public input to finalize. This proposed bill lacks general knowledge and first hand experience in wolf conflict management. I believe every rancher intends to use all non lethal methods first hand, but we should have the right to protect our livestock and livelihoods. There will come an unfortunate point where none of these non lethal

	<p>management tools work as seen in Walden. Ranchers in Colorado are not a one size fit all operations. We all have different operations, terrain and will face different challenges just as we do in every day operations. Regarding the carcass management plan, I ask the State to consider what their carcass management plan is? What's the requirements of CPW for all the carcasses of Colorado State Hunting tags that will be filled that will leave gut piles and animals surrounding many ranches in Colorado that we have no control over? What is the States road kill carcass management plan as last winter I drove by 100's of dead deer, antelope, elk that were piled up on road sides next to neighboring livestock ranches. Even with a perfect carcass management plan there will natural deaths of animals on and around us that we have no control over the carcass disposal of. The State and Wolf Committee worked hard on coming up with a plan and coming to agreements non lethal hazing methods as well as the 10j Rule. Making sudden changes while livestock owners are still coming to terms with this new reality as well as the State navigating unknown territories and learning how to support ranchers is in my opinion ill intended. As we look at protecting our ecosystems, wildlife, livestock and ranchers livelihood in the State of Colorado we also need to think about the LGD and Livestock Dogs lives that are vital to ranchers operations but also a life. LGD are always working and livestock dogs they are a part of our operation. If there is a loss I believe there should be no change from the reintroduction plan regarding compensation as this bill suggests. I ask that you please vote against Bill HB24-1375. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Kathryn Schlatter</p>
<p>Kurt Holtzen Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my opposition to HB24-1375 wild carnivores and livestock non-lethal coexistence act which is an attempt to undo all the hard work and agreed upon wolf management plan drafted by CPW.</p> <p>I have been involved in wildlife conflict mitigation for three decades and specialized in wolf/livestock for the last decade. I am currently working with livestock producers in Idaho, California, Montana, Oregon and most importantly Colorado where I am working with a number of cattle and sheep producers and I am an associate member of the Colorado woolgrowers association.</p> <p>This legislation is a step backwards and is seen as an attempt to break the bipartisan working groups negotiated parameters for reintroduction.</p>

	<p>After three decades of wildlife conflict mitigation field experience I can tell you many of the proposed requirements are not practical and to restrictive in real world application's and would impair depredation risk management decisions to include the warranted use of lethal control.</p> <p>I would ask that this legislation not be moved forward by the committee and affirm they stand behind the bipartisan agreements from the working group and CPW wolf management plan.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration on this matter.</p>
<p>Johnny Schmidt None themselves</p>	<p>My hope is that this bill is not passed as a rancher in north park (walden) we have exercised every nonlethal means possible, and we still had depredations occur, walden has been ground zero for every nonlethal tactic and we still lost our livestock and working dogs, we all waited and waited for flaggery and propane cannons, fox lights work for about a week, our feed grounds and cattle positioning is determined by our snow fall, we don't have the luxury of moving cattle every 45 days, and cpw doesn't have enough flaggery to cover all the ranches from walden to Granby to kremmling to steamboat to soroco to meeker to craig, well you get the idea, there's ranchers in north park still waiting for Flaggery. The committees assigned to make this wolf reintroduction happen already handed down their guidelines to not alienate the ranchers, the level of trust right now has been seriously diminished, and to to have trust broken again will further the divide. This is our livelihood not a game, I have 250 1st calf hfrs in flaggery between the wind and weather we usually spent 2.5 hrs a day repairing it, another added cost we don't appreciate, vote no please</p>
<p>Emilee Caudill For themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my wholehearted support for HB24-1375. As a concerned citizen of Colorado who values the delicate ecosystems found here, I firmly believe that this bill represents a crucial step forward in addressing wildlife protections and preserving our native predator species.</p> <p>Predators play a critical role in the habitats throughout Colorado's breathtaking landscapes. Ranchers should be required to prevent depredations by removing carcasses from fields and practicing non-lethal management options before receiving compensation. Support of HB24-1375 shows that Colorado's representatives value and understand the importance of protecting and preserving wildlife, aligning with Colorado residents who love this state for its natural beauty and wild spaces.</p> <p>HB24-1375 benefits the community in several ways, not only by protecting our iconic predator species but also by encouraging</p>

	<p>tourism to see these incredible animals by working to protect them. With 90 million tourists visiting Colorado in 2022, it's clear that every community across Colorado benefits economically by keeping our wild spaces and the animals residing there intact.</p> <p>In contrast, over 380,000 dollars were spent in compensation to livestock producers reporting depredations that same year. Coexistence benefits every human and wild animal sharing space in Colorado.</p> <p>In addition to its immediate benefits, this bill aligns with the values and priorities of our community. By recognizing the unique value of preserving Colorado's magnificent scenery and wildlife, representatives have the opportunity to show they understand the true values of Coloradans by showing support for HB24-1375.</p> <p>As a resident of Park County, CO, I urge you to consider the overwhelming support for HB24-1375 from constituents like myself. I respectfully request that you lend your support to this crucial piece of legislation and work towards its swift passage.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter and your dedicated service to our community. I look forward to seeing HB24-1375 enacted into law for the betterment of all.</p> <p>Sincerely, Emilee Caudill</p>
<p>Bitsy Snyder Against themselves</p>	<p>I moved to Routt County in November 2023 and joined the vibrant community at the Fish and Cross Ranch. In that time period, I've been involved in dozens of conversations about wolves and their impact on ranching.</p> <p>The wolf introduction appears to have been poorly thought out and the terrain for their release chosen as if it was population and business free. This has put an enormous amount of stress on those that live in this area to adapt.</p> <p>This particular bill puts additional stress and financial strain on an already stressed ranching community. Many ranchers have permits to use national forest grazing lands. They cannot possibly remove carcasses from these grazing lands where motorized vehicles are prohibited.</p> <p>Ranchers, through their relationship with CPW, need methods (that may also include lethal means) to take care of repeat depredations.</p>

	<p>If passed, this bill surely adds a great additional, and quite frankly, an untenable, burden on ranchers. It is yet another bureaucratic hoop that simply can't be reached much less maintained.</p> <p>Please, please give CPW all the authority and tools they need for managing the wolf population. Please trust them to manage the maintenance of the wolves as well as the ongoing depredation of livestock.</p> <p>Bitsy Snyder Yampa, Colorado</p>
<p>Allen Snyder Against themselves</p>	<p>My family owns a 4000 acre cattle ranch and outfitting business in Routt County, 10 miles from where the wolves were released. We are working hard to develop new and somewhat costly methods, tools and procedures to coexist with these predators. We can not afford to be further burdened and constrained from such a bill. What's more, this bill could never be implemented, as written:</p> <p>The bill puts additional stress and financial strain on an already stressed ranching community. We, like many ranchers, have permits to utilize national forest and BLM grazing lands. We cannot possibly remove carcasses from these grazing lands where motorized vehicles are prohibited. Additionally, we have locations on our private land where getting to a carcass is going to cost us significant time (labor) and equipment to accommodate burial or removal.</p> <p>Ranchers, through their relationship with CPW, need methods (that may also include lethal means) to take care of repeat depredations. We need to leave this decision to the local CPW agents and not add more overhead and time to the process claims.</p> <p>If passed, this bill will add additional, and quite frankly, untenable, burdens on ranchers that are already stressed (emotionally and financially). It is yet another bureaucratic hoop that simply can't be reached much less maintained.</p> <p>Please, please give CPW all the authority and tools they need for managing the wolf population. Please trust them to manage the maintenance of the wolves as well as the ongoing depredation of livestock.</p> <p>Sincerely Al Snyder</p>

