

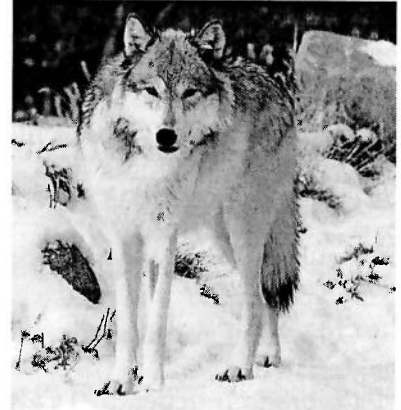
## SB23-255: Wolf Depredation Compensation Fund

*Sens. Dylan Roberts & Perry Will / Speaker McCluskie & Rep. Marc Catlin*

### **Background:**

In November 2020, Colorado voters approved Proposition 114, which directed the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to submit a plan to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for reintroduction of Gray Wolves on designated lands west of the Continental Divide in Colorado.

Recognizing the likely impact a reintroduced population of wolves would have on livestock and agriculture producers, the Colorado statute requires that the commission “make such appropriations as are necessary to fund the programs authorized and obligations, **including fair compensation for livestock losses.**” As such, the State has an obligation to the agricultural community to establish a fund to provide agriculture producers fair compensation for wolf related damages.



### **What would this bill do:**

In order to follow through on this statutory promise, this bill will do the following:

1. Create a “wolf depredation compensation fund” for the sole purpose of directly compensating landowners or agricultural producers, for whom one or more gray wolves killed or injured a working animal in their possession
2. Direct \$175,000 of general funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and \$350,000 thereafter to the “wolf depredation compensation fund.” Allow \$100,000 in excess funds to be transferred to the wildlife cash fund. (after FY 25-26 the fund cap will reflect the previous year's expenditure from the fund plus 20%.)
3. Allow the parks and wildlife commission to promulgate rules to implement a compensation fund, including additional criteria for compensation as is necessary
4. Require the CPW director to report on the efficacy of this program each year during the appropriate “SMART act” hearing

### **For more information, please contact:**

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**Supporters:**

Breen Community Building	Hay Gulch Ditch Inc.
Chamisa Ranch LLC	Highlands Unlimited Inc. Huntington Ranches LLC
Colorado Bowhunters Association	Keep Routt Wild
Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management	Kikel Ranch LLC
Colorado Cattlemen's Association	La Plata County Farm Bureau
Colorado Conservation Alliance	La Plata Water Conservancy District
Colorado Farm Bureau	Landowners of La Plata
Colorado Independent Cattle Growers Association	Muley Fanatic Foundation
Colorado Land, Water & Food Alliance	National Wild Turkey Federation Professional
Colorado Outfitters Association	Outfitters and Guides of America Razor Creek
Colorado State Muzzleloaders Association	Ranch LLC
Colorado Trappers and Predator Hunters	Razor Creek Ranch
Colorado Women Involved in Farm Economics	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation	Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU)
Fort Lewis Mesa Planning District	Safari Club International
Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association	Slade Irrigation Company Inc.
Gunnison County Farm Bureau	Southern Colorado Livestock Association
	Southwestern Colorado Livestock Association