

Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

03/30/2023 01:30 PM

SB23-256 Management Of Gray Wolves Reintroduction

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Dale Coombs For themselves	Please support this bill because we only have one chance to get the wolf reintroduction done right in the state. This bill will help us tremendously do that. There is too much at stake to ignore this legislation. Please for everyone's sake including the wolf lets get the reintroduction done right. Thank You Dale Coombs



## Wolf Predation

Kathleen Conway to: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

03/30/2023 10:19 AM

I would like to have this testimony presented to the voting committee.

I believe the bill introducing wolves to areas in Colorado has not been represented accurately to our voting public. To present an idea based on an application to an ecosystem completely different from our own, is irresponsible at best, manipulative and destructive at worst. Yellowstone, presented as an example, is a natural Park, which is self regulated by animal predation and thus does not suffer greatly by an alteration such as wolf introduction. No study has been done regarding wolf introduction to privately owned areas, livestock production businesses, and areas dependent on tourism. To reintroduce a threat to all these, as already experienced in Montana, is irresponsible, and seems to be a monetary gain to a special interest group, rather than a benefit to the citizens of this state. More data needs to be collected to accurately follow the law, yet protect law abiding citizens.

An area such as Pagosa Springs is entirely dependent on tourism, especially outdoor activities. Tourists will be greatly affected by having wolves in the area, tourists who can be threatened, injured and possibly killed by wolves. Hikers, campers, especially those with dogs, are at great risk.

Our wildlife population is currently controlled by hunting, which not only keeps the animals healthy but brings income to our area. Wolves will decimate the deer and elk population, which will greatly affect both tourism and hunting. These affects alone can financially destroy Archuleta County and its residents.

Cattle and sheep ranching will be affected, more each year, as seen in Montana already. Prices of food will go up even higher.

Having a small township in the middle of a wilderness area such as Pagosa Springs, presents a specific risk to approximately 15,000 people living here. Bears are occasional visitors to our downtown area, as are deer, elk, and the occasional wildcat due to this proximity. A wolf pack would be a more dangerous yet an entirely possible threat. None of this was considered, or studied, before this bill was presented to the voters of Colorado. Very few people not living in a small town, or an agricultural area were given accurate, researched, verified information regarding the impact of introducing a dangerous predator, especially one that reproduces quickly and plentifully, into anything but a government park system.

I would also like to mention the wolves themselves. We have wolves here already. Nature and the parks department keep a balance in wildlife populations, and wolves rarely interact with humans. Introducing an artificially increased number to the native population by an invasive species will cause weaker wolves to be forced into populated areas. And what of the new wolves being trapped, taken out of their natural habitat, and forced into a new environment?

I raise alpacas near a lake that wildlife uses often for water. I have registered show animals, breeding stock, and produce luxury fiber. I have approximately 40 animals, 5 of which are a rare breed, the original alpaca, which at one point was almost extinct. Only 20% of the world alpaca population is made up of this breed. I have spent 12 years developing my breeding program. Some in my herd are worth more than the suggested replacement costs. A few are worth considerably more. Insurance on animals like this is outrageously expensive, I cannot afford it. A wolf attack on my property would destroy my business. The replacement offer is inadequate, and I could never reproduce my breeding program. Aside from the business and financial aspect of my business, I love my animals as well. My animals have

educated many a 4H student over the last several years, in animal husbandry as well as fiber production and sales.

This bill was not researched adequately before being presented and will risk negative impact on income, food supply, injury to humans and wolves, and possible fatalities. I see very little benefit and quite a lot of detriment. I believe more needs to be accomplished in these areas before it is enacted.

Thank you  
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