A RESOLUTION REGARDING GRAY WOLF MANAGEMENT IN COLORADO

WHEREAS, Park County residents and visitors enjoy abundant outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as fishing and hunting Colorado’s large populations of deer, elk, pronghorn and moose; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreational activities and livestock production are two of the primary components of the Colorado economy and are a major contributor to the economic and social wellbeing of Park County; and

WHEREAS, wolf populations have been reintroduced in states adjacent to Colorado and numerous sightings of wolves in Colorado have been documented by Colorado Parks and Wildlife; and

WHEREAS, wolf populations in the northern Rocky Mountains have achieved and exceeded the recovery goals set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, Park County acknowledges wolves have been delisted as an endangered species in Montana and Idaho, and Wyoming and

WHEREAS, wolves are known to pass along parasitic diseases detrimental to other wildlife, household pets, livestock and humans.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:


2. Park County supports the Colorado Wildlife Commission's January 1982, September 1989, and January 13, 2016 resolutions opposing wolf reintroductions. The January 2016 resolution affirms the continued opposition of the intentional release of any wolves into Colorado, in addition to reaffirming support for the May 2005 Colorado Wolf Management Working Group Plan. The 2016 resolution also recommends Mexican wolf recovery efforts be confined to the subspecies’ historic range.

3. Park County supports delisting satellite wolf populations such as those in Colorado, which would allow state management of wolf populations.

4. Park County encourages the State of Colorado to actively support the Gray Wolf
5. Park County encourages active wolf management to assure the protection of private property, livestock, and wildlife resources.

6. Park County encourages specific implementation criteria be amended to the Colorado Wolf Management Working Group Recommendations for Migrating Wolves, in addition to planning for resident wolves in Colorado. This planning process should include diverse stakeholders, including local governments. Issues that need to be addressed include: 1) impacts to local economies; 2) ungulate herds; 3) threatened or endangered/rare species; 4) livestock; 5) hunting; 6) recreation; and, 7) disease management.

7. Park County supports the funding recommendations as provided in the Colorado Wolf Management Plan for Migrating Wolves, as well as additional funding that will be needed for the above listed specific planning criteria for potential resident wolves.

8. Park County recommends future management efforts protect local economies, so they do not experience economic losses due to the presence of gray wolves. Financial compensation strategies must be in place to offset livestock, wildlife, and other impacts of wolf presence.

9. Park County supports regular education opportunities to the public regarding rules, regulations, and endangered species act implications for wolf management. Educational opportunities should at a minimum include livestock and wildlife resource protection options.

Moved, seconded, and approved this ____ day of March, 2020.

PARK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

__________________________________________
Richard Elsner, Chairperson

ATTEST:

__________________________________________
County Clerk