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RESOLUTION NO. 2019- 26
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY,
COLORADO

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO, IN SUPPORT OF WOLF MANAGEMENT IN COLORADO.

WHEREAS, wolf populations have been reintroduced in adjacent states to Colorado; and there have been numerous sightings of wolves in Colorado, 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 Rio Blanco County acknowledges wolves have been delisted in Montana and Idaho, and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, the livestock industry and big game hunting are two important economic and social drivers in the Rio Blanco County economy; and

WHEREAS, wolves are known to pass along parasitic diseases detrimental to other wildlife, household pets, as well as humans;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado passed Resolution No. 2018-17 on April 23, 2018;


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Board opposes any efforts to introduce or expand the populations of wolves into Colorado.
2. Rio Blanco County supports the May, 2005, Colorado Wolf Management Working Group Recommendations for Managing Wolves that Migrate into Colorado.
3. Rio Blanco County supports the Colorado Wildlife Commission's January, 1982, September, 1989, and January 13, 2016, resolutions opposing wolf reintroductions into Colorado.
4. Rio Blanco County supports delisting satellite wolf populations such as those in Colorado, which would allow state management of wolf populations.
5. Rio Blanco County encourages the State of Colorado to actively support wolf delisting.
6. Rio Blanco County encourages active wolf management to assure the protection of private property, livestock, and wildlife resources.
7. Rio Blanco County encourages specific implementation criteria be added 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 are: impacts to local economies, ungulate herds, threatened or endangered/rare species (i.e. sage grouse), livestock, hunting, recreation, and disease management.


8. Rio Blanco 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.
9. Rio Blanco County recommends future management efforts to protect local economies so they do not experience economic losses due to the presence of the wolves. Financial compensation strategies must be in place to offset livestock, wildlife, and other impacts resulting from wolf presence.
10. Rio Blanco County support 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.
11. For the above stated and other reasons, proposed wolf management in Colorado is in the best interest of the health, safety, morals, convenience, order, prosperity and welfare of the citizens of Rio Blanco County.

DULY MOVED, SECONDED, AND PASSED ON A VOTE OF 3 FOR AND 0 AGAINST, THIS 12th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.


**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO**



Jeff Rector, Chairman



Si Woodruff, Commissioner



Gary Moyer, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Boots M. Campbell, Clerk to the Board