

**From:** Google Forms forms-receipts-noreply@google.com  
**Subject:** Lethal Action Against Copper Creek Wolves Undermines Science-Based Wolf Restoration in Colorado  
**Date:** August 19, 2025 at 2:36 PM  
**To:** adriantreves@gmail.com

GF

## Google Forms

Thanks for filling out [Lethal Action Against Copper Creek Wolves Undermines Science-Based Wolf Restoration in Colorado](#)

Here's what was received.

Edit response

# Lethal Action Against Copper Creek Wolves Undermines Science-Based Wolf Restoration in Colorado

The  
Honorable Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado,

We, the undersigned scientists, academics, and conservation professionals, respectfully write to express our collective concern over the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) decision to authorize lethal control against members of the Copper Creek Pack.

As professionals engaged in ecology, wildlife biology, environmental science, and conservation policy, we support the 2020 Colorado ballot initiative to reintroduce wolves as ecologically justified and democratically supported. There is growing recognition that apex predators like the gray wolf are essential to restoring ecological balance across landscapes long altered by human influence.

However,  
the current situation involving the Copper Creek Pack requires immediate

scientific and ethical reconsideration.

According

to CPW reports, the Copper Creek wolves were exposed to an open livestock carcass disposal pit, which increased the likelihood of human-induced food conditioning. Numerous peer-reviewed studies have shown that these attractants can alter predator behavior and increase conflict. Several states and countries require that livestock carcass pits be proactively managed to avoid habituating wolves to this powerful attractant. The response of placing wolf pups in long-term captivity affects their ability to develop hunting skills at a critical stage.

Applying

the lethal control provision of the management plan in this case, without adjusting for the influence of these circumstances, is a breakdown of science-based wildlife policy and externalizes the consequences of poor land management onto the wolves.

We

respectfully urge you to take the following actions:

1.

Immediately suspend any planned lethal action against the Copper Creek Pack and initiate a comprehensive review.

2.

Direct CPW to assess the role of livestock attractants and carcass disposal practices in shaping wolf behavior.

3.

Reaffirm that lethal removal is a last resort after all nonlethal measures have been exhausted.

4.

Require livestock producers to use preventive measures and hold them accountable for fostering conflict.

This

is a critical moment for Colorado's leadership in predator recovery. Wolves should not be penalized for responding to conditions shaped by human negligence. Science and ethics demand a higher standard.

Many

of us can help your administration craft programmatic changes to enhance this valuable wolf restoration effort in Colorado and to avoid pitfalls experienced here and in other areas. Our collective experience represents many decades of

wolf and wildlife management, research, and/or public engagement.

We  
urge your administration to act with caution, transparency, and scientific  
rigor.

Sincerely,

Email \*

adriantreves@gmail.com

1. Do you represent an organization or and are you signing as an individual? \*

- ☒ Organization or Institution
- ☐ Individual (Skip to Option 2)

2. Organization or Institution Name

Carnivore Coexistence Lab

3. Person Signing on Behalf of Organization or Institution

Adrian Treves, PhD

5. Do you have permission to sign on behalf of the organization?

- ☒ Yes

☐ No

7. Your email address

adriantreves@gmail.com

8. Title or Profession (optional) e.g. scientist, researcher, etc.

Director

9. Location (City/State or Country)

Wisconsin

10. Add your personal comment to Governor Polis here (optional)

The international scientific community is rapidly reaching consensus that killing wolves rarely helps, sometimes risks more livestock losses, and rarely helps protect livestock.

### Option 2. Signing as an Individual/Not representing an NGO or Institution

7. Your email address

adriantreves@gmail.com

Enter your zip or postal code \*

53705

10. Add your personal comment to Governor Polis here (optional)

The international scientific community is rapidly reaching consensus that killing wolves rarely helps, sometimes risks more livestock losses, and rarely helps protect livestock. Contact me for the scientific evidence please.

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