

# VOTE **NO** on **PROP 114:** Reintroduction & Management of Gray Wolves in Colorado

A “no” vote on Proposition 114 means that Colorado will not be required to reintroduce gray wolves.



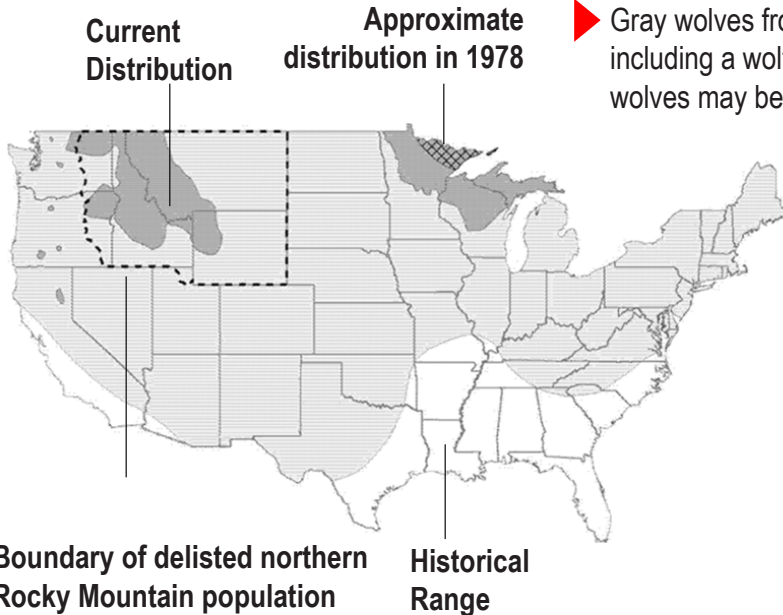
Rocky Mountain  
Farmers Union

## RMFU POLICY:

We **OPPOSE** the introduction, reintroduction, and/or relocation of endangered species or predatory animals onto lands where agricultural operations, wildlife, domestic animals or humans might be adversely affected. This includes but is not limited to wolves and grizzly bears.

Source: Adapted from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.  
COLORADO Blue Book

- ▶ **What is the gray wolf?** The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) is a large predatory canine that lives in packs. They are carnivores that consume small and large prey, including elk and deer, and domesticated livestock and pets. They are able to survive in a range of habitats if enough food is available.
- ▶ **Do gray wolves present a danger to humans?** All wild animals, including gray wolves, can pose a danger to humans under certain conditions, and caution should be exercised when near them. Gray wolves are generally shy of people and tend to avoid contact when possible. Aggressive behavior from wild gray wolves toward humans is rare. However, when wild animals are cornered, injured, sick, or become accustomed to humans, they can become dangerous and cause harm.
- ▶ The presence of gray wolves can cause conflict with humans and animals that live in Colorado now. Gray wolves are known to prey on livestock. Deer herds in some areas have fallen below population goals established by state wildlife managers, and introducing another predator would put further pressure on these herds. In addition, many people live and recreate in areas being considered for gray wolf habitat.
- ▶ Gray wolves from neighboring states have been observed in Colorado, including a wolf pack in northwest Colorado in 2020. This suggests that wolves may be establishing a presence in the state on their own, making a reintroduction program unnecessary. Allowing wolves to come back on their own, rather than through an intentional reintroduction, could give Coloradans more time to adapt to their presence.
- ▶ Under this plan, livestock losses will be compensated, but only for those losses that are unequivocally determined to be a result of wolf takings. For example, if you are a sheep rancher and 10 of your sheep go missing, but you only locate one carcass, you have to prove that carcass was mauled or killed by a wolf to receive compensation. Since you were unable to locate the other nine carcasses, you will not receive any compensation for the missing sheep under this proposal.



## Estimate of Fiscal Impact for Prop 114

**State spending.** Proposition 114 increases state spending by approximately \$300,000 in state budget year 2021-22 and \$500,000 in state budget year 2022-23 for public outreach and development of a gray wolf reintroduction plan. Beginning in state budget year 2023-24, spending will increase to about \$800,000 per year for the implementation of the wolf reintroduction plan. Implementation costs will only be incurred if federal approval is received, or gray wolves are no longer listed as endangered and the state is able to begin its reintroduction plan. Costs will be paid primarily from hunting and fishing license fees or appropriations made by the state legislature. Actual state spending will depend on the details of the plan developed by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and the amount of livestock losses caused by wolves.