



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

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Honourable Randene Neill
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
PO Box 9012, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9L6
WLRs.minister@gov.bc.ca

BCCA File# 2025-007
SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Minister Neill,

RE: Colorado Wolf Transplant

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the British Columbia Cattlemen's Association (BCCA), who have expressed significant concerns regarding the involvement of the BC Government in the planned transplant of grey wolves into Colorado.

We understand that you have received correspondence from advocates of the transplant project, who have congratulated you on this initiative. However, we believe these proponents are misrepresenting both the level of support for the project and the relevant facts surrounding its implications.

In particular, organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Wolf Project have focused on livestock producers as the primary source of opposition to this project. However, we have been in contact with livestock groups in Colorado who have raised valid concerns about the introduction of grey wolves from British Columbia into their state's ecosystems. As a key stakeholder, we believe their concerns warrant serious consideration.

BC has a extensive experience in managing wolves and it is important to note that it has been expensive, both in dollars spent managing the population as well as the cost to the survivability of livestock and other species of wildlife. The province has invested substantially in efforts to protect livestock and vulnerable species, such as the mountain caribou, from the predation by these apex predators. This experience has been hard-earned and while progress has been made it remains only marginally successful due to the challenges of public opinion and general lack of understanding about the complexities involved in effective wildlife management.

It would be easy to assume that this initiative is one that is initiated by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife; however, this appears to be incorrect. The decision to move forward with the transplant has been mandated by the State Government following a ballot initiative.

While we fully support the democratic process, we recognize that decisions made by the electorate are very often based on emotion rather than scientific evidence. We believe this is the situation here, as there is no indication that biologists recommended the introduction of grey wolves as a means of enhancing the ecosystem. Additionally, we understand that there is a legal process currently underway which may see this legislation overturned.

It is our understanding that the legislation approved by voters also called for a management program, which would include compensation and protective measures for livestock. However, to our knowledge, such a program has not yet been implemented.

As ranchers in British Columbia, we empathize with the Colorado cattle producers and know all too well the impacts of wolf predation and harassment. It is our position that it is irresponsible to move wolves into an area that is already experiencing predation on livestock when a predator mitigation and compensation program has not been established.

Our Association is urging the province to reconsider any plans to relocate wolves from BC to Colorado, or any other region, without fully understanding the consequences and circumstances involved. We believe such actions could put British Columbia in a vulnerable position, potentially leading to future legal or political repercussions.

Without a robust wolf management strategy and a compensation program for livestock losses, cattle producers simply cannot bear the heavy toll of intense predation. The province's involvement in this initiative raises significant concerns—not just for us as livestock producers, but for all citizens of British Columbia.

Some of the concerns we are worried about are:

1. **Lack of Compensation:**
Providing wolves before adequate measures are in place to protect producers from the impacts of future wolf predation.
2. **Lack of Consultation:**
Introducing apex predators into a community without proper consultation.
3. **Lack of Informed Decision Making:**
The absence of proper consultation with stakeholders and input from biologists is preventing informed, science-based decision making by knowledgeable professionals.
4. **Potential Liability:**
The potential for British Columbia to be held financially responsible for future damages if it is determined that the wolves involved originated from BC.

BC Cattlemen's Association simply cannot support a predator relocation program that impacts the ranching industry.

Please feel free to contact our General Manager, Kevin Boon, at our office at (250) 573-3611 or by email at bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca if you have further questions or would like to set up a meeting to discuss.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely



Werner Stump
President, BC Cattlemen's Association