



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO**

P.O. Box 1507 / 398 Lewis Street / Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147
Tel (970) 264-8300

April 5, 2022

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

RE: Gray Wolves Within the Brunot Area

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners strongly support the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's (the "Tribe") position of "No Release" of wolves within the Brunot Area. The Brunot Agreement was ratified by Congress in April, 1874 to give off-reservation hunting rights to the Tribe within the "Brunot Area" (the "Area"), which encompasses both the San Juan National Forest and the Uncompahgre National Forest. A large area of the San Juan National Forest lies in Archuleta County. Both of these forests include a large portion of Southern Colorado's Big Game Hunting Units.

The Tribe relies on the ungulate population within the Area as a major food source, and they engage in wise self-management of the wildlife within the boundaries of the Area.

Release of gray wolves by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife is seen as a major threat to the sustainability of those ungulate populations within the Area. Wolves are attacking livestock in Northern Colorado, and the release of the gray wolves poses a threat to the safety of Tribal members' livestock here in Southern Colorado. In addition, wolves in Colorado have been confirmed to carry disease, which poses a threat to the health and safety of all people within Colorado and its wildlife.

It is for these reasons that the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County strongly oppose the release of grey wolves in Southern Colorado and support the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's position of "No Release" of wolves specifically within the Bruno Area.

Sincerely,

Alvin Schaaf, Chairman