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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RELATED TO  
THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht**

Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell



**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution pertains to the Division of Wildlife Resources.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ acknowledges the role of the Division of Wildlife Resources in managing and protecting Utah wildlife;
- ▶ highlights the cooperation between the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
- ▶ recognizes the potential harm from wolves in the state;
- ▶ thanks the Division of Wildlife Resources and others for coordinated efforts; and
- ▶ encourages the Division of Wildlife Resources to capture and return wolves to Colorado.

**Other Special Clauses:**

None



*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, the Division of Wildlife Resources serves the people of Utah by managing and protecting Utah wildlife;

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has repeatedly determined that wolves no longer meet the standard for listing as a threatened or endangered species;

WHEREAS, Utah has consistently opposed reintroduction and management of wolves in the state while wolves remain federally listed;

WHEREAS, driven largely by urban populations, Colorado voters narrowly approved a referendum to transplant wolves to that state;

27 WHEREAS, the Colorado release of wolves in many ways allowed for wildlife  
28 management to rightfully be led by the state and not by the United States Fish and Wildlife  
29 Service;

30 WHEREAS, wolves that leave Colorado do not contribute to populations in that state;

31 WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that a substantial  
32 separation between the Mexican wolves and the Northern Rockies wolves is necessary to  
33 protect genetic integrity;

34 WHEREAS, under the agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and  
35 Colorado, wolves in Utah with or without collars may be returned to Colorado;

36 WHEREAS, because of Utah's conservation efforts and more than \$100,000,000 in  
37 investments by private sportsmen and sportsmen groups, in the last 30 years in particular, Utah  
38 is home to abundant populations and distribution of bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, mountain  
39 goats, moose, bison, pronghorn, wild turkey, cougar, and black bear;

40 WHEREAS, unmanaged wolves can cause extensive damage and economic loss to hunting  
41 and ranching communities; and

42 WHEREAS, the Division of Wildlife Resources biologists and Utah Department of  
43 Agriculture and Food trappers have the qualifications to conduct wolf management related  
44 activities:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
46 Governor concurring therein, thanks the Division of Wildlife Resources, Colorado Parks and  
47 Wildlife, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for their coordinated efforts to grant  
48 Utah the right to return wolves found in Utah to Colorado as Colorado recovers their wolf  
49 population.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor  
51 concurring therein, encourages the Division of Wildlife Resources, for the reasons provided in  
52 this resolution and consistent with legislative directives, to capture wolves found in the state  
53 and return the wolves to Colorado, in accordance with agreements with the United States Fish  
54 and Wildlife Service and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife and numerous legislative actions in  
55 Utah.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor  
57 concurring therein, encourages the Division of Wildlife Resources to follow this wolf  
58 management practice until wolves are de-listed statewide and the legal and economic  
59 challenges are resolved.