

CRYING WOLF IN COLO.

VOTERS COULD BE ASKED IF IT'S TIME TO BRING GRAY WOLVES BACK TO THE STATE, BUT RANCHERS ARE HOWLING.



PARKER SEIBOLD, THE GAZETTE

Visitors reach out to touch Abraham, a 12-year-old wolf-dog mix at Mission: Wolf near Westcliffe. Guests at the sanctuary are invited to visit with the ambassador wolves after a briefing on proper behavior.

BY LIZ FORSTER • FOR COLORADO POLITICS

In the six months since the Trump administration proposed removing the gray wolf from the Endangered Species List, controversy surrounding the animal has only gotten hotter. • Scientists tasked with reviewing the federal delisting plan found in July that its conclusions were not supported by its research, questioning whether the population in the Lower 48 truly has rebounded to sustainable levels. • On the state level, Wyoming plans to curtail legal wolf hunting after a dramatic decline in its population, while Oregon relaxed its rules on the hunting of the predator. Idaho's hopes to increase predator kill quotas are in legal limbo from lawsuits filed by environmental groups. • The debate has seeped even into Colorado, the only state in the canine predator's historic range where it does not freely roam. Experts say gray wolves have not roamed the state in significant numbers in almost 75 years.

SEE WOLVES • PAGE 16

INSIGHTS

Joey Bunch on the Denver council veteran leading brash newcomers. **Page 2**

CU'S NEW BOSS

Dan Njegomir queries Mark Kennedy about his plans for the campuses. **Pages 4-5**