Hello, thank you for taking my comments. My name is Sallie Thoreson and I live in Montrose Colorado where 27.7% of the voters said YES to wolf reintroduction. Please keep in mind that even on the Western Slope, there is strong support wolf reintroduction.

In these comments I represent the Great Old Broads for Wilderness

We urge CPW to consider a full range of options to use the Stakeholder Advisory Group (known as SAG) to get the best possible input to make wolf reintroduction decisions. We know that you have the resources with the newly hired facilitator and your Human Dimensions Specialist Dr. Quartuch.

We applaud the CPW for seeking a diverse group of stakeholders. We also recognize that diverse group membership means there is a diversity in communication styles, decision-making styles, comfort level and familiarity with formal and informal hierarchies in group structure and different attitudes toward accepting and resolving viewpoints in a group.

Director Prenzlow’s Blueprint from January 7, indicates that the SAG will [and I quote]“work toward consensus recommendations to inform the Plan.” We are concerned that consensus may not be the appropriate goal for a SAG with diverse and strongly held viewpoints. Asking strictly for consensus means you will miss out on valuable ideas and opinions helpful in making complex decisions on how to structure wolf reintroduction.

Some of the literature suggests that consensus may not be the best decision making model under certain circumstances such as when “People are polarized on issues or values.” This may be the case with certain aspects of wolf reintroduction. As Eric Odell said in his remarks to the Colo chapter of Wilderness Society “the biology of wolf reintroduction is relatively simple; the biggest challenge is balancing the human component.”

There are other models including shared decision making, allowing multiple opinions, or providing a set of ranked options that CPW might use to get the best possible input from the SAG while combining science and honoring values, provide comfort level for all participants. and honor all group members.

As we all continue to improve on who we gather at the table; we need to also improve the culture or structure of that table.

Thank you.