

# Literacy Project adds Adult Literacy leader to its team

Marion Martin leads adult literacy programs

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The Literacy Project in March hired new leadership for the organization's Adult Literacy sector.

Marion Martin, who came to Eagle County from Pennsylvania, brings extensive experience in education and language development.



Marion Martin

"I have worked with English learners during my entire education career and am committed to supporting and empowering students through language development," Martin said.

After her husband retired in 2021, Martin said the couple "wasted no time hitting the road to scout out potential places to settle in the west." Their connections in Colorado already ran deep — as their two sons and longtime friends already lived here — so the decision of where to relocate was easy. "We are happy to call this friendly, picturesque community with countless opportunities for outdoor adventures home," she said.

Through her new position at the Literacy Project, Martin "hopes to expand the opportunities for English learners to access tutoring and classes in our area. ... I also

want to provide resources and information to assist our dedicated volunteer tutors with their efforts."

Now that Martin is on board, the Literacy Project is adding two more down valley adult English language development classes at the Eagle and Gypsum libraries. Sessions in Eagle will take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, while the Gypsum classes will be held Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

"Our objective is to address the language needs of the communities down valley and to ensure accessibility to ELD classes for all," Martin said. "Fostering literacy and language skills is an essential component for personal growth and success. These skills empower individuals by enhancing communication as well as creating a sense of belonging and connection within communities, providing the tools needed to navigate and thrive," she added.

Adult literacy classes also take place on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at the Avon Library and Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at the Eagle Library. Participants in this program are adult English speakers who read below an eighth-grade level with practical goals of obtaining a job, earning a driver's license, or helping their children with homework. A long-term goal might be pursuing a high school equivalency degree.

"I look forward to collaborating with the dedicated tutors and students as they progress through their educational journeys," Martin added. For more information, go to the Literacy Project's website.

with Rocky Mountain National Park about creating a joint presentation on wolves' impacts specifically in Colorado. This presentation will take time, since the releases have just started.

## WHERE WILL THE NEXT WOLVES BE RELEASED?

Proposition 114 required that the wolves be released west of the Continental Divide. The next wolf releases will take place sometime between December 2024 and March 2025. Parks and Wildlife designated two areas on the West Slope where wolves could be released — a northern zone and a southern zone. The first release took place in the north, which included Grand County.

"We have not made plans as far as what next year's releases will look like, whether we'll go down toward Gunnison," Huntington said. "A lot of that depends on what happens with the 10 that have been released, as well as interactions with the two in North Park. There's still a possibility of wolves coming into the state that we don't release."

If wolves venture into the state on their own, Parks and Wildlife will manage them just as it does with current wolves. However, if the released wolves leave the state, they may be brought back, depending on which state. Currently, the agency has agreements with Utah, New Mexico and Arizona for wolves to be recaptured and returned to Colorado.

## MORE QUESTIONS?

At the meeting, officials discussed numerous ways that residents can stay informed about the wolves living on the West Slope. You can visit Parks and Wildlife's webpage, Wolf Educational Resources or read the pamphlet Living with Wolves on its website. To learn how to discern between a wolf or coyote, read the pamphlet Coyote or Gray Wolf on the website.

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## WOLVES

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wolves are collared as well.

"There's interest in maintaining at least one collar per pack as they form, but as they have successful breeding cycles, we won't have every wolf collared," Behncke said.

The collars can provide useful data. As springtime nears, wolves may establish a den to birth pups. Parks and Wildlife can analyze the data to see if the wolves are staying in the place and returning often to a specific area — their den.

Collars also provide a mortality notification. Once an animal dies, the agency will be notified the animal stopped moving.

## A WOLF OR A COYOTE?

Behncke and Huntington stated that Parks and Wildlife has received lots of reports of wolf sightings, but only a few have been confirmed.

"The majority of the sighting reports that I've seen are coyotes or potentially a dog," Huntington said. "A lot of people have dogs that look like wolves."

Coyotes in Colorado are also fairly large with thick coats, compared to coyotes in other states. This causes visitors to sometimes think coyotes are wolves.

## WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS ON WOLVES ON THE LANDSCAPE?

Huntington explained that when apex predators such as wolves establish themselves in an area, there are cascading and complicated effects.

"Nature is very complex, through interactions with predators and prey and their habitat," he said. "... Wolves on the landscape change the distribution of deer and elk herds and potentially moose."

As wolves move into the territory and begin hunting, prey animals disperse more frequently. If there is no predator on the landscape, herds may stay in one area.

Huntington added that CPW is in talks

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