

Colorado Gray Wolf Reintroduction 10j and EIS US Fish and Wildlife Service

Cooperating Agency Call Notes

August 31, 2022
9:30 – 10:30 am MST
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Nicole Alt	FWS
Kurt Broderdorp	FWS
Clay Crowder	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Jim DeVos	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Jim Heffelfinger	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Alan Bittner	Bureau of Land Management
Les Owen	Colorado Department of Agriculture
Reid ReWalt	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Eric O'Dell	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Robbie LeValley	Delta County
Peter McDonald	Forest Service
Richard Truex	Forest Service
Fred Jarman	Garfield County
Amber Swasey	Mesa County
Jeff Comstock	Moffat County
John Mack	National Park Service
Stewart Liley	New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
Kim Hersey	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Callie Hendrickson	White River Conservation District
Jessica Forbes-Guerrero	WSP
Lori Fox	WSP
Margaret Stover	WSP

Process and Project Status Updates

The Service gave an update on the project's status. WSP is working on sorting comments for the scoping report. The Service expects to share the report with the cooperating agencies in mid-September for their input. Work on the DEIS is ongoing and expected to be in final draft form in late September, with a review period in the beginning of October.

WSP recapped the meeting held with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS). In the meeting, the Service reviewed their approach for assessing environmental justice and socioeconomic impacts in the EIS and compared the approach to BLM and FS agency guidance.

Data Needs

WSP asked the group for additional data on outfitters and guides, particularly information at the county level on number of outfitters, revenue, and race and minority data. WSP noted that impacts to livestock producers are being assessed using the 2017 Census of Agriculture and asked if the group had more recent data or information specifically focused on livestock producers. Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) shared that they might have access to some depredation data. Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) said that the CO Department of Regulatory Agencies may have more data on outfitters. White River Conservation District mentioned that they might have information on revenue brought to counties by cattle, which WSP said could be helpful for the socioeconomic analysis.

Schedule and Planning

The Service reviewed the schedule with the group. WSP is working on the DEIS and the scoping report. The Service plans on holding another cooperating agencies call on 9/28 at 1:00PM. Cooperating agencies will have a little over a week to review the DEIS during early October. The Service noted that the short turnaround for review would be necessary to adhere to the schedule.

Nicole Alt shared that she will be on leave for the coming weeks and asked cooperating agencies to contact Kurt Broderdorp with urgent matters.