



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Director's Office  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216  
P 303.297.1192

Matt Hogan  
Region 6 Director  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd, Suite 400  
Lakewood, CO 80228

April 21, 2023

Dear Mr. Hogan:

As you are well aware, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is in the final stages of developing a plan to establish a self-sustaining population of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in accordance with our state statute (CRS 33-2-105.8). This will be accomplished by capturing wolves from a yet-to-be determined source site and releasing them on the western slope of Colorado, and at least 60 miles from the borders of our neighboring states.

The 60-mile buffer has been implemented to attempt to reduce the likelihood of reintroduced animals dispersing into neighboring states. However, it is anticipated that wolves that are released in Colorado may disperse beyond the state's political boundary. Because we are statutorily required to release wolves west of the Continental Divide, it is anticipated that the states most likely to be affected are Wyoming, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, though it remains possible that wolves released in Colorado may eventually disperse into Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

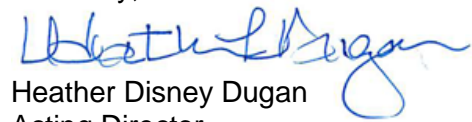
Discussions with some of the neighboring states have identified concerns about dispersing wolves establishing within their boundaries. They have explicitly requested that we relocate animals that disperse into their states back into Colorado. Colorado Parks and Wildlife would like to express our interest and willingness to work with states to return wolves back to Colorado that were released here and have dispersed elsewhere. We make this commitment to protect our investment and to facilitate the establishment of the population of wolves in Colorado. Once the wolf population has reached the level where our state recovery goals are achieved - a minimum count of 150 wolves for two successive years, or a minimum count of 200 animals with no time constraint - we will revisit this commitment.



I hope that this facilitates the issuance of necessary permits and other considerations for our neighboring states. If you have any questions or would like further clarification, please contact Reid DeWalt, Assistant Director for Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Natural Resources ([reid.dewalt@state.co.us](mailto:reid.dewalt@state.co.us)).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Heather Disney Dugan  
Acting Director  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife