

**From:** [Broderdorp, Kurt](#)  
**To:** [Brian Dreher](#)  
**Cc:** [Niva, Liisa M](#)  
**Subject:** Draft text  
**Date:** Monday, June 26, 2023 3:46:11 PM

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Comment:

The States of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah have expressed considerable concern regarding the potential for gray wolves to disperse southward into these states. Their concern is the real possibility that intergradation of the gray wolf genome into the Mexican wolf genome will result in genetic swamping of the Mexican wolf genome, causing the catastrophic loss of unique genetic, physical, and ecological characteristics of the Mexican wolf.

Response:

Since the Service is not conducting the gray wolf reintroduction, this issue is beyond the scope of our rule making. However, we share the concerns expressed by the states of Arizona and New Mexico, and Utah. Our Mexican Wolf Recovery Program is committed to the capture of Mexican gray wolves in the areas of Arizona and New Mexico not included in the Mexican wolf NEP area and northern gray wolves anywhere in either state. Attempts will be made to capture Mexican wolves and return any individual back to Mexican wolf NEP area consistent with the Mexican wolf 10(j) rule and section 10 permits. ~~Through an agreement, the state of Colorado has agreed to allow the return of any northern gray wolf back to Colorado that is captured in the states of Arizona and New Mexico until the CPW has reached their State delisting goals.~~

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