

# Colorado Gray Wolf 10(j) Rulemaking EIS US Fish and Wildlife Service

## State Coordination Meeting Notes

June 5, 2023  
3:00 – 4:00 pm MST  
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Kurt Broderdorp	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Brady McGee	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Liisa Niva	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Adam Zerrenner	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jim deVos	Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD)
Reid DeWalt	Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
Stewart Liley	New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF)
Kim Hersey	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
Justin Shannon	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
Jessica Forbes	WSP
Margaret Stover	WSP

### *Review of Draft Language Incorporated into the FEIS*

WSP shared their screen with the FEIS draft to show the group the changes made to the cumulative impacts section based on the draft language the states provided on Mexican wolves for the MOA and inclusion in the rule and FEIS as appropriate. WSP is working on incorporating the sources cited in the draft language and may reach out to the states for copies of the references if needed.

The group provided feedback on the changes WSP made to the FEIS. Discussion points included:

- Updating the year on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, Second Revision to 2022.
- Emphasizing the importance of Mexican wolf genetic integrity. AZGFD noted that Mexican wolf genetic integrity is more important than genetic diversity and that mixing of gray wolves and Mexican wolves should be avoided. NMDGF added that it would be speculative to say that genetic fitness would be improved by hybridization between Mexican wolves and gray wolves, given that there is no indication that Mexican wolves are suffering from a lack of genetic diversity. The Service noted that the recommendation from the geneticist studying Mexican wolves was not to mix them with gray wolves. The group decided that WSP will update the text so that it emphasizes the importance of maintaining Mexican wolf genetic integrity through geographic separation over potential benefits of genetic diversity from gray wolves.

- WSP asked if there is more recent data on Mexican wolf pack sizes. The Service noted that there are more recent reports on the Mexican wolf recovery website.

### ***Adding Text to the 10(j) Rule Preamble on Mexican Wolf Impacts***

NMDGF asked if the Service plans to add text to the preamble of the rule discussing potential impacts to Mexican wolves and the need to maintain geographic separation between gray wolves and Mexican wolves. The Service explained that their rulemaking would not influence the impact of gray wolves on Mexican wolves and that the rule needs to be separate from Colorado's reintroduction, but they acknowledged that clarifying their stance on maintaining geographic separation of gray wolves and Mexican wolves in the rule's preamble would be appropriate. The Service agreed to add the text to the preamble of the rule and the group will discuss the text in a future meeting.

### ***Other Updates***

CPW is reviewing the draft agreement with their attorney and may not be ready to discuss the agreement during the next meeting on 6/12.