

1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
2 FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES

3 In Re:

4 The Proposed Rule, "Removing the Gray Wolf (*Canis*
5 *lupus*) from the List of Endangered and Threatened
6 Wildlife and Maintaining Protections for the Mexican
7 Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) by Listing It as
8 Endangered"

9 Monday, September 30, 2013

10
11 HEARING OFFICER: Lesley Travers

12 OPENING REMARKS: Dan Ashe

13 PRESENTERS: Michael Jimenez

Gary Frazer

14
15 LOCATION: Department of The Interior
Auditorium

1849 C Street, NW

16 Washington, D.C.

17 TIME: 6:02 p.m.

18
19
20 Veritext National Court Reporting Company

21 Mid-Atlantic Region

1250 Eye Street, NW - Suite 1201

22 Washington, D.C. 20005

1 MS. TRAVERS: We are now on the
2 record.

3 Good afternoon. On behalf of the
4 United States Fish and Wildlife Service, I
5 welcome you to this public hearing regarding
6 the proposal to list the Mexican wolf as an
7 endangered subspecies in the southwest and to
8 delist the Gray Wolf elsewhere.

9 My name is Lesley Travers. I will
10 be your hearing officer today. My company is
11 Travers Consulting, and I am not affiliated with
12 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and I don't
13 represent them. I represent no point of view
14 with respect to the proposal that is subject of
15 this hearing.

16 My role is to conduct this hearing in
17 an orderly manner, such that we receive your
18 comments accurately into the record.

19 I would like to recognize the
20 following representatives from the U.S. Fish and
21 Wildlife Service, who are also in attendance
22 today. Mr. Dan Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish

1 and Wildlife Service; Mr. Gary Frazer, Assistant
2 Director for Ecological Services; Mr. Mike
3 Jimenez, Northern Rocky Mountains Wolf
4 Management and Science Coordinator, and the many
5 Fish and Wildlife officials for the Ecological
6 Services, External Affairs and Congressional and
7 Legislative Affairs Programs in the headquarters
8 office that are staffing the hearing today.

9 Also assisting with this hearing is
10 Ryan Black, our court reporter from Veritext;
11 Nicole Shambourger and Danika Davies, our
12 Interpreters from Purple Languages Services.

13 At this point, I'll turn the floor
14 over to Mr. Dan Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish
15 and Wildlife Service, to make a brief opening
16 statement for this hearing.

17 MR. ASHE: Thank you. Good evening.

18 Come on. Good evening.

19 THE CROWD COLLECTIVELY: Good evening.

20 (Whereupon a voice in the crowd
21 howled.)

22 MR. ASHE: Thank you for that.

1 You want to know someone who can
2 really howl a wolf? This guy over here, Mike
3 Jimenez. I've had the pleasure to be in the
4 field with him on two occasions, and when he
5 howls to the wolf, it makes the hair stand up
6 on the back of your neck.

7 A VOICE: Let's hear it.

8 MR. JIMENEZ: Afterwards.

9 MR. ASHE: Afterwards he says.

10 So thank you all for coming here
11 this evening to this first hearing on the U.S.
12 Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to list the
13 Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies in the
14 southwest and to delist the Gray Wolf elsewhere.

15 I doubt anyone in here would disagree
16 that no animal engenders a more polarizing
17 emotion among Americans than the wolf. But
18 regardless of our position, we can all recognize
19 that the recovery of this iconic species stands
20 as one of the greatest conservation success
21 stories in history.

22 By the time the wolf was listed under

1 the Endangered Species Act, only a few hundred
2 wolves remained in Minnesota and on Isle Royale
3 in Michigan. And today those wolves range
4 across thousands of square miles in eight of the
5 lower 48 states. Their recovery stands as a
6 poster child for the success and the power and
7 the protections that ESA affords our most
8 imperiled species.

9 We achieved robust wolf populations
10 in the Western Great Lakes and the Northern
11 Rocky Mountains, such that we were able to
12 delist those wolf populations due to recovery in
13 2011 and 2012. Those populations continue to
14 exceed recovery thresholds by significant
15 margins.

16 Wolves have also established packs in
17 Washington and Oregon, and we expect them to
18 continue to establish themselves in these and
19 possibly other areas in the future.

20 Of course, much has changed throughout
21 the 30-year plus history of wolf conservation,
22 for most, which have been among people's

1 attitudes. We have certainly seen a dramatic
2 biological recovery, but we have also seen and
3 equally dramatic change in people's attitudes
4 towards wolves. And we need to recognize
5 success on both of those fronts.

6 I see good friends in the audience who
7 were here in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
8 and the Department of the Interior as we were in
9 partner organizations back in 1995 when we first
10 reintroduced wolves into Yellowstone National
11 Park and into the Idaho wilderness. And we saw
12 those wolves released amidst a gross intolerance
13 for wolves. And we have seen that change in the
14 20 years since that time.

15 More work has yet to be done, but we
16 have seen dramatic transformation in social
17 attitudes and acceptance towards wolves.

18 A little over a year ago, I stood with
19 Governor Matt Mead in Wyoming and heard Governor
20 Matt Mead, in front of Wyoming press, say that
21 Wyoming would be a responsible steward of
22 wolves. It would have been impossible to

1 imagine back in 1995 to stand with a Republican
2 Governor of Wyoming and have heard those same
3 words.

4 A VOICE: Do you believe him,
5 Mr. Ashe?

6 MR. ASHE: I do believe him.

7 From the outset, we have faced stiff
8 opposition to wolf range reduction from all
9 quarters, even some conservation organizations.
10 But we persevered, moving steadfastly forward on
11 what we knew was right track, and slowly
12 attitudes have begun to change.

13 Not everyone believes that returning
14 this apex predator to the great American wild
15 was the right move, but slowly the prevailing
16 wind shifted to the point that eventually
17 success changed from elusive to inevitable.

18 Throughout the ups and downs, one
19 thing remained constant, the dedication of the
20 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff to the Gray
21 Wolf's recovery.

22 I believe that the commitment of the

1 women and men of the United States Fish and
2 Wildlife Service, some of whom, like Mike
3 Jimenez here on the stage, have given their
4 entire professional lives to conservation of
5 this remarkable animal. This has been
6 inspirational to many, none more so than myself.

7 Their success against sometimes fierce
8 opposition is one in which we all share, and
9 it's a victory that none of us in the Fish and
10 Wildlife Service would ever put in jeopardy.

11 The time has now come for the Service
12 to focus its efforts on the recovery of the
13 Mexican wolf. And I'm confident that, as
14 has been the case until now, history will
15 demonstrate that the path we're choosing is the
16 right one.

17 Recovered Gray Wolf populations will
18 continue to be managed by science-driven state
19 management plans that will sustain healthy
20 populations of wolves as components of their
21 resident wildlife community.

22 A VOICE: They suck.

1 MR. ASHE: Much has changed throughout
2 the 30 -- sorry. The service's role in wolf
3 management is limited to the authorities under
4 the Endangered Species Act, which directs us to
5 ensure that the Gray Wolf is no longer in danger
6 of extinction.

7 We have done that in the Western Great
8 Lakes and the Northern Rockies, and now it's
9 time for us to focus limited resources on the
10 Mexican wolf population in the southwest.

11 The issue at hand is whether Gray
12 Wolves still require Federal protection under
13 the Endangered Species Act. With the exception
14 of the Mexican wolf in the southwest, we believe
15 that they, quite clearly, do not.

16 The goal of the ESA is not to recreate
17 the past, and we cannot do that. The goal is to
18 protect species from extinction. Once a species
19 is no longer in danger of extinction, now or in
20 the foreseeable future, our job under the
21 Endangered Species Act is done. We have far too
22 many species that desperately need help. We

1 can't continue to afford to continue to invest
2 scarce dollars on species that have recovered.

3 But we understand that others believe
4 differently. That's why we've committed to
5 robust public engagement for our proposals.

6 With that in mind, we've extended the comment
7 period by 45 days until October 28th, giving
8 ample time for you and all interested

9 stakeholders to provide us with information you
10 believe would help us make a final determination
11 on the Wolf's status.

12 We've received in excess of 93,000
13 comments so far, representing many different
14 facets of this debate.

15 This hearing, the first of several
16 that are planned, is an integral part of that
17 comment process and gives you additional
18 opportunity to address your concerns and
19 opinions directly to us.

20 Today's hearing will be followed later
21 this week by hearings in Sacramento, California
22 and Albuquerque, New Mexico, if we're not

1 interrupted by a government shutdown. Keep your
2 fingers crossed for that.

3 I'm pleased to be able to announce
4 that we've added a fourth hearing to be held
5 in Denver, Colorado, on October 17th.

6 In addition to the public comment
7 process, we'll ensure that our proposals are
8 subject to rigorous, independent peer review by
9 the scientific community.

10 The Service has now reinitiated the
11 scientific peer review process, which will now
12 be managed and hosted by the National Center for
13 Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, a highly
14 respected interdisciplinary research center at
15 the University of California, Santa Barbara.

16 NCEAS will vet prospective reviewers
17 to verify that they're able to provide objective
18 review and have no conflict of interest,
19 culminating in the selection of five to six
20 scientists with appropriate professional
21 qualifications and relevant expertise.

22 No scientist, including any of those

1 who wrote to the Secretary criticizing the
2 Service's wolf proposal, will be excluded from
3 consideration by NCEAS. The vetting and
4 selection of peer reviewers will be a completely
5 independent process in which the Service will
6 have no involvement whatsoever.

7 NCEAS will compile a final report that
8 they will submit to the Service and which we'll
9 post on the Service's public website, along with
10 statement of work, for the peer review process.

11 The Gray Wolf remains an embodiment of
12 our treasured wild places and an important
13 feature of healthy ecosystems. We remain
14 confident that focusing the protection of the
15 Endangered Species Act on the endangered Mexican
16 wolf from here onwards is the right course. But
17 we're committed to reviewing and considering any
18 and all evidence to the contrary and to making a
19 final determination that incorporates the best
20 available science and corresponds to the
21 authority given to us under the Endangered
22 Species Act.

1 I encourage everyone to take part in
2 the public comment process, as I'm sure you're
3 planning to do here tonight.

4 I want to say before I end that I
5 realize, as I said, the passion that lies behind
6 this iconic symbol of American wilderness, and I
7 appreciate that all of you have come here
8 tonight to share your perspectives and views
9 with the United States Fish and Wildlife
10 Service. And we'll receive those comments in
11 the spirit with which they're offered. And I
12 ask you to offer them in the same spirit that
13 we're here tonight with you, in one of working
14 together toward a common objective.

15 And I want to turn your attention
16 and, hopefully, your passion, also, to the
17 current crisis which we are facing at the
18 national level. I've spent the better part of
19 the day trying to figure out how to shut down an
20 organization of 9,500 people, because the United
21 States Congress can't seem to come to agreement
22 on a budget for the United States government.

1 And 81 percent, or 59,000 employees of the
2 Department of the Interior, including more than
3 7,000 employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
4 Service, are facing the prospect of furlough
5 tomorrow, if the government shuts down.

6 And just a matter of a couple of
7 months ago, we had the House Appropriations
8 Committee or the Appropriations Committee in the
9 U.S. House of Representatives report a budget
10 that would cut the funding for the U.S. Fish and
11 Wildlife Service by 27 percent.

12 So we need your attention. We
13 certainly need your passion. We need your
14 support. We need your engagement on recovery of
15 wolves in the United States. But we need your
16 time, we need your attention, we need your
17 passions, also, to ensure that conservation, as
18 a whole, receives the attention that it deserves
19 in the context of this nation's budget
20 priorities.

21 So I would urge you, after you're done
22 here tonight expressing your views to the U.S.

1 Fish and Wildlife Service, that you commit
2 yourself to helping us in the context of this
3 larger battle of which we're all a part and in
4 which we all have a stake.

5 So thank you again for being here this
6 evening, taking your time to come here and share
7 your views. And thank you for everything you
8 do, and will do, to support conservation in the
9 days ahead.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you, Dan.

12 Now I will turn the floor over to
13 Mr. Mike Jimenez, Northern Rocky Mountains Wolf
14 Management and Science Coordinator, and Mr. Gary
15 Frazer, Assistant Director for Ecological
16 Services.

17 They will give a PowerPoint
18 presentation that explains the subject matter
19 on this hearing, the proposal to list the
20 Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies in
21 the southwest, and to delist the Gray Wolf
22 elsewhere.

1 MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you.

2 You'll hear some of these same themes
3 repeated over and over by all of us, because
4 they're very basic and they're very important.

5 The goal of Endangered Species Act
6 is to prevent extinction, and we use the term
7 recovery, meaning securing species from the
8 threat of extinction now or in the foreseeable
9 future.

10 And with that, it's important to
11 remember that there's no one set formula of how
12 we recover a species. We have a lot of options
13 to do that, but the goal is always to bring a
14 threatened or endangered species back to the
15 point where it no longer needs the protection of
16 the ESA.

17 For example, some species might need
18 an expansion of range or of distribution in
19 order to become recovered, while other species
20 might just require addressing certain issues or
21 threats within their historic range or their
22 currently suitable habitat, or other species

1 might need a combination of both.

2 So keep that in mind. But what drives
3 all these processes is not -- what does drive
4 them is the biological needs of that individual
5 species in order to avoid extinction. It's not
6 a percentage of their historic range or a
7 certain size of their suitable habitat, but
8 it's that biological requirement of each
9 individual species.

10 If you look at the history of the
11 protection of wolves under the ESA, in the 1960s
12 and '70s we listed wolves and we listed several
13 subspecies of wolves. In 1978 we reclassified
14 wolves on a species level, rather than a
15 subspecies level, and we listed wolves *Canis*
16 *Lupus* throughout the lower 48 -- with the
17 exception of Minnesota, we listed them
18 endangered, and in Minnesota we had an exception
19 and we listed them as threatened.

20 If you look at the range at the time
21 of the listing, you'll see just a small remnant
22 population in Northern Minnesota and a little

1 bit in Isle Royale. Wolves were gone in the
2 rest of the lower 48. So that became the
3 starting point for our recovery programs.

4 And we approached recovery by
5 implementing wolf recovery programs in three
6 regions throughout the country; the Western
7 Great Lakes, the Northern Rockies and the
8 Southwest.

9 And recovery in the Western Great
10 Lakes went very well. We reached recovery goals
11 by mid to late-1990s, and in 2012 we delisted a
12 recovered population of over 3,600 wolves in
13 Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

14 In the Northern Rockies, again,
15 recovery went very well. The program worked
16 very well. We reintroduced wolves in 1995 and
17 '96 into Central Idaho and into Yellowstone, and
18 we reached recovery goals by 2002. And by 2012,
19 we delisted a recovered population of over 1,600
20 wolves, which is five times our recovered
21 wolves, in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, with
22 wolves continuing to expand their range in

1 Oregon and Washington.

2 In the Southwest, it's a process
3 ongoing. We haven't reached recovery. And
4 where we've increased the number of wolves in
5 the wild, in 2012 we had 75, but that's far from
6 recovery, we have another 300 in captive
7 breeding programs. But the Southwest is a
8 recovery work in progress, if you will.

9 So if you'll look at the range of
10 where the wolves are, currently you can see
11 that our recovery programs have dramatically
12 increased the presence of wolves in the range
13 of over 5,000 wolves in the three recovery
14 areas. The orange is the occupied habitat now,
15 and the yellow is a delisted distinct population
16 segment.

17 So the results of the recovery area,
18 and, again, you'll hear these themes over and
19 over again, is that we've recovered populations
20 and we've delisted populations in the Western
21 Great Lakes and in the Northern Rocky Mountains,
22 and the work in the Southwest still remains and

1 is an ongoing project.

2 So if you look back and kind of
3 remember where we were and remember where we
4 started, we started with a very small remnant
5 population in Northwest Minnesota and Michigan,
6 and we've extended that to a recovered
7 population, again, of over 5,000 wolves in the
8 lower 48.

9 And with that, I'll introduce or send
10 it over to Gary Frazer.

11 MR. FRAZER: So having successfully
12 recovered two populations of wolves, the
13 question before us is really what now? What
14 should the Endangered Species Act -- how should
15 it, the Act, apply to the Gray Wolf conservation
16 now and into the future?

17 Well, the first question to answer
18 that is, what are valid listable entities
19 remaining that needs the protection of the
20 Endangered Species Act?

21 A valid listable entity
22 under the Endangered Species Act is one that

1 constitutes a valid species, a subspecies, or a
2 distinct population segment, and that is either
3 in danger of extinction now, throughout all or a
4 significant portion of its range -- that's an
5 endangered species -- or is likely to become
6 endangered in the foreseeable future throughout
7 all or a significant portion of its range, and
8 that's a threatened species.

9 So our proposed rule walks through the
10 approach that we took in looking at all possible
11 valid listable entities of Gray Wolves to
12 determine how they should be addressed under the
13 Endangered Species Act. The proposed rule
14 evaluates the current Gray Wolf listed entity.
15 That was the area that is still in blue after
16 the two populations in the Western Great Lakes
17 and Northern Rockies are removed.

18 We looked at the Gray Wolf, *Canis*
19 *Lupus*, range-wide. We looked at the three
20 subspecies of Gray Wolves that have historical
21 ranges that included the lower 48 states and
22 Mexico. And we also evaluated a potential

1 distinct population segment of Gray Wolves in
2 the Pacific Northwest.

3 So Step 1, looking at the current Gray
4 Wolf listing. Is this a valid listable entity?
5 And we concluded that it is not. And it
6 includes portions that were listed in error.
7 We concluded that Red Wolves actually occupied
8 the Southeastern United States, and should not
9 have considered Gray Wolf historical habitat to
10 begin with.

11 And we also accepted the Eastern
12 Wolf as a valid species, so the northeast,
13 an area that we also believed was occupied,
14 historically, by a different species of wolves.

15 But, more significantly, this area
16 that is currently still on the list and
17 contain the Gray Wolf in that area that would
18 be considered endangered species doesn't
19 reasonably represent the range of the only
20 population of wolves that exist within this
21 area, the Mexican wolf in the Southwest. And
22 so for this reason we propose to delist this

1 current entity that's currently on the list.

2 We then looked at other alternatives.
3 We looked at Gray Wolves as a species, *Canis*
4 *Lupus*, range-wide, and we found no evidence to
5 suggest that Gray Wolves, *Canis Lupus*, are at
6 risk of extinction. So we concluded that
7 listing at the species levels is not warranted.

8 We also looked at the three subspecies
9 of Gray Wolves that historically existed within
10 the lower 48 and found that there's no basis
11 to conclude that *Nubilus* or *Occidentalis* are in
12 danger of extinction, but we did find that
13 *Baileyi*, the Mexican wolf in the southwest, is
14 currently at risk of extinction throughout its
15 range.

16 Finally, we looked in the Pacific
17 Northwest. We found that there are wolf packs
18 now in Western Washington. Wolves are expanding
19 into Western Oregon. There was one wolf that
20 wandered into Northern California, and we've
21 concluded these don't constitute a population at
22 this time. They may constitute a population in

1 the future, if it's consistently reproducing and
2 that carries over recruiting into the
3 population.

4 But, more significantly, we found
5 that these wolves are not discrete. They're not
6 separate. They are, in fact, on the advancing
7 edge of the recovering wolf population in the
8 Northern Rockies and Wolves in Canada.
9 So we've concluded that this would not be a
10 valid distinct population segment.

11 So this table summarizes our analysis,
12 and it's all laid out in our proposed rule. We
13 found that the current listed entity is not a
14 valid listable entity, that *Canis Lupus*,
15 range-wide, listing is not warranted. The same
16 for *Nubilus* and *Occidentalis*. That *Baileyi*, the
17 Mexican wolf, is endangered and should be
18 listed, and that wolves in the Pacific Northwest
19 are not a valid DPS.

20 So on that basis, we came to our
21 proposal, which was to focus Endangered Species
22 Act protection for the Mexican wolf by listing

1 the subspecies Baileyi as endangered wherever
2 found, and remove the current Gray Wolf listing
3 from the list of endangered and threatened
4 wildlife, and also to improve the operation of
5 the experimental rule for Mexican wolves in the
6 Southwest.

7 So again, in conclusion, our goal
8 is to administer the Endangered Species Act, to
9 prevent extinction and to secure a species from
10 the threat of extinction now and into the
11 foreseeable future.

12 We believe that the Gray Wolf has
13 recovered in the Western Great Lakes and the
14 Northern Rockies, and that we now need to focus
15 the Endangered Species protections on the
16 Mexican wolf in the Southwest.

17 So we've laid this out in a proposed
18 rule. We have an open comment period right now.
19 And the purpose of our hearing today is
20 to hear from you. We want all information that
21 is relevant to our final decision. We're here
22 to listen to you. As Dan said, we very much

1 appreciate the passion that you bring here.

2 These are important public policy, as
3 well as science-based decisions that we make.
4 And we want to learn from you as we move
5 forward.

6 So thank you.

7 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you, Mike and
8 Gary.

9 This is a public hearing under Section
10 4 of the Federal Endangered Species Act. Notice
11 of this public hearing was published in the
12 Federal Register on September 5th, 2013,
13 starting on Page 54614.

14 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
15 will accept comments and information on this
16 proposal postmarked on or before October 28th,
17 2013.

18 After review and consideration of
19 your comments and all other information gathered
20 during this and other previous comment periods,
21 the Service will make a final determination.

22 The purpose of this hearing is to

1 receive your comments on this proposal, both
2 oral and written. Comments on all aspects
3 of the proposal are very important and will be
4 carefully considered. Because of the importance
5 of your comments, it is necessary that we follow
6 certain procedures during this public hearing.

7 If you want to present oral comments
8 at this hearing, please go to the registration
9 tables outside of this auditorium and sign up.
10 When you register, indicate the organization
11 you're representing in your comments today.

12 The following process is designed
13 to maximize efficiency and provide speaking
14 opportunities to as many participants as
15 possible: Periodically throughout the hearing,
16 I will call groups of names for those registered
17 to provide oral comments.

18 When your name is called, please come
19 forward and take a seat in the reserved side
20 rows in front of the auditorium. Hearing staff
21 are stationed at the two microphones -- if you
22 could please stand so that they can see you.

1 Thank you. Hearing staff at the two microphones
2 will maintain a queue of two people at each
3 microphone and will direct those seated when
4 to get up and stand in the queue.

5 We will alternate speakers between the
6 two microphones. When it is your turn, please
7 begin your presentation by stating your full
8 name, spell it for the record, and indicate if
9 you represent an organization.

10 If you are reading your comments,
11 please take care to read them slowly enough for
12 the court reporter to understand. Also, if
13 possible, the reporter would appreciate a copy
14 of your comments you read, and you can deposit
15 them in the box on the timekeeper's table in
16 front of the stage.

17 Please return to your original seats
18 in the auditorium after you speak.

19 This is an informal hearing and,
20 therefore, you will not be questioned in
21 connection with your comments. Your comments
22 or questions are being recorded by the reporter

1 to preserve them for the record.

2 If you are called to speak and choose
3 not to speak or provide short remarks, you may
4 not yield your time to another speaker. Because
5 the purpose of this hearing is to receive your
6 comments, the Service will presume any questions
7 are for the record. The Service's formal
8 response to questions and issues raised during
9 the comment period, including this hearing, will
10 be published in the final rule.

11 The Service will not respond to
12 questions at this hearing.

13 Please keep in mind that the reporter
14 will not record any statements from the audience
15 or any statements which are made to the
16 audience. Comments must be made directly into
17 the microphone facing the front of the room.

18 I ask that you treat each speaker with
19 respect and refrain from making comments from
20 the audience. Questions, comments, applause,
21 jeers or demonstrations from the audience will
22 not be allowed.

1 I appreciate everyone's cooperation in
2 minimizing distractions.

3 Out of respect for the speakers, I
4 ask that you please refrain from photographing
5 individuals as they present their comments.

6 Those that have identified themselves
7 as elected officials on their registration will
8 be the first speakers.

9 At this time, we have none that I'm
10 aware of.

11 Members of the public will follow with
12 two minutes for the remainder of the hour.

13 Because of the number of people
14 expected to speak, strict adherence to the time
15 limit is necessary by all speakers. The
16 timekeeper will hold up cards to indicate when
17 60 and 30 seconds remain. I will let you know
18 when time is up.

19 I will call five-minute breaks after
20 each hour to allow the reporter to recover.

21 I will now call the first group of
22 names to allow those called to move to the front

1 reserved seats while I finish my statement.

2 Don Barry, Jamie Rappaport Clark,
3 Jeremy Clare, Maureen Hackett, Patricia Welty,
4 Nate Pamplin, Christine Chessire, Hayden Wayne,
5 Nancy Savage, Jeffrey Geist.

6 If you choose not to present oral
7 comments today, you may submit your comments in
8 writing. Written comments may be submitted to
9 the staff at the registration tables, or they
10 may be on electronic media, such as CDs.

11 Information on how to submit comments
12 outside of this hearing is also available on the
13 hearing agenda you were given as you entered.
14 Additional agenda copies are available at the
15 registration tables.

16 Additionally, at the back of the
17 auditorium in the outer wings, there are two
18 tables with blank comment forms and chairs to
19 sit and write your comments.

20 Comment forms may be left at the
21 registration tables or mailed to the address
22 on the form before the deadline of October 28th,

1 2013.

2 At this point, we are ready for our
3 first speaker.

4 Please state your name, spell it for
5 the record, and identify who you represent and
6 begin your comments.

7 MR. BARRY: My name is Don Barry,
8 B-a-r-r-y.

9 I am a former Chief Counsel of the
10 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Assistant
11 Secretary for Fish Wildlife and Parks. I've
12 worked on the Endangered Species Act for 39
13 years, and I'm testifying tonight in my private
14 capacity as a citizen, but also on behalf of two
15 other former assistant secretaries from both the
16 Republican and Democratic administration,
17 Nathaniel Reed and George Frampton.

18 Dear Director Ashe, we have each have
19 had the honor and privilege of serving as the
20 Assistant Secretary for Fish Wildlife and Parks
21 for the Department of the Interior, both in
22 Republican and Democratic administrations,

1 during critical periods in the history of the
2 enactment and implementation of Endangered
3 Species Act.

4 During our 15 years of combined
5 service as Assistant Secretary overseeing the
6 programs and policies Fish and Wildlife Service,
7 we were staunch advocates for conserving the
8 imperiled species of this country and in
9 implementing the ESA faithfully and effectively.

10 Our experience and expertise in the
11 implementation of the ESA is what brings us
12 together on this letter today as we express, in
13 the strongest terms possible, our opposition to
14 the Service's premature and ill-advised proposal
15 to delist the Gray Wolf throughout most of the
16 lower 48 states.

17 For decades, the Service's vision
18 and interpretation of what recovery meant for
19 endangered and threatened species was optimistic
20 and biologically ambitious. Recovery and
21 delisting the Bald Eagle, the American Falcon,
22 the American Alligator and the Brown Pelican are

1 true success stories under the ESA. But in each
2 of those cases, the Service did not remove the
3 protection under the ESA until those species had
4 once again recolonized to suitable habitat
5 throughout most of their historic ranges.

6 That is the way the Endangered Species
7 Act is supposed to work.

8 By stark contrast, the Service's
9 proposal to delist the Gray Wolf is premised on
10 a shrunken vision of what recovery should mean
11 for this important Apex predator.

12 Rather than retaining Federal
13 protection under the ESA until Gray Wolves
14 have once again occupied suitable habitat in
15 Colorado, Utah, California and the western parts
16 of Oregon and Washington, the service is washing
17 its hands prematurely on wolf conservation and
18 proposing to remove all Federal protection
19 before full recovery of the Gray Wolf has been
20 achieved.

21 The fact that wolves are in abundance
22 in Canada is irrelevant under the ESA, whose

1 goal, first and foremost, is to preserve the
2 biological diversity in this country.

3 Moreover, if the Service chose to take
4 the intermediate step of downlisting the wolves,
5 instead of delisting the wolves --

6 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. Thank you
7 very much. If you could provide your written
8 testimony, I'd appreciate it.

9 Next speaker, please.

10 MR. GEIST: My name is Jeffrey Albert
11 Geist. I'm from New York, New York.

12 Is that enough on that?

13 Anyway, --

14 MS. TRAVERS: Yes.

15 MR. GEIST: -- I thank you guys at
16 the Fish and Wildlife Service for the good work
17 you've tried to do, and, actually, for the great
18 work that you have done in bringing wolves back
19 as far as you have.

20 I totally disagree with your campaign,
21 as I see it, that the main thing is to keep them
22 from extinction, and that is all. You're going

1 to lose a lot of genicity if you have, you know,
2 400 wolves in one state, or 200 or 100.

3 Main thing to me -- it's time that we
4 quit playing games. To me politics is playing
5 games. To me most politicians are sellouts,
6 including our President, maybe especially our
7 President, okay, who promised us all kinds of
8 things regarding wildlife and environment, like
9 drilling and limiting it, and did not keep his
10 word.

11 I would like to see him blamed, not
12 you, for the current suggestions that wolves,
13 basically, be delisted all over the place,
14 which, to me, means that they're going to be
15 pretty much wiped out everywhere, okay?

16 I did not like seeing a wolf that
17 appeared in Kentucky a few weeks ago just killed
18 on the spot, and nobody did a thing about it.
19 Okay?

20 The only way that I think we
21 can save wolves at all is to get performers,
22 celebrities, to go in the public, because we're

1 not getting into the public. I'm not getting
2 into the public except maybe now. TV is not
3 covering this. Americans do not know what is
4 happening at all.

5 I spoke to a Canadian woman last week
6 when I said wolves are getting killed all over
7 the place, including Canada, which I have been
8 all over. And I think that the poaching issue
9 needs to be addressed, the fracking issue needs
10 to be addressed, all the drilling and mining and
11 lumbering issues need to be addressed to the
12 connection of wolves.

13 Obama is leading the charge on
14 fracking and drilling. I'm not the only one
15 here who knows that.

16 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. Thank you.
17 Your time is up. Thank you.

18 Next speaker, please.

19 MS. RAPPAPORT CLARK. Good evening.
20 I'm Jamie Rappaport Clark, J-a-m-i-e,
21 R-a-p-p-a-p-o-r-t, C-l-a-r-k.

22 I'm President and CEO of Defenders

1 of Wildlife, representing more than a million
2 members and supporters nationwide. I'm also a
3 wildlife biologist, spending most of my career
4 working for the Federal government, serving as
5 Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6 during the second Clinton Administration. It's
7 good to see you guys. I wish it was different
8 circumstances.

9 When wolf recovery began more than
10 25 years ago, I had really high hopes. Using
11 Yellowstone, Central Idaho, the Desert Southwest
12 as sources, we had hoped not only to prevent the
13 extinction, but to restore them throughout a
14 significant portion of their range. Restoring
15 the native Apex predator to the American
16 landscape represented a bold vision for the
17 future of imperiled wildlife conservation.

18 Not only was the Federal government
19 fighting to save imperiled species from
20 extinction, it was also working hard to restore
21 endangered and threatened animals that had been
22 carelessly eliminated decades earlier.

1 Fast-forward to today, with wolves
2 struggling to gain toehold in the Northwest and
3 still nonexistent in states with significant
4 areas of unoccupied habitats, like California,
5 Utah and Colorado, the Federal government seems
6 ready to give up before the job is finished.

7 While we have a marked improvement in
8 wolves throughout the west, anti-wolf politics
9 in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming have set in motion
10 management strategies designed dramatically to
11 drive wolf populations down from where they were
12 at the time of the delisting. Anti-Wolf
13 legislation has cropped up in Oregon and
14 Washington, where there's only about a hundred
15 wolves.

16 Utah has a law banning the return of
17 wolves altogether. Gray Wolves currently occupy
18 only about eight percent of their historic range
19 and just a third of the remaining suitable
20 wildlife wolf habitat. They're missing from
21 places like Western Colorado, North California
22 and the Olympic Peninsula. Without continued

1 Federal ESA protection, wolves may never recover
2 to those areas.

3 Further, by proposing to delist
4 wolves prematurely, the Service has signaled a
5 disappointing shift in its conservation
6 philosophy on recovery. Biological optimism has
7 replaced by --

8 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. Thank you.

9 Could you please leave your statement
10 for the court reporter, because I think you have
11 went a little fast at some points.

12 A VOICE: Well, we only have two
13 minutes. Give us three.

14 MS. TRAVERS: Next speaker.

15 MR. WAYNE: Good evening. My name is
16 Hayden Wayne.

17 To make this quick, thus far from
18 the people who speak, I agree with them. Very
19 ironic evening. We're looking at a wolf. We're
20 looking at ourselves. Your own existence is now
21 threatened by a Congress who can't govern.
22 We're dealing now -- we're defiling our water.

1 We're dealing with over 350 million parts.
2 We're up to 400, rapidly going to 600 parts,
3 which means irretrievable.

4 We should be put on the Endangered
5 Species Act, because if this window rapidly
6 accelerates with fossil fuels, it's
7 irretrievable. Ten years.

8 I compliment all of you profoundly
9 from the bottom of my being for your invaluable
10 work. Now we have to work on saving ourselves.

11 The wolf is part of keeping diseases
12 from spreading, like the white-footed mouse,
13 which has proliferated Lyme Disease. We need
14 predatory beasts. We need to clean up our own
15 acts. We need to be accountable. We need to
16 unify our consciousness. Critical thinking,
17 we pride ourselves, and yet the lynchpin to
18 suspend demolition of our own species is
19 collective critical consciousness.

20 Remember what the Hopi said: Whether
21 we choose to be part of it or discarded because
22 of it, this is not negative. This is evolution.

1 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

2 Next speaker.

3 MR. PAMPLIN: Good evening. My name
4 is Nate Pamplin, P-a-m-p-l-i-n.

5 I'm an assistant director with the
6 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the
7 administrator of the Wildlife Program.

8 Washington Department of Fish and
9 Wildlife completed a Wolf Conservation
10 Management Plan and EIS back in December of
11 2011. The plan establishes recovery objectives
12 and proscribes actions to address wolf
13 livestock.

14 Washington has eight Endangered
15 Species laws and regulations. Wolves are
16 classified by the State Fish and Wildlife
17 Commission as endangered. And there are several
18 regulations established by the Commission to
19 ensure that wolves are protected and consistent
20 with the plan.

21 We have received funding from the
22 state legislature to implement the plan, and we

1 are actively implementing the key strategies in
2 it.

3 Washington's wolf population is not a
4 closed population in terms of immigration and
5 emigration. Wolves are dispersing into the
6 state, with 117 packs in Idaho, six packs in
7 Oregon, and an estimated 8,500 wolves in British
8 Columbia.

9 The importance of this is that it
10 demonstrates that there is a tremendous source
11 population surrounding the state for supply of
12 dispersing wolves into Washington.

13 We have documented multiple long
14 distance dispersal events, where the distance
15 of the dispersal is equivalent to the distance
16 between major patches of wolf habitat across the
17 state. This demonstrates that, ecologically,
18 wolves in Washington have the dispersal ability
19 to colonize any suitable habitat in Washington.

20 We've experienced rapid population
21 growth. From 2011 to 2012 the number of
22 confirmed packs went from five to nine, and

1 the minimum number of wolves in our counts went
2 from 35 to 51, paralleling the rapid growth seen
3 in the Northern Rocky Mountain states.

4 We are committed to managing for
5 sustainable wolf population in Washington. We
6 have extensive demonstrable experience
7 successfully managing other large carnivores.
8 We would continue to coordinate with U.S. Fish
9 and Wildlife Service in post-delisting
10 monitoring and reporting.

11 In conclusion, considering these
12 policy and biological factors, WDFW supports
13 delisting.

14 Thanks again for the opportunity to
15 comment.

16 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

17 Next speaker.

18 MR. CLARE: Good evening. My name is
19 Jeremy Clare, J-e-r-e-m-y, C-l-a-r-e. I'm a
20 litigation associate with Safari Club
21 International.

22 Safari Club supports the Service's

1 proposed rule because it is based on the
2 best-available science that Gray Wolves have met
3 their recovery goals. Delaying the delisting
4 any further will only undermine conservation
5 efforts.

6 Upon delisting, Gray Wolves will be
7 managed and conserved by individual states,
8 which will increase the social tolerance for the
9 species.

10 Public participation in the management
11 of local wolf populations by those individuals
12 that actually live with, and who deal with
13 wolves, will lead to long-term conservation of
14 the species.

15 In its rule to delist Wyoming's
16 population, the service expressly recognized the
17 value of social tolerance.

18 It stated: Human attitudes are
19 important to the long-term preservation of the
20 Gray Wolf. The service then admitted that its
21 prolonged failure to delist the wolves actually
22 undermined conservation efforts.

1 If the Service delays its delisting
2 of the wolves of the lower 48 states, it will
3 further negatively impact current and future
4 conservation efforts.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

7 I'm going to call ten more speakers,
8 and then we will hear from the last four.

9 Robert Goldman. Brett Hartl, Charles
10 Ellis, Harriet Crosby, Lori Udall, Amanda
11 Ferguson, Christine Mongeau, Elizabeth Anderson,
12 Carson Barlyak, and Rosemary Donaldson.

13 Next speaker.

14 MS. HACKETT: Yes. I'm Maureen
15 Hackett. My name is spelled M-a-u-r-e-e-n.
16 My last name is H-a-c-k-e-t-t. And I'm
17 representing Howling for Wolves, an organization
18 I started out of Minnesota to advocate for
19 Minnesota's wolves. And I'm glad that I
20 followed up on somebody from the Safari Club
21 International and somebody from Washington State
22 who is advocating delisting for two different

1 reasons, because I'd like to talk about
2 Minnesota's experience.

3 Here we have the largest and the
4 original population of wolves that never went
5 extinct. What happened within a year of being
6 delisted in Minnesota? We had a great plan. We
7 had a plan that was put together by 32
8 organizations in 1998, signed into law by the
9 Governor, by the Commission of the Department of
10 Natural Resources.

11 That plan was thrown out the window.
12 And the five-year wait, which was originally in
13 the plan prior to any hunt, any public take, was
14 immediately put into law after delisting,
15 because the five-year wait was removed by law.
16 So that can happen in any state. Plans can
17 change.

18 The other issue is that a hunt will
19 create more public attitudes towards the wolf of
20 a positive nature. That is an assumption. That
21 has not been shown in preliminary results. It
22 has actually shown to be incorrect. And in

1 Minnesota what I'd like to say is, we had the
2 hunt. We did it without baseline counting.
3 There was no science. We hadn't had a
4 population survey in five years. And we dropped
5 our population down to 1988 levels, nearly 1988
6 levels.

7 One out of four Wolves were killed
8 in one year, because we killed 300 through
9 livestock and property owners, and 413 with a
10 public take.

11 That didn't help any attitudes.
12 We have seen the hate of wolves increase.
13 I brought just a few things that
14 we took off of social media yesterday.
15 wolves blanking kill humans, you retards.
16 If not controlled, they will get out of
17 control and eat your children, you stupid blank.
18 Why do you think they are called Big Bad Wolf?

19 Then we have, I shot one out my back
20 door yesterday. It was still alive after the
21 first shot, so I bashed it with a baseball bat
22 several times. I got busy, and it's still out

1 there howling.

2 What I'm saying is that there is a bad
3 attitude towards Wolves.

4 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. Thank you.
5 Next speaker, please.

6 (Whereupon the crowd applauded.)

7 MS. TRAVES: Please do not applaud. I
8 will call a timeout, and you will lose precious
9 time at this hearing.

10 Next speaker, please.

11 MS. CHESSIRE: My name is Christine
12 Chessire. I'm from Pennsylvania. And I just
13 want to say that I drove here from Pennsylvania
14 this afternoon and took a half day from work and
15 left my family to be here this evening because I
16 knew I just couldn't live the rest of my life
17 not knowing that I did everything I could to
18 help this animal.

19 For so many reasons, the proposal to
20 delist the Gray Wolf in the lower 48 is wrong.
21 I've thought about this for a very long time.
22 And turning this back to the management of the

1 states, I think that we just heard an example of
2 what that management is like.

3 And let's face it. I think what we
4 would be talking about is the inevitable
5 decimation, extermination, and, ultimately, the
6 extinction of this beautiful animal.

7 Because of man's actions, the wolf
8 is already struggling. Opening up the remaining
9 states to a free-for-all will be the nail in the
10 coffin of this animal's very existence.

11 I also want to remind those in whose
12 hands this decision lies that history has never
13 been kind to governments who perpetuate an
14 extermination of any kind.

15 No matter the species, a mass
16 and purposeful killing because something is
17 different or different from what you want it to
18 be is enormously wrong.

19 Wolves are an Apex predator and serve
20 a purpose in nature. Occupying only 8 percent
21 of the territory they once occupied, their
22 recovery is nowhere done.

1 I wanted to share a couple of
2 experiences that I had. I hope I have enough
3 time. I just want to say that I live in a state
4 that is not part of the Gray Wolf's territory,
5 but that doesn't mean there aren't a lot of
6 folks in my region who know what is going on
7 with them and who think the Gray Wolf is being
8 unfairly demonized and victimized.

9 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

10 Next speaker, please.

11 MR. GOLDMAN: My name is Robert
12 Goldman. I'm here because I love my homeland.
13 I respect and love America's natural heritage,
14 our continent's wild places and our precious
15 natural wildlife, including America's ecologic,
16 the vital and beautiful wolves.

17 I'm only one person, but I created a
18 wolf petition that has almost 23,000 signers
19 from around the United States and the world and
20 which condemns this Democratic Administration
21 for its abandonment of wolves and callous
22 disregard of America's native wildlife.

1 Many signers were and are shocked
2 to learn that Democratic President and both
3 Democrats and Republicans in Congress have
4 turned their backs on the wishes and desires of
5 the American majority, which does not support a
6 return to the demonization and persecution of
7 wolves or any embarrassing state of wildlife.

8 Farley Mowat, the great Canadian
9 naturalist and prolific author, stated in the
10 preface to the 1993 Edition of Never Cry Wolf,
11 We have doomed the wolf, not for what it is, but
12 for what we deliberately and mistakenly perceive
13 it to be, the mythologized epitome of a savage,
14 ruthless killer, which is, in reality, not more
15 than the reflective image of ourselves. We have
16 made it the scape wolf for our own sins.

17 It's time to remove the doom that
18 humanity has unjustly placed on wolves, not
19 return to it, here in the United States or
20 anywhere, as you're proposing and enabling with
21 what you've already done and what you'd like to
22 do more of.

1 We already know from the scientists
2 that wrote Sally Jewell, the 16 scientists, that
3 you're not following their science. You based
4 this delisting proposal on what they said.
5 Because they know more than what you folks do
6 about wolves, they said that you're mistaken.
7 That's not what their conclusions are.

8 They feel that you are leaving out the
9 potential that this animal has to expand where I
10 live in New England and California, the
11 Northwest and elsewhere. You're doing a
12 terrible job.

13 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you, sir.
14 Next speaker.

15 MS. WELTY: Good evening. I'm
16 Patricia Welty, W-e-l-t-y. I disagree with the
17 Service's position to delist the Gray Wolf. The
18 Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for
19 upholding the Endangered Species Act to save the
20 diverse wildlife in our country. And Fish and
21 Wildlife should uphold its mission and protect
22 the Gray Wolf under the ESA by ensuring critical

1 habitat for the Gray Wolf is maintained.

2 The Gray Wolves are vital to our
3 nation's biodiversity. They provide a vision
4 of the wilderness that attracts tourism. Gray
5 Wolves maintain species' balance and vegetation
6 diversity by aiding in the control of other
7 populations, such as deer and elk.

8 The Fish and Wildlife Service should
9 stand tall and not cave in to the interests of
10 wealthy ranchers and hunters who have selfish
11 vested interests in guarding cattle.

12 Gray Wolves are intelligent. They're
13 majestic creatures, whose presence adds to the
14 beauty of our National Park system.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

17 Next speaker.

18 MR. ELLS: Good evening, Mr. Frazer,
19 Mr. Jimenez. My name is Charlie Ells. First
20 name is spelled the way you would expect. The
21 last name is E-l-l-s.

22 And I want to ask you please do not

1 remove the Gray Wolf from the Endangered and
2 Threatened Species List that the Fish and
3 Wildlife Service maintains pursuant to the
4 Endangered Species Act of 1973.

5 In 1995, your agency began
6 reintroducing Gray Wolves obtained from the
7 Canadian authorities into the Yellowstone
8 National Park ecosystem. A small population
9 of transplanted wolves grew to perhaps 1,585
10 animals in the years until -- in the states
11 surrounding Yellowstone up by the year 2012.

12 Your leaflet here does a nice job
13 explaining that.

14 The relationships of the predators
15 and the prey and the vegetation preserve soil
16 for farming and ranching, among other things,
17 protect wetlands and rivers for a healthy fish
18 population, which, in turn, serves human
19 consumption and tourism. And reintroduction of
20 predators at Yellowstone and other areas has
21 helped to restore the delicate natural balance.
22 But we are not yet finished.

1 At the District's Environmental Film
2 Festival held in March, I learned a couple of
3 things, one of which was that many states have
4 taken steps to permit the killing of wolves once
5 they are delisted.

6 And given the small numbers of the
7 Gray Wolf nationwide, we risk its extinction if
8 you proceed with the proposed delisting.

9 There will be consequences if that
10 happens, an imbalance in the local ecology and a
11 landscape less able to resist troublesome
12 climatic events.

13 Delisting would also encourage a
14 hardening and cruelty in many souls toward our
15 fellow inhabitants of this planet, creatures who
16 were here before we were.

17 Finally, the Service should avoid
18 mistakes that have been made by other pieces of
19 our national government in recent years. Rules
20 that have succeeded in mitigating effects in
21 human nature relating to voting rights, species
22 protection and, for example, food --

1 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you, sir.

2 MR. ELLIS: They shouldn't be allowed
3 to quit.

4 MS. TRAVERS: Next speaker.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. SAVAGE: Nancy Savage. N-a-n-c-y,
7 S-a-v-a-g-e.

8 I strongly oppose the delisting of
9 the Gray Wolf. I have lived in New Mexico since
10 1958, and I believe that wolves belong in every
11 area and state of this country that will support
12 them.

13 This has not been accomplished. We
14 can already see what will happen to wolves, if
15 delisted, by looking at Montana. Last year they
16 killed one-third of their wolf population, and
17 are continuing the slaughter this year with
18 looser hunting rules, including \$19-per-license
19 permit with a five-wolf-per-limit bag.

20 Six thousand permits have been issued.
21 Permits enough to kill 30,000 wolves. At the
22 beginning of 2013, Montana only had 625 wolves.

1 The states cannot be trusted with the lives of
2 wolves. We will be right back where we started
3 in the 1970s, and I, for one, do not want that.

4 My granddaughter, two-year-old Kayla
5 Elizabeth, deserves to inherit a world rich with
6 wildlife, and this includes wolves. I never
7 want to have to tell her that wolves have gone
8 the way of the Mexican Grizzly Bear, no longer
9 in existence in the Southwest because humans
10 have killed every last one of them.

11 I emphatically urge you to protect
12 this birthright by protecting these animals
13 and not delisting them. They have a right to
14 continue to recover into the land that will
15 support healthy Wolf populations.

16 In all honesty, your job is not done.
17 Do not stop prematurely.

18 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

19 Thank you. Next speaker.

20 MS. DONALDSON: Good evening. My name
21 is Rosemary Donald, D-o-n-a-l-d-s-o-n. I would
22 like to share with you that tonight is my

1 birthday, and I've chosen to spend it with you
2 because I feel so strongly that this proposal is
3 disastrous.

4 Although I was raised on the eastern
5 seaboard, I was privileged to spend quite a bit
6 of time in the Pacific Northwest and was given
7 the opportunity to see Gray Wolves on several
8 occasions. They never ceased to take my breath
9 away.

10 I knew then that I was looking at an
11 iconic symbol of my nation and its heritage, and
12 that the restoration of wolf populations would
13 constitute, to paraphrase Gandhi, a measure of
14 the morality of our society and of its values.

15 There are so many reasons why our
16 nation should support efforts to reestablish
17 healthy populations of wolves, many of which
18 have been discussed here tonight, so I will not
19 read my entire testimony. One very good reason
20 is simply that wolves and other top predators
21 are an essential element of a healthy ecosystem.

22 I believe that tonight we are at a

1 crossroads. We have before us two choices. We
2 can maintain the wolves on the endangered list
3 or we can remove it, a course of action which
4 would lead to disaster for wolf recovery
5 efforts, and further man's disconnectedness
6 with the natural world around him.

7 I beg you to consider that every
8 time we interfere directly with this natural
9 order, we choose to diminish our own future
10 possibilities and we jeopardize our children's
11 futures.

12 What we have done during our recent
13 stewardship, our children might all find
14 unforgivable. In 1797 Thomas Jefferson wrote
15 the following words: For if one link in
16 nature's chain might be lost, another and
17 another might be lost, till this whole system
18 of things should vanish by piecemeal.

19 Our forefathers understood intuitively
20 what we --

21 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. Thank you.

22 Next speaker, please.

1 MR. HARTL: My name is Brett Hartl,
2 B-r-e-t-t, H-a-r-t-l, and I represent the Center
3 for Biological Diversity.

4 The Center strongly opposes the Obama
5 Administration's proposal to remove Federal
6 protections for Gray Wolves across most of the
7 United States. Ending Federal protections now
8 is simply premature. The Fish and Wildlife
9 Service's own data indicate that wolves have not
10 yet recovered and been restored to millions of
11 acres of suitable habitat in the Pacific
12 Northwest, Southern Rockies and Northeastern
13 United States.

14 This proposal hands wolf management
15 over to state wildlife agencies, which, on the
16 whole, frankly, are not up to the task of
17 informed science-based wildlife management for
18 the 21st Century.

19 Following the removal of Federal
20 protections, wolf populations in Minnesota have
21 fallen 25 percent. In 2012, wolf populations in
22 the Northern Rocky Mountains have fallen 7

1 percent, and more hunting and trapping is
2 planned for this year.

3 Wyoming's Shoot On Sight policy across
4 most of the state effectively eliminates any
5 possibility that wolves will successfully return
6 to Colorado or the Southern Rockies.

7 As a result of aggressive and cruel
8 hunting and trapping seasons, over 2,000 wolves
9 have been killed in the last few years, and 40
10 years of wolf recovery efforts are now put in
11 jeopardy by this cynical and defeatist proposal.

12 The American people do not support
13 this proposal. Recent polls show that the
14 overwhelming majority of the people understand
15 that wolves represent a vital part of America's
16 wilderness and natural heritage, and that the
17 presence of wolves provide important benefits
18 to many species of plants and wildlife,
19 including beavers, foxes, songbirds and fish, by
20 keeping ungulate populations from overgrazing
21 the landscape.

22 The American people understand that

1 when a species is present in only 5 percent of
2 its historic range in the lower 48 states, that
3 does not represent recovery. The fact is that
4 wolves are wildly popular, and most Americans
5 want to see wolves in more places.

6 Every year, tens of thousands of
7 people go to Yellowstone National Park in the
8 hope of seeing a Wolf. Why should people in
9 California, Colorado or Maine have to travel to
10 Yellowstone when there are large areas in their
11 own state that can support wolf populations?

12 The Obama Administration should simply
13 withdraw this flawed, scientifically
14 unsupportable proposal and do what the
15 Endangered Species Act requires.

16 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you, sir. Thank
17 you, sir.

18 We will take a two-minute break. We
19 are off the record.

20 (Recess taken.)

21 MS. TRAVERS: Okay. We are on the
22 record.

1 MS. BARYLAK: My name is Carson
2 Barlyak, C-a-r-s-o-n, B-a-r-y-l-a-k. And I'm
3 providing testimony on behalf of the Animal
4 Welfare Institute.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to
6 comment today.

7 We have a number of concerns with
8 the Gray Wolf delisting plan, which will
9 interfere with the wolf's recovery and lead to
10 the inhumane and unnecessary killing of these
11 Apex predators.

12 Stripping Gray Wolves of Endangered
13 Species Act protections would derail one of the
14 most important species recovery programs in the
15 country and would be inconsistent with the
16 spirit of ESA.

17 As the Fish and Wildlife Service
18 acknowledged, the Gray Wolf plays a critical
19 ecological role within its range.

20 Eliminating this keystone species from
21 the landscape or interfering with its recovery
22 will have far-reaching consequences for a broad

1 range of other species.

2 The protections afforded by the ESA
3 are essential to preserving and promoting the
4 valuable ecosystem services provided by Gray
5 Wolves throughout their range.

6 We are particularly concerned that
7 the delisting plan will add a flawed recovery
8 standard, as it fails to account for the wolves
9 absent from much of its historic range.

10 Gray Wolves currently inhabit less
11 than 10 percent of their historic range, and
12 Federal protections are essential to help the
13 species recover and expand into currently
14 unoccupied but suitable parts of the former
15 range.

16 The plan fails to consider extensive
17 suitable wolf habitat like the Pacific
18 Northwest, California, the Southern Rocky
19 Mountains and the northeast, and the importance
20 of these areas to the specie's long-term
21 survival and recovery.

22 It also ignores the adverse impact

1 the delisting would have on recent efforts to
2 restore wolves to more of their historic range
3 along the west coast, and fails to acknowledge
4 the delisting could result in the eradication of
5 wolves from those states that still have very
6 few of the animal.

7 Finally, the consequences of turning
8 management authority over to states are clear.
9 As we have seen in regions where wolves have
10 already been transitioned to state management,
11 state agencies are not necessarily equipped to
12 manage wolves in recovery and, instead, launched
13 attacks on the species by allowing for
14 unnecessary and inhumane recreational killing.

15 The premature delisting of wolves in
16 states such as Wyoming, Montana and Idaho has
17 led to reckless efforts to gun down and trap as
18 many wolves as possible, resulting in a race to
19 the bottom management of the wolf management
20 among these states.

21 The wolf population in the original
22 Northern Rockies recovery area has declined --

1 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

2 Next speaker, please.

3 MS. ANDERSON: Good evening. My name
4 is Elizabeth Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. And I'm
5 testifying as a public citizen and also with the
6 Defenders of Wildlife.

7 And I'm actually a retired school
8 teacher of 35 years and currently working on
9 middle school curriculum. And I strongly oppose
10 the premature delisting of the Gray Wolves.

11 At the time I was teaching, the
12 wolves were making a comeback to their home
13 territories. Thanks to millions of dollars of
14 taxpayers' money and the support of the Federal
15 government, the wolves began to repopulate areas
16 and restore ecosystems, notably Yellowstone
17 National Park, which has been very, very
18 well-documented. The wolves benefitted the elk
19 and the deer, as well as altered the behavior of
20 elk and deer, as well as the coyotes, which
21 allowed for the restoration of ecosystems.

22 They were found to be the keystone

1 species and Apex species. My students always
2 loved the wolves. They called them awesome.
3 Cool. I love wolves. No other land animal drew
4 as much of a response -- a positive response as
5 the wolves.

6 We all thought the wolves were
7 protected by the Endangered Species Act, but
8 little did we know that politics could trump
9 science and even the Endangered Species Act.

10 I often think of my students when
11 I reflect what we're doing to the natural world
12 and animals in the name of politics, governed by
13 industry, in this case primarily the livestock
14 industry.

15 No wild animal or environment is
16 immune to the unrivaled greed and cruelty that
17 has exceeded our wildest expectations and
18 imagination.

19 How can we, in good conscience, call
20 ourselves civilized when we continue to justify
21 the gassing, poisoning, shooting and trapping of
22 the direct ancestors of our beloved dogs?

1 Our actions reflect extreme ignorance,
2 cruelty and disrespect --

3 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

4 Next speaker, please.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. UDALL: Good evening. My name is
7 Lori Udall, L-o-r-i, U-d-a-l-l.

8 I'm testifying on behalf of Sacharuna
9 Foundation, of which I'm the director. In 1967,
10 46 years ago, my father, Stewart Udall, as
11 Secretary of Interior, issued the first
12 Endangered Species List under the Endangered
13 Species Preservation Act. That was six years
14 before President Nixon signed into the law the
15 Endangered Species Act.

16 My father's list included such great
17 American icons as the Timber Wolf, the Red Wolf,
18 the Bald Eagle, the Grizzly Bear, the American
19 Alligator and the Ivory Billed Woodpecker.

20 After all these years, we know that
21 the ESA works and has saved many species from
22 extinction. The Gray Wolf is an example of a

1 species that is coming back, but has not yet
2 made it back, and, yet, now is caught in
3 political limbo.

4 This delisting is premature.
5 What I fail to understand is the current
6 administration's preferential lobbying to delist
7 the Gray Wolf, instead of following science and
8 serious peer review.

9 That a single species could be
10 delisted in Congress sets a dangerous precedent
11 for all species on the list. And yet we know
12 that Department of Interior was complicit with
13 delisting the wolf in the Rockies and now
14 promises, with these rules, to delist across the
15 country.

16 This sets a precedent that any single
17 species, no matter how endangered, could be
18 delisted in Congress through a political move,
19 instead of through science, as required by the
20 Act. What will happen -- what will Interior do
21 when this happens next time?

22 I'm quite sure my father, as I am,

1 would be opposed to this rule. One of my
2 favorite expressions of his: There is a right
3 way to do things and a wrong way to do things.
4 If do you it the wrong way, you're going to have
5 a big fight on your hands.

6 I heartily join the fight against the
7 Wolf delisting.

8 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. I would like
9 to call the next ten speakers: Michael Fosburg,
10 Lisa Arken, Christy Wagner, Cassandra Sullivan.
11 Charles Biviano. Jose Deartehea. Tena Meadows
12 O'Rear, Beth Stewart, and Connor Schultz and
13 Margaret Maguire.

14 Next speaker, please.

15 MS. CROSBY: Hi. I'm Harriet Crosby
16 with Friends of the Earth, and I'd like to honor
17 some of the eloquent testimony that we've heard
18 from the other speakers tonight. It's very
19 clear that all of the testimony is opposed to
20 the delisting of the Gray Wolf.

21 I stand here before you today to
22 honor the memory of Mollie Beattie who was the

1 director of the Fish and Wildlife Service and
2 was instrumental in the release of the wolves at
3 Yellowstone National Park. I think she would be
4 profoundly disappointed to see the premature
5 delisting of the wolves at this time.

6 She fully understood the importance of
7 the Wolf in healthy ecosystems, that the wolves
8 would scare away the elk and the deer that were
9 grazing on the trees that were keeping the
10 waters cool that allowed the trout to live in
11 the stream that allowed the beaver and all the
12 mammals in these complex living ecosystems that
13 need the predator to keep in balance and control
14 the health of the living ecosystem.

15 I think we have to honor the web of
16 life and the role that the wolves have played in
17 creating and holding these complex living
18 ecosystems on which we're ultimately dependent.
19 And I hope the Department of Interior will
20 reconsider this decision in listening to the
21 enormity of the sentiment here in our
22 disappointment in hoping that you do not

1 delist the Gray Wolves.

2 Thank you very much.

3 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

4 Next speaker.

5 MS. FERGUSON: My name is Amanda
6 Ferguson, from the Adirondack Mountain Region of
7 Upstate New York.

8 I oppose the delisting of the Gray
9 Wolf. Wolves have not recovered in key parts
10 of the range, period. This past summer I
11 volunteered at Colorado Wolf and Wildlife. I
12 spent four days working on the grounds. I met
13 many wolves, many people and saw some passionate
14 volunteers educate the community as they walked
15 through.

16 Most people don't know that some
17 states are aggressively managing the wolf
18 population in a way that in no way takes into
19 consideration science and respect. They also
20 don't know of the possibility of delisting in
21 all the lower 48 states.

22 On one particular day I had to walk

1 away. Looking back, I tried to contain my
2 emotions. It was sadness. It was shame. How
3 can we as a human race have such a little
4 concern for this keystone species and the role
5 they play?

6 The wolf has a place in our world. We
7 must keep them protected. There is a place for
8 them in Colorado, Utah, California and the
9 Pacific Northwest. This must happen with a
10 coexistence philosophy. Wyoming, Montana, Idaho
11 and their wildlife strategy is clearly not a
12 good example of this.

13 The fragmented packs are not healthy,
14 creating ill health for all the predators, the
15 elk, the birds, the insects, the trees and the
16 humans. The humans? Well, ask all the people
17 hoping to see these animals.

18 It creates consciousness and
19 compassion and respect for our co-inhabitants.
20 That's healthy. And, quite possibly, a
21 byproduct is tourist money, jobs and education.
22 How sad that this ruling would abandon the

1 original intent of the Act. If it were not for
2 the endangered species, so many other animals
3 would not have recovered.

4 Management of this wolf is not
5 suitable at the state level and may never be.
6 This is where the Endangered Species Act must
7 hold the line and prevent the Gray Wolf from
8 becoming extinct altogether.

9 There must be a morally and ethically
10 right plan, and it starts with protection.
11 There are many success stories. Please let the
12 wolf be one of them.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

15 Next speaker, please.

16 MS. WAGNER: I'm Christy Wagner,
17 C-h-r-i-s-t-i-e, W-a-g-n-e-r.

18 I lived simultaneously for decades out
19 west of the Rockies and in the D.C. area. Plus
20 I've worked in 43 countries, 34 states, for 15
21 years traveling globally 10 months a year. So
22 I've seen a few national and international

1 issues up close. There's a two-pronged problem
2 with the anti-wolf problem; economic loss and
3 fear.

4 It is cruel, expensive and unnecessary
5 for the slaughter of wolves and affiliated
6 programs. For example, in Stevens County,
7 Washington, they pay \$1,500 per cow, which might
8 be killed. Please pay me several million for
9 possibly falling down the subway escalator
10 steps.

11 The livelihood of farmers is totally
12 compatible with wolf protection. Hungary, for
13 over a thousand years, has had no wolf predation
14 problem, although it's had a lot of wolves,
15 because they have the Hungarian Komondor Dog.
16 You walk that dog around your territory twice.
17 It remembers. It can fight off two wolves
18 simultaneously.

19 Fear of wolves is absurd. Farley
20 Mowat went down into a wolf den headfirst,
21 thinking the adult wolves were gone. They
22 weren't. Plus there was a litter of eight

1 puppies. Nothing happened to him.

2 I personally kissed two Gray Wolves on
3 the mouth and greeted them in their manner by
4 gently biting them on each side of the snoot. I
5 still have my face; however, I've been attacked
6 by a Chihuahua for just walking past it and
7 attacked from behind by a Beagle for just
8 walking past it.

9 So the Hungarian Komondor should be
10 exported. It's cheap. It's good for the
11 environment. It's a win-win for the wolves, for
12 the United States, for cooperation with the
13 foreign country, Hungary. And might I remind
14 people, man's inhumanity to man is only
15 surpassed by inhumanity to animals. And it's
16 proven statistics that most serial killers start
17 out by killing animals.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. TRAVERS: Next speaker, please.

20 Please hold your applause. We have 71
21 speakers tonight, and I'd love to give everyone
22 the opportunity at this hearing.

1 Next speaker, please.

2 MS. MONGEAU: My name is Christine
3 M-o-n-g-e-a-u.

4 I would just like to add, I grew up on
5 a farm. I'm a native of Colorado. I grew up in
6 the Ozarks also, on a cattle beef production.
7 So I understand some issues that ranchers may
8 have, potentially. My brother is an organic
9 beef producer in Colorado.

10 I think that we need to educate some
11 of the potential beef producers and give them
12 some options as far as flagging, the dogs that
13 were previously mentioned. We have to help them
14 have other options, because I think a lot of
15 this anger is coming out of misinformation.
16 There are ways to keep predators away from your
17 animals, and I'd like that to be shared with
18 them.

19 Also, I have some concerns in the
20 way in which Wildlife Services is eliminating
21 predators. I know that they're using poisons,
22 and there's one particular one that's 1088, no

1 known antidote. Not everyone knows that. It is
2 being used. I believe it's cyanide is the other
3 one. These are devastating. I mean, you could
4 have a child that gets exposed to this. This is
5 not just something we should tolerate, and it
6 just should not be allowed whatsoever.

7 That's it. Thank you.

8 And, also, forgive me, I want them to
9 remain on the endangered list, as well as the
10 Mexican Wolf, please.

11 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

12 Next speaker.

13 MR. BIVIANO: My name is Charles
14 Biviano. I am from Richmond, Virginia. My last
15 name is spelled B-i-v-i-a-n-o. I do not support
16 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to
17 delist the Gray Wolf. I have several reasons
18 for that.

19 First of all, from a financial
20 standpoint, it is simply bad business to take
21 a species that was near the brink of collapse,
22 spend millions of taxpayer dollars, only to

1 abandon the program well before recovery goals
2 could be achieved. And I'm a taxpayer, and I
3 have to tell you that's something I'm not happy
4 about right now.

5 Secondly, I think that you all have a
6 responsibility to manage wolves in a healthy and
7 sustainable way so that future generations can
8 benefit and enjoy our national wildlife.

9 Now that wolves are being prematurely
10 delisted in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and
11 Wisconsin, these states are not managing their
12 wolf populations like they are doing with their
13 other wildlife.

14 Simply stated, these states are
15 aggressively driving down wolf populations to
16 absolute bare minimums that are required by law.
17 Removing the wolves from the Endangered Species
18 Act list will most certainly be seen as a green
19 light.

20 Finally, wolves are an important
21 American resource. I think that they represent
22 a spirit of a pioneering nation and have become,

1 for many, a symbol for perseverance and
2 adversity. So I ask that you please do not
3 remove them from the Endangered Species List.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

6 Next speaker.

7 MR. FOSBURG: My name is Michael
8 Fosburg, and I do not support the delisting of
9 Gray Wolves from the ESA. Wolf recovery is
10 still tenuous, fraught with human conflict,
11 overshadowed by the politics of irresponsible
12 management, the likes we've seen in Idaho,
13 Montana and Wyoming.

14 I hold that we still have a moral
15 obligation and an imperative -- excuse me, a
16 moral obligation to protect this species, which
17 we, as a species, nearly drove to extinction.
18 If we delist Gray Wolves at the cusp of their
19 fragile recovery, we would be reneging on our
20 duty of responsible stewards to this land and
21 its biodiversity.

22 Such a drastic shift in wildlife

1 management policy by the FWS and this, sadly, on
2 the cusp of ESA's 40th anniversary, would lower
3 the bar for endangered species recovery and set
4 a precarious precedent that could impact
5 conservation and recovery efforts across the
6 country for other imperiled species.

7 Gray Wolves are icons of this rich and
8 diverse continent. I will never forget hearing
9 them howl in Yellowstone. The sound was full of
10 life and prophesied the very real hope of wolf
11 recovery. That recovery is still possible.

12 They've returned to key parts of their
13 historical range. There's still a wolf habitat
14 in Colorado and also California and Utah.

15 But wolf recovery is not assured.
16 Their fate is still uncertain. Every wolf
17 gunned down in the snow is proof of this. It's
18 proof of ancient prejudices at work, that, if
19 left unchecked without Federal protection, will
20 once more lead to the devastation of the
21 American Gray Wolf population.

22 We've seen it before when the

1 railroads went across to the west.

2 I implore the Obama Administration
3 as a citizen of this nation, a democrat, and a
4 decedent of this world, do not strip protection
5 for the Gray Wolf.

6 Please do not allow politics to
7 prevail over science and emotion to trump
8 reason. Please don't give up this fight and
9 finish the job of wolf recovery.

10 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

11 Next speaker.

12 Next speaker.

13 MR. DEARTEHEA: I'm Jose Deartehea.
14 My first name is spelled J-o-s-e. My last name
15 D-e-a-r-t-e-h-e-a.

16 I'm originally from Puerto Rico, but I
17 grew up in Wisconsin. My mother's from Germany.
18 And I can remember fondly as a child when the
19 wolves started coming into Wisconsin how
20 patriotic my mother felt, that, as a citizen of
21 Wisconsin and newly-minted American citizen,
22 that she lived in a state that was doing it

1 right, that it was taking care of its ecosystem
2 to the extent that wolves felt welcome to come
3 voluntarily into the State of Wisconsin. And
4 now we have a Governor that's allowing them to
5 be massacred by packs of dogs, and they call
6 that hunting. And you guys are trusting state
7 governors to take care of our wolf population,
8 and it doesn't make sense to me.

9 And I don't want you to deny this
10 experience that I had as a child, experiencing
11 grade schools and my mother and everybody
12 honoring the fact that wolves came into
13 Wisconsin, and you might potentially be denying
14 that to citizens of Utah and Colorado and Maine
15 and New York and California, because that's
16 their habitat as well. And if we delist it,
17 they're not going to, potentially, be able to
18 become part of both ecosystems, as well.

19 And I think that we need to honor
20 ranchers and farmers and hunters that do
21 things ethically and not lazy and support sharp
22 practices, but, rather, reward ecologically

1 sound practices so that we can coexist and not
2 destroy these animals.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

5 Next speaker.

6 MS. MEADOWS O'REAR: My name is Tena
7 Meadows O'Rear. T-e-n-a, Meadows, O'R-e-a-r.

8 I live in EcoVillage of Loudoun
9 County, Virginia, where a small group of
10 residents are attempting to restore 180 acres of
11 Virginia forrest. Our re-forestation efforts
12 have been challenged by extreme overpopulation
13 of white-tailed deer.

14 Speaking from this personal
15 experience, I request that you consider
16 the overwhelming evidence of ecosystem
17 restoration that results from preservation and
18 reintroduction of top-of-the-food-chain species.

19 Whether this species is wolves,
20 mountain lion, shark or killer whale, balanced
21 results from species that keep herbivores in
22 check.

1 In the Yellowstone example, we see how
2 wolves have shifted an entire ecosystem toward
3 enhanced biodiversity and natural resilience.

4 In Loudoun County, we recently had
5 our first predator-friendly farm certification.
6 Surely, this indicates that there is a way for
7 us to live respectfully with our fellow
8 creatures.

9 Please provide the essential
10 protections that are needed while we seek and
11 explore such options across the country relative
12 to all kinds of predator species.

13 I'd like to close by introducing the
14 next speaker, who is my neighbor, Cassandra
15 Solar.

16 MS. TRAVERS: Good ahead and speak,
17 please.

18 MS. SOLAR: My name is Cassandra
19 McKenna Solar. That is C-a-s-s-a-n-d-r-a,
20 S-o-l-a-r. I am nine years old, and I oppose
21 the FWS proposal to delist the Gray Wolf.

22 Wolves are intelligent mammals. They

1 work in packs like teams. Losing wolves to me
2 would be like losing our best friends. Wolves
3 are said to be mean, but they are quick-witted
4 and strong. Wolves can sense when another
5 animal is sick with a disease or parasite and
6 will remove the weaker animal from harm, which
7 prevents the disease from spreading.

8 Wolves also are helpful to nature
9 because they help control the moose and elk
10 population. And other animals known and
11 scavengers, like ravens and coyotes, eat
12 the leftovers after the wolves have eaten.

13 Leftovers from the wolves also
14 help feed the soil. Wolves also protect our
15 ecosystem by preventing elk from overeating the
16 streams and rivers. In the past, wolves were
17 killed on sight before they were put on the
18 Endangered Species List in 1974 and were
19 protected by the government.

20 I think wolves are like dogs, but
21 they are more wild and bigger. I believe the
22 government should protect wolves. They are not

1 harmful to humans or our pets, and there should
2 be more wolves all over the country.

3 I am Cassandra McKenna Solar, and this
4 is why I love wolves and why wolves should be
5 protected.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. TRAVERS: My name is Margaret
8 Maguire, M-a-g-u-i-r-e. And I am here today
9 to speak out for the wolves and give my voice
10 to the wolves. I strongly believe that the
11 wolves should not be delisted because that means
12 that this beautiful animal can be hunted down,
13 and not only hunted down with guns, but also
14 with traps.

15 Traps are cruel and inflict horrific
16 injuries. The United States is considered a
17 first-world country, and I am from Germany and
18 live since many years in Frederick. And I'm so
19 often told that the United States is one of the
20 greatest or the greatest country in the world,
21 and I really think this country should act
22 accordingly.

1 When I saw in your presentation you
2 saying the wolf has reached its proper
3 population, this is hard to believe.

4 I mean, who is determining that
5 anyway?

6 Please don't delist the wolves, and
7 ban trapping.

8 Thanks.

9 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

10 I'm going to call the next ten names:
11 Ashley Chengerian, Brock Evans, Susan Holmes,
12 Sylvia Fallon, Kenneth Kukavich, James Manfull.
13 Elaine Aroadhead, Sarah Gam and Brooks Brown.
14 Leda Huta.

15 Next speaker, please.

16 MS. STEWART: Hi. My name is Beth
17 Stewart, and I just returned from a two-week
18 trip to Yellowstone with 12 other amateur
19 photographers to photograph wildlife.
20 Specifically, we went to see wolves.

21 Normally, we take our tourist dollars
22 to Africa to photograph their Apex predators,

1 but this year we chose Yellowstone because of
2 the comeback wolves have been making. We were
3 fortunate to see and photograph a Junction Butte
4 Pack, including their four pups. These wolves
5 attracted even more tourists than the ubiquitous
6 grizzlies.

7 We've heard a lot tonight about how
8 beneficial wolves are to the ecosystem, but
9 it's also important to remember how extremely
10 beneficial they can be to the economy.

11 But just as in certain mismanaged
12 areas of Africa, animals who have experienced
13 hunting pressure and are wary of humans do not
14 bring in much-needed tourist revenue because
15 they are too difficult for tourists to view.

16 You can keep wildlife -- you can keep
17 more wildlife tourist dollars here in the United
18 States, but only if you don't give up on them
19 before the job is done.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

22 Next speaker.

1 MS. AROADHEAD: My name is Elaine
2 Aroadhead. I live in Virginia. And I want to
3 talk about the humane aspect -- the inhumane
4 aspects of delisting.

5 This brings out all of the fear and
6 hate and allows something like this to happen,
7 which I have just come from Europe, and I hope
8 that this would never be allowed. This is a
9 picture of a man grinning while a wolf is
10 agonizing in a trap.

11 Is this what we do in a civilized
12 country? I have just come back from Italy.
13 Wolves are fully protected, and, not only that,
14 the shepherds are given dogs. They are given by
15 the region. Leg traps are not allowed, and the
16 people cohabit.

17 I don't say they love the wolves.
18 This happens, but they cohabit, and they do not
19 allow this behavior.

20 Are we any less civil than the
21 Europeans?

22 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

1 Could you spell your name for record?

2 MS. AROADHEAD: A-r-o-a-d-h-e-a-d.

3 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

4 Next speaker.

5 MR. SCHULTZ: My name is Connor
6 Schultz, C-o-n-n-o-r, S-c-h-u-l-t-z. And I'm
7 with the National Campaign Office of the Sierra
8 Club.

9 The Sierra Club considers the
10 recovery and reintroduction of the wolf a great
11 ESA success story. But if we stop now before
12 it's done, decades of hard work could be
13 negated.

14 To paraphrase Joe Biden, Bringing the
15 wolf back from the brink is a big freakin' deal.

16 Wolves are emblematic of America's
17 last wild areas and our nation's wildlife scene
18 and serve as a reminder of the strength and
19 beauty of the natural world.

20 They're vitally important to
21 maintaining the natural balance, cutting out
22 weak and sick animals to keep elk and deer

1 populations in check and healthy.

2 The rippling benefits of wolf
3 reintroduction in Yellowstone can be seen
4 throughout the region from the re-appearance of
5 the Willow and Aspen trees, to the return of
6 the Beavers and increased population to the Red
7 Foxes.

8 There's even an economy growing for
9 wildlife here. These benefits could be enjoyed
10 elsewhere if the wolf is properly reintroduced
11 to its original range. The proposal to delist
12 is based on a single study that has not been
13 peer reviewed and relies on a wildlife
14 classification theory that is not generally
15 accepted within the scientific community.

16 There are few, if any, wolves in most
17 of their home ranges today.

18 The Sierra Club feels that now is the
19 time to hunker down and finish the job of wolf
20 recovery, not abandon wolves to the kind of
21 destructive forces that endangered them in the
22 first place.

1 Thank you for holding this hearing,
2 for reviewing the science, and for allowing us
3 to testify. We urge you to protect the wolf and
4 keep the species in the American wilderness,
5 where it belongs, not just in the American
6 Museum of Natural History.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

9 Next speaker.

10 MS. HUTA: My name is Leda Huta,
11 L-e-d-a, H-u-t-a. I'm the Executive Director
12 of the Endangered Species Coalition, which is
13 comprised of hundreds of member groups, from
14 national to local environmental organizations
15 across the country, as well as scientific,
16 faith, outdoor recreation, community and other
17 groups.

18 Together our groups represent
19 millions of Americans, such as those who are
20 here tonight. We care about wildlife and want
21 to see America's threatened and endangered
22 species protected.

1 It's been an honor for me to hear each
2 one of these stories from the heart. And with
3 so much joy that our members have had witnessing
4 the reintroduction of the Wolf to Yellowstone in
5 1995, it's sad to see that work undone. Those
6 are brave and important times for Fish and
7 Wildlife Service.

8 Americans continue to support wolves
9 in overwhelming numbers. Polls consistently
10 show a support for native species, including
11 wolves specifically. 84 percent of Americans
12 support the Endangered Species Act. 87 percent
13 believe that the Gray Wolf is a vital part of
14 America's wilderness and natural heritage. And
15 92 percent favor science over politics when
16 making wildlife decisions; however, today our
17 members are disheartened to see the disregard of
18 science around the wolf. The Gray Wolf reigns
19 throughout the United States and deserves to be
20 protected in all of its suitable habitats.

21 Wolf scientists stated in their May
22 letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service, we

1 do not believe that the rule reflects the
2 conclusions of our work or the best-available
3 science concerning the recovery of wolves, or is
4 in accordance with the fundamental purpose of
5 the Endangered Species Act.

6 The Fish and Wildlife Service did an
7 incredible job bringing back the Bald Eagle, and
8 the wolves deserve the same exact treatment as
9 the Bald Eagle, to be delisted only when the job
10 is done.

11 The Endangered Species Coalition has
12 already gathered more than 50,000 comments
13 calling for the continued protections of the
14 wolves in the lower 48. Together our member
15 groups have already gathered more than 500,000
16 letters. And these are from individuals from
17 across the country, not from liberal bastion of
18 certain cities. These are individuals such as
19 Jody Young from Lakeside, Arizona; Barbara
20 Trocher from Larchmont, New York; Nicole
21 Hatfield, Kingwood, Texas; Diana Posner,
22 Olympia, Washington; Jonathan --

1 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you very much.
2 Next speaker, please.

3 MS. CHENGERIAN: Hi. I'm Ashley
4 Chengerian, C-h-e-n-g-e-r-i-a-n, and I'm from
5 New York City. I took a vacation day from work
6 today so that I could be here on behalf of the
7 Gray Wolf.

8 I want to give an example past the
9 lower 48 with regards to tourism and estimate
10 records.

11 This past spring, I decided to take a
12 real vacation to Alaska. As a National Parks
13 Department site, Denali one of the best places
14 in the world to see wild wolves. I spent
15 thousand of dollars on the trip.

16 After days inside the park visiting
17 the deepest parts accessible and talking to
18 various park rangers, tour guides and local
19 residents, I soon learned that their total
20 population in the entire park was actually 45
21 individuals, a number which has never been
22 recorded as so low in the survey data from

1 1986 through today.

2 Throughout the world, we constantly
3 hear of species in peril. Just this summer,
4 Africa's Western Black Rhino was declared
5 officially extinct. How then do we jeopardize
6 the livelihood of the Gray Wolf, a symbol of
7 American as strong as the Bald Eagle and Bison?

8 The urgency of protecting wolves is
9 not a matter for future generations. It is a
10 responsibility our country must face today.

11 I ask you to keep the Gray Wolf listed
12 for the sake of our nation's ecology and economy
13 and so that a tourist like me may one day
14 experience the siting of a wild wolf.

15 Thank you so much for your time.

16 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

17 Next speaker, please.

18 MR. EVANS: Hi. My name is Brock
19 Evans. I've been working at the Endangered
20 Species Institute for the past 40 years, and
21 I'm here representing the Federation of Western
22 Outdoor Clubs, which is active in the western

1 states right now. We have some very strong
2 concerns and disagreements with the proposed
3 rule.

4 There's already been so much eloquent
5 testimony here, I don't want to repeat it all
6 over again, but I'd like to just disclose three
7 observations.

8 First, that the clear mandate of the
9 Endangered Species Act is that science rules.
10 When they're speaking of science determining
11 whether a species is endangered or not, they
12 didn't mean political science. They meant
13 biological science when they said this sort of
14 thing. And that's very, very important. That's
15 number one. Science really rules. Real science
16 rules.

17 Secondly, there's been a lot of talk
18 about recovery and what the standards are for
19 recovery and things like that. Well, I don't
20 know all the legalities of it, but surely
21 recovery has to mean real recovery, really doing
22 the job to real health, not just fragments here

1 and there, but to real health so that there can
2 be no question that the job isn't only halfway
3 done.

4 Finally, back to you folks, and I know
5 many of you personally. I think you guys are
6 great. You've done a great job over the years
7 here. Remember who you are. Yes, it's your
8 area. You have to take all kinds of testimony.
9 But in your hearts and in your lives and in your
10 mission, you're stewards. You're guardians of
11 something.

12 A VOICE: Yeah.

13 MS. TRAVERS: Please. Please don't do
14 that while he's speaking.

15 MR. EVANS: You're guardians. You're
16 not here calling balls and strikes, impartial or
17 anything like that. You are stewards of a real
18 treasure, an irreplaceable treasure, and you're
19 not supposed to give it away. You've taken us a
20 long way to get there in the last 20 years.
21 Stay the course. Don't blow it now.

22 Thank you.

1 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

2 Next speaker, please.

3 MS. HOLMES: Hello. My names is Susan
4 Holmes, H-o-l-m-e-s. And I'm here today on
5 behalf of myself and my husband and our two
6 children, Aubrey, she's age six, and Catherine,
7 age nine. And I'm here to speak in opposition
8 to the proposed rule to remove the Gray Wolf
9 from the Endangered Species List.

10 This summer, my family traveled to
11 Yellowstone National Park. And thanks to the
12 leadership and the boldness of the Fish and
13 Wildlife Services in the 1990s, we were able to
14 experience wolves.

15 In the early dawn, we went to Lamar
16 Valley, and there we watched a wolf pack playing
17 and feeding in a meadow. It was for me and my
18 children an opportunity to truly connect with
19 the wild, and it was definitely the highlight of
20 our trip.

21 Yet as so many people have said, the
22 job of wolf recovery is far from done. Today

1 roughly 5,000 wolves account for only about 5
2 percent of the animal's historic range.
3 Establishing wolf populations in the remaining
4 habitat in the Northeast, Southern Rocky
5 Mountains, Southwest and Pacific Northwest,
6 would secure a future for wolves and allow the
7 wolves to play an important ecological role in
8 more of their former range.

9 As other people have said, they are
10 critical to keeping an ecosystem whole, not only
11 as a symbol of wild, but something that can
12 restore wild places.

13 Our nations leading conservation and
14 wolf biologists agree that now is not the time
15 to remove wolves from the Endangered Species
16 Act. They believe that if we abandon wolf
17 protection now, we will put wolf recovery across
18 the lower 48 at serious risk.

19 As a former New Englander, I one day
20 dream of a time when we can experience wolves in
21 the east. According to scientists from the
22 Wildlife Conservation Society, Maine has an

1 excellent habitat that can support a population
2 of at least 575 wolves.

3 I urge Secretary Jewell to heed the
4 concerns of our nation's biologists and families
5 like mine and to continue protection and
6 restoration of the Gray Wolf so that this dream
7 can some day become a reality.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

10 Next speaker.

11 MR. KUKOVICH: Good evening. My
12 name is Ken Kukovich, K-u-k-o-v-i-c-h. I'm
13 representing myself, my family, my children, and
14 all their children into the future.

15 I do not support the U.S. Fish and
16 Wildlife proposal to remove the Gray Wolf from
17 the list of endangered and threatened wildlife.
18 As a person who grew up roaming and exploring
19 the woods, enjoying the presence of wildlife and
20 hunting with my father, I strongly support the
21 continued protection of the Gray Wolf under the
22 Endangered Species Act.

1 Removing wolves from the
2 Endangered Species Act threatens to reverse
3 gains made in their population sizes in recent
4 years. Without protection, they will once again
5 become vulnerable to being hunted to extinction.

6 In fact, this is now what has been
7 potentially set in motion in Wyoming, Idaho and
8 Montana, three states where wolves are no longer
9 Federally protected and are left to state
10 management.

11 In these states, it has become open
12 season on hunting wolves. In Montana there was
13 even a Facebook page that promotes and
14 celebrates the killing of wolves.

15 During the past two years, hunters
16 have killed nearly 1,200 wolves since they were
17 delisted as a protected species in these three
18 states. Unlike most other game, wolves do not
19 provide a source of food to hunters.

20 In the case of Montana, hunting season
21 for wolves began on September 15th. And as of
22 that date, nearly 6,000 state residents, at a

1 cost of \$19 each, had purchased licenses to
2 hunt the remaining 625 wolves in the state. An
3 additional 370 out-of-state hunters also
4 purchased a hunting license. There's also
5 hunters, trappers and archers that significantly
6 outnumber the remaining 600 wolves.

7 In the case of Idaho, hunters and
8 trappers killed 698 wolves during the last two
9 seasons which was more than the estimated
10 population of 683 wolves at the end of 2012.

11 I strongly urge you to not delist the
12 Gray Wolf.

13 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. I'd like to
14 call the next ten names in the interest of time.

15 Denise Gallagher, Judy Stobbe, Nardi
16 Hobler, Rosemary Callahan, Judith Miller, Diana
17 Paulsen, Kelin Waters, Spencer Wilhem, Madeleine
18 Carey, Gary Stillman.

19 Next speaker, please.

20 MR. BROWNE: Hi. My name is Brooks
21 Browne. That's B-r-o-o-k-s, B-r-o-w-n-e. And
22 I'm here representing myself. And my position

1 is that the Fish and Wildlife Services should
2 not support proposal to delist the Gray Wolf.

3 So we've heard a lot of great
4 speakers, but what has all this got to do with
5 securing wolves from extinction? Well, you've
6 heard the numbers about where the wolves have
7 already been delisted. You've heard what the
8 states have done. You've just heard another
9 speaker talk about the numbers of hunting
10 permits and so on.

11 Wherever you're getting your numbers,
12 I think they need to be updated. Yes, we've
13 exceeded conservation goals in that region, and
14 those are sort of black and white numbers that
15 you all look at. But I'm not really optimistic
16 that wolves have completely taken hold, even in
17 the areas where they've been delisted.

18 And let's look at Apex predators in
19 general. I just got back from Africa having
20 done some volunteer work with cheetahs. I was
21 in Southern Africa in Namibia. Cheetahs have a
22 viable population in Southern Africa, at least

1 in Namibia. There may be 10,000 left. But
2 cheetahs used to be all over Africa, all over
3 India, all over the Middle East. There are few
4 left in Iran, but they're in less than 28
5 countries now. And I'm not sure that with the
6 size of Namibia they're a really sustainable
7 population.

8 The same could be said of the Black
9 Rhino. The tiger you could just forget about.
10 It's almost gone. There's more in captivity
11 than in the wild, and so on.

12 So even though we have what, quote,
13 unquote, might be sustainable populations,
14 viable populations, in places where you've
15 delisted, I don't believe that, with all the
16 hunting and everything else going on, that we
17 can really sit back and feel secure that the job
18 is done.

19 I don't think it is. I think there
20 are many ecological reasons to promote wolves in
21 other states, and so I hope you can do what you
22 can do to do the right thing.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

3 Next speaker, please.

4 MR. WILHEM: Good evening, gentlemen.

5 My name is Spencer Wilhem, S-p-e-n-c-e-r,

6 W-i-l-h-e-m.

7 I was born and raised and Wyoming.

8 I've also lived in Washington State and Arizona

9 and all during the time of the wolf return.

10 I'm a former hunter and a livestock

11 owner, and I now live in New York. And I'm the

12 operations manager of the Wolf Conservation

13 Center. I'm here to speak on their behalf.

14 The Wolf Conservation Center believes,

15 and with the scientific experts agrees, that

16 national delisting at this time is seen as

17 premature.

18 We've heard a lot about all these

19 ecosystems that can still support the wolf.

20 In fact, you can actually hear many of them

21 screaming for the return of this keystone

22 species.

1 Now, it's supposed to be about
2 science, but, yes, there's money in it, too.
3 Every year the Wolf Conservation Center, we take
4 small groups to the Rocky Mountain States for
5 the sole purpose of seeing wolves in their
6 native landscapes.

7 Now, within just two short weeks, we
8 disbursed nearly \$60,000 in tourism spending
9 into those local communities.

10 Now, what can these benefits be for
11 the ecosystems or environments that don't have
12 wolves but could? All right.

13 And lastly, if U.S. Fish and Wildlife
14 Service continues to move forward with this
15 premature delisting, in spite of listening to
16 the best-available science and the fact that a
17 majority of the Americans do support wolves as
18 part of our wilderness and our heritage, then
19 we're going to be opening the door to more
20 political assaults on wolves and other imperiled
21 species.

22 Now, we almost came close to

1 exterminating the wolf once before. The
2 Endangered Species Act gave us a second chance
3 to right this wrong. Well, now, delisting is a
4 political decision. For the sake of wolves, the
5 environment and the integrity of science, we ask
6 you, we urge you not to kill so many years of
7 recovery.

8 Thanks.

9 Oh, and, by the way, my six-year-old
10 daughter came to join us tonight, as well.

11 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

12 Next speaker, please.

13 MS. FALLON: My name is Sylvia Fallon,
14 F-a-l-l-o-n. I'm a director of the Wildlife
15 Conservation Project for NRDC, the Natural
16 Resources Defense Council. And on behalf of our
17 more than 4 million members and activists, we'll
18 be submitting detailed written comments on the
19 Service's proposal to remove the endangered
20 species protections from Gray Wolves across most
21 of the U.S.

22 But as a scientist, I wanted to use

1 this opportunity to express my concern about one
2 of the most troubling aspects of the Service's
3 proposal, which is its use of science. And, in
4 particular, I am troubled by the Service's
5 involvement in and relying on the Chambers
6 taxonomic review.

7 While the Service provided that it
8 just wanted an evaluation of the scientific
9 information, the Chambers document simply is not
10 an effective independent evaluation of the
11 taxonomy of Canid. The Chambers document was
12 created by four agency biologists who were
13 directed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
14 to identify alternative taxonomic units for
15 managing the wolves under the Endangered Species
16 Act; that is, the study was motivated by the
17 Service's desire to address a specific policy
18 issue.

19 It was conducted exclusively by agency
20 biologists, and the results were then published
21 in the Fish and Wildlife Service Journal. None
22 of this is reflective best-available science

1 standard. And, in fact, this approach goes far
2 afield from the Service's long-held practice of
3 relying only on standard taxonomic distinction,
4 as is determined by the biological expertise of
5 the scientific community.

6 By creating, publishing and accepting
7 the Chambers document, what the Service has done
8 has effectively trumped the science of the
9 process by declaring an outcome in an area of
10 active research in a way that has significant
11 policy implications for the management of wolves
12 in the U.S.

13 We believe the best course of action
14 for the service is to abandon its reliance on
15 the Chambers review and continue to recognize
16 the Gray Wolf as a species that historically
17 occupies much of the lower 48 states, including
18 the Eastern U.S.

19 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

20 Next presenter, please.

21 MS. GALLAGHER: My name is Denise
22 Gallagher, G-a-l-l-a-g-h-e-r.

1 Last year I visited Wyoming and
2 Montana. I was awed and amazed by the beauty
3 contained within these states. I hoped and
4 prayed that I would be privileged to see a wolf
5 or wolf family during my stay. I never did, but
6 I hold out the hope that I might in the future.

7 I want my children and their children
8 to be able to have the hope of seeing a wolf in
9 the wild and the large diversity of other
10 wildlife, as well.

11 If the Fish and Wildlife Service
12 delists the wolf now before the species is fully
13 recovered, that hope may be lost. If the wolf
14 is delisted now, we defeat the original purpose
15 of the Endangered Species Act, which is to
16 preserve the diversity of wildlife in our own
17 country, regardless of what is happening
18 globally.

19 When we have stayed the course in the
20 past, we have succeeded in recovering other
21 endangered species. Let's stick with policies
22 that have worked in the past when it comes to

1 the wolf so that this species has the greatest
2 chance for recovery.

3 Wolves deserve it. Americans want it.
4 Decisions should be made not for the benefit of
5 special interests, but for the benefit of all
6 Americans who deserve to have the full diversity
7 of wildlife preserved in their country.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. TRAVERS: Denise, could you spell
10 last name for the record?

11 MS. GALLAGHER: D-e-n-i-s-e.
12 Gallagher, G-a-l-l-a-g-h-e-r.

13 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

14 Next speaker.

15 MR. MANFULL: Hi. My name is James
16 Manfull, M-a-n-f-u-l-l. And I'm speaking for
17 myself and on behalf of the national nonprofit,
18 Living With Wolves. And first I'd like to
19 commend U.S. Fish and Wildlife for its success
20 and their hard work, but I think it's qualified
21 success. And to hear the tone of U.S. Fish and
22 Wildlife Service, lately it sounds as though the

1 goalpost has simply moved.

2 They're saying now that we're done.
3 We've reached the goal. We can walk away. But
4 wolves have yet to return to much of the
5 available habitat that they historically belong,
6 places where the land continues to feel their
7 absence since they were wiped out so many years
8 ago.

9 And the record shows what delisting
10 will bring. In the states where the ESA
11 protections have already been completely
12 removed, wolves are aggressively hunted. The
13 wolf numbers are in decline right now today even
14 without this proposed delisting.

15 So it raises the question, why delist
16 wolves nationwide when nearly every wolf in the
17 lower 48 lives and dies in a place where they've
18 already been delisted?

19 The proposal would, in essence,
20 declare wolves recovered in all of their former
21 range, including Colorado, Utah, California and
22 Nevada. So think about that. We're saying

1 we're finding wolves recovered in places where
2 there are no wolves.

3 The Endangered Species Act was
4 designed specifically to ensure that our
5 national heritage of wild places and wild
6 creatures would not be subverted by economic
7 expediency and local politics.

8 If we move forward with this proposal,
9 it will mean that politics and money have the
10 final say. Not science, not common sense, not
11 our heritage and not our posterity. Uphold the
12 Endangered Species Act, please, and allow the
13 wolf to recover.

14 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

15 Next speaker.

16 MS. MILLER: Good evening. My name is
17 Judith Miller. I have come here from Florida to
18 speak out for our American Gray Wolves.

19 I oppose this proposal that the U.S.
20 Fish and Wildlife Service has announced to
21 delist wolves from the Endangered Species Act.
22 I am also hand-delivering with me a folder full

1 of comments and signatures from people of
2 several states who couldn't make it here to this
3 hearing that also oppose the proposal to delist
4 our American wolves from the endangered species
5 list.

6 I emphasize on our American wolves
7 because, we may have created borders that
8 represent states, but we are united as one
9 country. And as a U.S. Citizen I say, our
10 wolves need to be protected.

11 They are not Montana's wolves, Idaho
12 or Wisconsin's wolves. They are America's Gray
13 Wolves. They are to be respected as a predator
14 that is an important part of our wild lands, of
15 our natural heritage.

16 We have many studies now that gives
17 insight and knowledge of the vital role wolves
18 play for healthy, abundant ecosystems. They
19 contradict the fairytales and lies that some
20 people choose to continue to believe, and others
21 make big money from, of the Big Bad Wolf image.

22 We know now that state management does

1 not work. We see how Idaho, Montana, Wisconsin
2 and others promote, in every way, to exterminate
3 wolves with snares, traps, poisons, shoot on
4 sight and even wolf hounding.

5 It's not about wolf management to
6 these states. It's about destroying wolves.
7 They pass corrupt laws and allow heinous
8 activity that is criminal and unethical.

9 Taking wolves off the list already
10 in select regions has been a death warrant for
11 wolves. With this kind of mentality in state
12 management, surely taking wolves off the
13 Endangered Species List in all of the 48 states
14 will continue this terrorism on our wolves, on
15 our wildlife, until all of them are dead.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you, ma'am.

18 Next speaker, please.

19 MS. STOBBE: I'm Judy Stobbe.

20 J-u-d-y, S-t-o-b-b-e.

21 I've been devoted to wolves since
22 2006, and I am very opposed to the Obama

1 Administration's proposal to eliminate a
2 essential federal protections for our Gray
3 Wolves.

4 Recently, Roy and I visited Busch
5 Gardens, Williamsburg, Virginia, and we were
6 thrilled to happen upon their newly introduced
7 wolf program.

8 The family included young adults,
9 an older wolf, almost white. He was learning
10 husbandry skills from a trainer that was right
11 next to him, and wolf pups that came out at
12 5:45. Their mother was a surrogate brown
13 spotted Dalmatian and they minded her.

14 The young adults were being trained
15 to be integrated into a wolf pack, and soon.
16 And these wolves came from a wildlife refuge in
17 Montana. I have read books about wolves. They
18 are, without question, part of the fabric of the
19 heritage of our nation, and every bit as
20 important as the early ranchers who settled out
21 west and soon became more territorial than the
22 Gray Wolves themselves.

1 The Gray Wolf was the guide to
2 Indians, keeping them out of harm's way, howling
3 on a rock to warn them of impending danger as
4 the Native Americans made their way on their
5 nomadic journey in the thaw.

6 Our Gray Wolves are not political
7 pawns to get through budget crises as they were
8 March 30th, 2011, when they were literally the
9 victim of a closet deal with Obama and John
10 Lamb.

11 We know they're predatory, and we've
12 heard that they are necessary for balance of
13 ecosystems. They don't attack sheep if they're
14 guided away from them.

15 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you very much.

16 Next speaker, please.

17 MS. CAREY: My name is Madeleine
18 Carey, M-a-d-e-l-e-i-n-e, C-a-r-e-y. I'm from
19 Albuquerque, New Mexico, where the wolves have
20 been part of my life for a very long time. I
21 even had the privilege to work with captive
22 populations on ranches.

1 These days I live in Bedford,
2 Massachusetts, where I attend Tufts University
3 and am studying biology and urban studies.

4 My interests lie not in ecology or
5 anthropology but the intersection of the two,
6 how we can live in harmony with wild things.

7 I'm here today because of my personal
8 conviction that it is our duty as westerners,
9 Americans and scientists to manage and preserve
10 our natural resources in a way that is ethical,
11 economically sustainable and ecologically
12 conscious.

13 But I'm also here because I can read
14 the science and the policy. I know things are
15 going well. I know there are certain boxes that
16 have been checked off. But I also know we're
17 not finished yet.

18 I feel you need connections with the
19 wolves of the west. They are like college
20 students, independent and strong, almost ready
21 to stand on their own in the real world. But
22 like me, the wolves are not ready for total

1 independence.

2 In time, I will be ready to take on
3 the world on my own. The same could be said for
4 the wolves. The populations have exceeded the
5 minimum recovery goals, and there are a good
6 number of breeding pairs in the wild. But
7 public perception of the wolves isn't quite
8 there.

9 So this is why I stand before you
10 today, to ask you to Federally protect all
11 wolves. The cultural climate is not allowing
12 the science to succeed. If we want to use
13 science to create best management practices, we
14 have to find a way for the science to talk to
15 the real world and for the real world to
16 understand the science.

17 It's an undeniable fact that a
18 landscape with the wolf is healthier and more
19 robust than a landscape without.

20 I ask you, on behalf of the youth of
21 America, to finish what you started and leave us
22 with a west that we will be proud to fight for

1 and a precedent that gives us the means to do
2 so.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

5 Next speaker, please.

6 MS. HOBLER: I'm Nardi Hobler. That's
7 N-a-r-d-i, H-o-b-l-e-r.

8 I came from St. Louis to speak as a
9 private individual and on behalf of the
10 Endangered Wolf Center.

11 Wolves have been in the cross hairs
12 of my heart since 1972 when the late Carol and
13 Marlin Perkins, along with Dr. Michael W. Fox
14 and others concerned about the wolf founded the
15 Wild Canid Survival Research Center, now called
16 the Endangered Wolf Center.

17 On behalf of the Endangered Wolf
18 Center, I wish to state we do not favor the
19 premature delisting of the Gray Wolf. The
20 proposal fails to define important specifics
21 in regard to the protection for the Mexican Gray
22 Wolves, which may end up causing delays in its

1 recovery efforts.

2 Further, world-renowned scientists
3 voice opposition to Gray Wolf delisting. The
4 species has not fully recovered in much of its
5 historic range, still absent in California,
6 Colorado and Utah. And they oppose, as do I,
7 handing over the wolf management to the
8 individual states, not to be shown as successful
9 with such small populations.

10 I'm not going to deliver numbers of
11 dead wolves. But the yearly wolf kill in many
12 states is simply unsustainable, and it will
13 devastate the Gray Wolf population.

14 From Dr. Michael Fox, the
15 following statement: Hunting damages wolf pack
16 structure, does not serve to resolve or reduce
17 verified livestock degradations, nor does it
18 increase local public acceptance of the wolf.
19 It serves only the interests of those who enjoy
20 and profit from shooting and trapping wolves.
21 With the wolf hunt beginning tomorrow in
22 Wyoming, no wolf is safe.

1 The state has designated to reduce
2 Wyoming's wolf population by 60 percent, leaving
3 just 100 Gray Wolves outside of Yellowstone.

4 At the beginning of my remarks I used
5 the word cross hairs. That's exactly where our
6 wolves stand today.

7 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. Thank you.
8 Next presenter, please.

9 MS. WATERS: My name is K-e-l-i-n.
10 Waters. I come to you today hoping to change
11 your minds. The past few years have seen a
12 country ravaged by war, divided by opposition
13 and devastated by loss. I speak not about the
14 tragedies suffered by our men and women
15 overseas, but by the current ridiculous campaign
16 to exterminate wolves. And it is, in a word,
17 ridiculous to allow Gray Wolves to be removed
18 from the Endangered Species List. Just the
19 proposal of such maneuver brought about the
20 slaughter of thousands of wolves, including
21 defenseless pups.

22 They have been shot, gassed,

1 strangled, bled dry in traps, and then hung or
2 mounted like trophies, such a bitter end to such
3 a graceful and magnificent animal. No creature
4 deserves to be killed in such a manner.

5 And, of course, because you are
6 impartial and have listened to several experts
7 and have heard extensive amount of facts about
8 Gray Wolves, I will stick to what I feel is
9 best, and that is the truth.

10 If removed from their protected
11 status, wolves will be wiped out in this
12 country. Since the initial proposal, there has
13 been a systematic attempt to rid this country of
14 wolves, headed by ranchers and big game hunters
15 and funded by, honestly, ignorant government
16 officials, using outdated research as a basis
17 for their, honestly, baseless accusations about
18 these animals as a nuance and a danger.

19 Human beings are supposed to be the
20 most advanced species, and, honestly, with so
21 much technology at our disposal, it is amazing
22 that we still continue to resort to the most

1 basic and brutal of solutions in order to solve
2 what we perceive to be a problem.

3 We claim to be a superior species,
4 and if that is the truth, then we can come up
5 with a reasonable compromise to live in harmony
6 with wolves. And, honestly, what it comes down
7 to is will. Wolves have shown a resilience that
8 rivals our own. They want to be --

9 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you very much.
10 We need the next speaker, please.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. PAULSEN: Good evening. My name
13 is Diana Paulsen, P-a-u-l-s-e-n.

14 I absolutely do not support the
15 Service's proposal to delist the Gray Wolf and
16 abandon the original intent of the Act. Wolf
17 recovery is not yet complete. It is too early
18 to declare victory and walk away, stripping
19 wolves of the vital ESA's protection.

20 I have always thought of America as
21 a leader in the world concerning global issues,
22 such as medical and scientific research,

1 programs to aid those worldwide with hunger and
2 disease, paving the way for household product
3 companies and cosmetic industries to end animal
4 testing in their labs and establishing
5 organizations such as ASPCA, HSUS, Defenders of
6 Wildlife, just to name a few, to be the voice of
7 wildlife across the world.

8 Learning to coexist with all the human
9 and animal beings on our planet is a challenge,
10 but one we are most capable of achieving.
11 A nation can be judged on how it regards human
12 and animal life.

13 Proverbs 12:10 states, that a
14 righteous man regards the life of his beast.
15 When God gave man dominion over the earth, that
16 meant that we are to act as God's stewards in
17 caring for and protecting, with compassion, what
18 happens on the earth, for all inhabitants, human
19 and animal.

20 Please keep the magnificent wolf under
21 the protection of the ESA and let those with the
22 knowledge pioneer creative and equal strategies

1 for promoting coexistence between wolves and
2 man.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

5 Next speaker, please.

6 MS. CALLAHAN: Hi. I'm Rosemary
7 Callahan, C-a-l-l-a-h-a-n. I'm basically
8 representing myself. I'm not a scientist. Many
9 other people have made very eloquent arguments
10 as to why the wolves should not be delisted.
11 And I could not say anything more than they have
12 already said, except that we need to protect
13 these animals and keep them on the Endangered
14 Species List because we do not live in a perfect
15 world. In a perfect world, you wouldn't need
16 the Endangered Species List.

17 We're seeing what's happening in the
18 states where we've already delisted these
19 animals, and to have this fantasy that the other
20 states will not respond in the same manner is
21 unconscionable, and it is disappointing to the
22 American public, who has put their trust in you

1 to safeguards these animals.

2 You came up here yourselves and showed
3 us a PowerPoint at the beginning of this, trying
4 to show us how successfully wolves have been
5 reestablished.

6 This PowerPoint covered less than
7 10 percent of the country. If these wolves were
8 reestablished the way that you say they are, you
9 would see them the way we're seeing American
10 Eagles.

11 We're not seeing that. We're seeing
12 people going out and hunting and killing them
13 off entirely in the states where they have been
14 delisted. We need to safeguard these animals
15 for our children and for the American public,
16 who, as a majority, do not support what you're
17 doing now.

18 And to think -- also, another thing to
19 keep in mind is that the Federal government may
20 be cutting your budget, but the state budgets
21 have been devastated, even as these states were
22 willing to endorse protecting these animals.

1 They don't have the budgets to do it. Only the
2 Federal government can do this. And we really
3 need to remember that and try to protect these
4 animals because that's what the American people
5 want.

6 We don't want the NRA and farmers
7 and ranchers determining the fate of an entire
8 species. Because once you start with the
9 wolves, they're going to get rid of every other
10 animal that they can.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

13 Next speaker, please. Next speaker,
14 please.

15 Okay. I'm going to call the list.

16 Christine McMurry. Robin Russell.
17 Robert Wilkinson, Frederick Monroe, Amanda
18 Milster, John Gmrorer, Nancy Corey.

19 Speaker, please.

20 MR. GMRORER: Good evening. My name
21 is John Gmrorer. First name J-o-h-n. Last name
22 G-m-r-o-r-e-r. I've come here from New Jersey.

1 And I'm simply a taxpayer who's being forced to
2 pay for this madness. And I'm here to speak
3 tonight on behalf of the wolves and ask that
4 they not be delisted.

5 I have a passion for visiting the
6 national parks, the parks which you are supposed
7 to protect.

8 Last year, while visiting Montana and
9 visiting Glacier National Park, outside the park
10 at a restaurant/bar there was a sign, bring in a
11 dead wolf, get a free pizza. I'm wondering how
12 many pizzas you're going to be supporting with
13 the delisting of these Gray Wolves.

14 Last month I spent 10 days in
15 Yellowstone in the Grand Tetons, my third visit
16 to those parks. I've yet to see a Gray Wolf at
17 those parks, even though they're supposed to be
18 there. I was there with thousands of Americans
19 and busloads of European, Japanese, Chinese
20 travelers, who traveled thousands of miles to
21 our national parks just to see those animals.

22 While the park rangers are nice

1 people, we're not there to see the park rangers.
2 We're there to see the animals.

3 I hiked over 60 miles on trails. And
4 while the trail-heads had warnings of bear and
5 wolf territory, the only recent sightings were
6 those of bears. There were no recent wolf
7 sightings.

8 And the other thing I need to add is,
9 with all those tourists and tourists' dollars
10 that are coming into this country, and now the
11 government is proposing to delist these animals,
12 which they will be slaughtered, it's no wonder
13 we're about to go broke and shut down.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

16 Next speaker, please.

17 MS. MILSTER: My name is Amanda
18 Milster, A-m-a-n-d-a, M-i-l-s-t-e-r.

19 I'll keep this short and simple. This
20 probably won't be anything you already haven't
21 heard, but I do oppose this decision to delist
22 the Gray Wolf.

1 The purpose of the ESA is to protect
2 endangered species and the ecosystem upon which
3 they depend.

4 This proposal does not fulfill
5 this mission because it ignores vast areas of
6 suitable wolf habitat in which the wolf could
7 recover.

8 Although this decision is required to
9 be based upon science, several scientific
10 experts in the field have publicly stated that
11 this ruling does not accurately reflect their
12 work or the best-available science concerning
13 Gray Wolves.

14 The previous delisting of wolves
15 has lead to extremely aggressive and cruel
16 management practices that are clearly not based
17 upon science.

18 With continued protection, the
19 wolf can continue to recover and resume its
20 critical role as an Apex predator in our
21 ecosystems through more of its historic range.

22 I urge you to reconsider this proposal

1 and allow for the recovery of this iconic
2 species. It is a vital part of our national
3 history, culture and economy.

4 This decision does not reflect the
5 purpose of the ESA, the vital and strong law
6 that has allowed for the recovery of so many
7 species over the past 40 years.

8 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has
9 done great work bringing the wolf to this point.
10 Please see this job through so that my future
11 children and grandchildren can share our nation
12 with this amazing species.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

15 Next speaker, please.

16 MS. COREY: Hello. My name is Nancy
17 Corey, and I currently live in the State of
18 Connecticut. For several years I have been
19 aware of the challenges to wolves, endangered
20 species and our environment, in general. I have
21 endeavored to support each as I'm able.

22 I have often said that the wolf is a

1 painful animal to value, support and appreciate,
2 as the politics, the polarization and special
3 interests that challenge their recovery is
4 remarkable to me.

5 This was evident by the 2011 delisting
6 of the wolves of the Northern Rockies, which
7 marked the very first time ever in history
8 that a species was removed or added by way of
9 Congressional action, rather than sound science.

10 So whether you care about wolves or
11 not, allowing this delisting of the Gray Wolf
12 across most of the lower 48, to me, is a dire
13 predictor for the future of our environment, as
14 it falls even deeper into the hands of special
15 interest groups and away from the protections
16 that sound science, and once you, have afforded
17 them in times past.

18 Thank you for considering my comments.

19 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

20 Next speaker.

21 MR. RUSSELL: My name is Robin
22 Russell, R-u-s-s-e-l-l. And I'm here this

1 evening, along with everybody else, to ask you
2 to please reconsider the delisting of the Gray
3 Wolf.

4 Not to repeat, but I think it's
5 probably important to reiterate what everybody
6 has said, that the wolf reintroduction in 1995
7 was a historic milestone event, but it is
8 unfinished and it is incomplete.

9 Why would the United States end this
10 incredible project before it is completed? It
11 makes no sense. As your Director Ashe said, the
12 wolf is a keystone iconic North American
13 species, wiped out by man's greed and man's
14 ignorance, and then successfully saved.

15 The wolf is critical to a vital and
16 healthy ecosystem. There is overwhelming
17 support from the American public to protect
18 wolves, and it is staggering that, in light of
19 this, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are
20 trying to delist wolves even in places that they
21 currently do not exist. And to have the
22 audacity to do so in undemocratic ways and

1 without adequate public hearings, how can it be
2 that in the United States of America the will of
3 the majority is silenced by the interests of the
4 few?

5 If, after more thorough research, wolf
6 management is deemed a necessity, then and only
7 then should it be carried out in a scientific
8 and ethical manner, not left to individual
9 states and outdated barbaric methods.

10 The manner in which this delisting is
11 being carried out is unscientific, unethical and
12 most surely un-American.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

15 Next speaker, please.

16 MR. MONROE: Good evening. My name is
17 Dr. Frederick F. Monroe, M-o-n-r-o-e.

18 There are three sounds that evoke
19 some of our most primal feelings. They serve
20 to indelibly link us to our past frontier and
21 wilderness on which our forbearers settled; the
22 cry of the Loon, the scream of the Mountain Lion

1 and the howl of the Wolf.

2 In various times in my life, I've
3 worked as a field geologist and heard all of
4 them. In every instance, my respect for our
5 wilderness heritage has increased.

6 To permit the extermination of any of
7 these sound sources is to deny every American
8 citizen and our visitors a very fundamental
9 right to the understanding of and appreciation
10 of how nature has developed our history.

11 To be able to say to yourself, Lewis
12 and Clark heard these same sounds, brings to the
13 forefront a sense of history.

14 I have six children and seven
15 grandchildren, and I passionately want each
16 one of them to hear the sounds in person and be
17 thrilled by them, as I have been, without having
18 to spend great sums of money on empty vacation
19 trips.

20 The resettlement of wolves in the
21 U.S. has been one of our greatest conservation
22 accomplishments of my lifetime. It ranks up

1 there with Clean Water Act and is a
2 demonstration that the Endangered Species Act
3 actually works.

4 To throw such an achievement away
5 when there are proven ways to avoid the negative
6 aspects of very little thoughts, especially when
7 comparing the cost of the restoration efforts,
8 would be extreme dereliction of duty on the part
9 of the Federal government that should not be
10 condoned.

11 In this instance, it is not the duty
12 of the Fish and Wildlife Service to exacerbate
13 the already radically skewed predator-prey
14 relationships, but to restore balance as soon as
15 possible.

16 Accordingly, I beg you to discontinue
17 all efforts to delist the Gray Wolf from the
18 protections given by the Endangered Species Act,
19 and, instead, redirect all your efforts
20 concerning this animal and its subspecies to the
21 reestablishment of its historic land range, not
22 only throughout the west and southwest, but also

1 along the Northern Tier to the Northeastern U.S.

2 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you, sir.

3 Could I please have the next
4 speaker?

5 MR. WILKINSON: Good evening. I'm
6 Robert Wilkinson, W-i-l-k-i-n-s-o-n. I come
7 here representing myself.

8 I agonized over how to present myself
9 here. Do I present myself as an environmental
10 science student majoring, and I will be
11 graduating three months from now, learning
12 from biologists like yourself how important
13 Apex predators are to the environment? Or do I
14 present myself as a hunter, not like the
15 individual from the Safari Club, who sits there
16 and goes on a find, hunting behind high fences
17 to be fair chase.

18 No. I'm a true hunter. I understand
19 what a predator is in the environment, how they
20 are needed in the environment, how my hunting is
21 made better by having them in the environment.

22 We sit here -- all of us are here

1 speaking for the wolves, yet we shouldn't be.
2 The delisting should come from hard science, not
3 political science. We're all wasting our time
4 here talking to you for a political process when
5 this should be a scientific process.

6 I thank every one of you who came out
7 here tonight to speak. Please, please do not
8 delist the wolf. Give it a chance.

9 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

10 Next speaker.

11 This hearing was scheduled to end at
12 8:30 p.m. Due to the large number of registered
13 speakers, we will take a five-minute break, and
14 then we'll reconvene and try to get to the rest
15 of the speakers.

16 Thank you. We are off the record.

17 (Recess taken.)

18 MS. TRAVERS: We are on the record.

19 What I would like to do is attempt to
20 get through the remainder of the speakers.

21 So we're going to call some more
22 names. Gary Stillman, Sarah Gam, Lisa Arken,

1 Lawrence Rosenblum, John Hadidian, Ellen Gordon,
2 John Hamilton, Francisco Santiago Avilla, Terri
3 Avmiol, Jaimye Bartak.

4 Could I please have the next speaker?

5 MR. ROSENBLUM: My name is Lawrence
6 Rosenblum, R-o-s-e-n-b-l-u-m. I'm a retired
7 physician, speaking on behalf of the wolves,
8 because they cannot speak for themselves.

9 They wisely, studiously avoid
10 all human contact. I think they are being
11 prematurely delisted, and I think everybody in
12 this room knows in their hearts that the current
13 program of leaving the wolf regulations to those
14 of the northwestern states is the same thing as
15 wolf removal.

16 I'm a graduate of Columbia College. I
17 have an BS with a major in Zoology, and I
18 learned three basic principles there about
19 zoology.

20 First, each creature is perfect in
21 its own way; secondly, life altogether is one
22 beautiful tapestry; and, third, cooperation in

1 nature is as important as competition.

2 President Obama also went to Columbia
3 College. I think he should have studied more
4 zoology and less political science. I think it
5 was foolish and cynical that he delisted the
6 wolf specifically from the Endangered Species
7 Act.

8 Wolves are an essential part of the
9 American environment and the Indians that lived
10 with them for is 13,000 years in harmony. Chief
11 Seattle of the Duwamish Tribe said, what is man
12 without the beasts. If all the beasts were
13 gone, men would die from a great loneliness of
14 the spirit, for whatever happens to the beast
15 also happens to man. All things are connected.
16 Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children
17 of the earth.

18 And in the words of John Trudell of
19 the Santee Sioux Tribe in the 20th Century said,
20 we must step into reality of natural rights,
21 because all of the natural world has a right to
22 existence. We are only a small part of it.

1 There could be no tradeoff.

2 With removal of the endangered species
3 protection from Gray Wolves, this should not be
4 a political or economic decision that has
5 profound implications regarding human values.

6 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you very much.

7 Next speaker, please.

8 Thank you.

9 Next speaker, please. We're --

10 A VOICE: Call some names.

11 MS. TRAVERS: I called ten names, sir.

12 A VOICE: Call more.

13 MS. BARTAK: My name is Jaimye Bartak.

14 That's J-a-i-m-y-e, B-a-r-t-a-k. And I've come
15 down from Boston, Massachusetts, to be here
16 tonight. Thank you for sticking it out so long.

17 I'm here to respectfully request that
18 you immediately withdraw your proposal to delist
19 the Gray Wolf from the Endangered Species
20 List.

21 I realize my reasons for coming here
22 tonight are based on three values: Prudence,

1 justice and trust.

2 First, since wolves were reintroduced
3 to the lower 48 using taxpayer dollars back when
4 I was a teenager, the ecological and economic
5 benefits have been well-documented. We've heard
6 about how wolves reduce overgrazing of elk and
7 the millions of tourists' dollars that wolves
8 attract.

9 I'm sure lots of businesses near
10 suitable wolf habitat would love to see that
11 kind of economic opportunity, such as places in
12 Colorado or Northern Maine, a state where I
13 lived for three years.

14 Yet the Fish and Wildlife Service
15 is giving up before wolves have even had a
16 chance to return to 95 percent of their historic
17 range.

18 Why are these areas being left out,
19 and why are millions of New Englanders and New
20 Yorkers, like myself, being denied the chance to
21 see wolves in their natural habitat close to
22 their homes.

1 Furthermore, how does this benefit
2 the majority of the American taxpayers? I don't
3 think you can reasonably say it does.

4 Second, your delisting plan apparently
5 does not take into account the extreme vitriol
6 that is directed towards this species. The wolf
7 is a target of vengeance and disrespect on
8 another scale than seemingly any other
9 endangered species.

10 For many people, wolves seem to be
11 a symbol of the Federal government and of a
12 threatening wild nature that must be defiled or
13 subdued. These are outdated and unfair views
14 that are often expressed in painful and
15 unethical, but perfectly legal, hunting and
16 trapping practices; for example, last year
17 a U.S. Forrest Service employee was
18 photographing himself smiling in front of a
19 trapped bleeding wolf that was surrounded by a
20 cheering crowd.

21 It kept me up for several nights
22 thinking about it. Anyone with half a heart

1 could see that the wolf is subject to unusual,
2 aggressive discrimination, which will be
3 unleashed in the form of a bloodbath once full
4 protections are removed.

5 Finally, we all know protections were
6 initially initiated by Congress for reasons that
7 had nothing do with do with science --

8 MR. TRAVERS: Thank you.

9 Next speaker, please.

10 MR. HADIDIAN: Good evening. My name
11 is John Hadidian, J-o-h-n, H-a-d-i-d-i-a-n. I
12 am the senior scientist of the Wildlife Program
13 at the Human Society of the United States.

14 We fully understand the many
15 challenges that this Service faces with wolf
16 conservation and protection and appreciate that
17 you are committed to using the best-available
18 science and commercial information in making
19 decisions.

20 That science and information should
21 reflect not on the biology of wolves, but on
22 their social dimension, as well; that is, how

1 people feel about them and act towards them.

2 To a large extent, our history of
3 interaction with wolves has been shameful,
4 recklessly exploitive and laden with a hatred
5 and prejudice that rarely, if ever, has been
6 directed at another wild species.

7 We have moved past the days when
8 the elimination of wolves from the landscape
9 was a dedicated commitment of State and Federal
10 agencies, not to mention private entities, into
11 an era where now at least the wolves and their
12 conservation and protection has a seat at the
13 table.

14 It is clear, however, that old
15 animosities are still alive and that little or
16 no tolerance exists for wolves in many parts of
17 their current and former range.

18 Even where they have reestablished a
19 toehold, wolves are viewed as a resource to be
20 exploited, not preserved, and every effort seems
21 to be made to commercialize them in what can
22 only be called a rush to kill. The Service's

1 various efforts to delist wolves have all been
2 premature and failed to meet the central point
3 in seeking their return, reestablishing the
4 viable presence within the historic range that
5 reintegrates the wolves into full and complete
6 ecosystems.

7 We lack the sufficient
8 understanding of wolf taxonomy, biogenetic
9 history, biogeography, habitat and range,
10 vulnerability of exploitation and disease,
11 behavior and social organization to allow a new
12 period of human exploitation of these animals to
13 be launched.

14 The precautionary principle which
15 we invoke here tells us it's better to be safe
16 than sorry. The best science and commercially
17 available information appears to suggest to us a
18 prudent, not reckless course of action.

19 Let's give wolves a chance. We owe
20 them least that much, if not more.

21 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you, sir.

22 I'm going to call ten more names: Kevin

1 Scrutch, Rob Ross, Dori Simmons, Patricia Soble.
2 Ryan Benson, Nicole Paquette, Patty McGrath,
3 Ines Castro, and Elizabeth Martin.

4 Next speaker, please.

5 MR. SCRUTCH: My name is Kevin
6 Scrutch. I represent more than 500 ranchers in
7 the State of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Utah.

8 I'm kidding, folks. I simply
9 represent myself.

10 I'm here to say thank you very much to
11 the Fish and Wildlife Service for the job you've
12 done so far, particularly in light of the fact
13 that you've been asked to implement and manage a
14 act which has a significant amount of ambiguity
15 to it.

16 What I'm referring to is, sitting
17 around this room tonight, listening to the term
18 recovery. It seems to me you could ask a
19 rancher in Cody, Wyoming, and a house husband in
20 Athens, Georgia, and get two different answers
21 to that question.

22 So I think this whole deal comes down

1 to, you have to define recovery, and then you
2 can implement it.

3 So if you look at it from a
4 data-driven standpoint or an anecdotal
5 standpoint, data-driven, I think it's pretty
6 clear that the science says that, historically,
7 we would not consider a species recovered at
8 this point. While we're done a great job in
9 what we've come to so far is a good start.

10 Anecdotally, I think you could ask
11 what would a reasonable person conclude when
12 you've restored eight percent of a former
13 terrain of habitat for a species, and I think
14 a reasonable person would say, that's a good
15 start, but that's not recovery.

16 The other thing that we haven't talked
17 about tonight, though, that's so important for
18 the Endangered Species Act is continuity. And
19 what the Endangered Species Act has done has
20 gotten as Americans and as a country to have
21 coalescence and tackle this issue united.

22 It's very difficult when you have

1 different states with different opinions trying
2 to restore a species. For example, I live in
3 Colorado. We heard testimony from Washington
4 State tonight. Colorado is not Washington
5 State.

6 I'm 51 years old, and, statistically,
7 I'll live for about another 26 or 27 years. For
8 the life of me, I can't see the likelihood of me
9 seeing the wolf in Colorado if we delist.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

12 Next speaker, please.

13 MR. HAMILTON: My name is John Kyle
14 Hamilton, H-a-m-i-l-t-o-n. I am 21 years old.
15 I'm living in Alexandria, and I'm here
16 representing the wolves, but I'm just saying
17 that for myself.

18 Since I was a little kid, I have
19 always loved wolves, and I have read up on them
20 and their habitats and everything. And I think
21 they are a huge part of our history and a huge
22 part of our society. And I think that

1 definitely delisting them would be a big
2 mistake, because, as so many people have said,
3 is that it's a little premature and it's not the
4 right time. And from what I've seen and from
5 what I've read, it's definitely a little
6 premature, if not more.

7 And I think that they should
8 definitely stay on the Endangered Species List
9 so that they can be protected against hunters
10 and ranchers and people who are just ignorant or
11 just simply hate them for not much of a -- no
12 real reason, is what I'm trying to say.

13 And I think that the bureaucracies are
14 really trying to get in the way of what should
15 really be done. Because, as some people have
16 said, this is something that should be
17 approached by scientists and people who know
18 science, to the point where they can figure out
19 the right approach to figuring out how to bring
20 the wolves back into the country and to keep
21 them safe. And I think that's all that I can
22 say.

1 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

2 Next speaker, please.

3 MR. ROSS: Hi. Name is Rob Ross,
4 R-o-b, R-o-s-s. And I am adamantly against this
5 proposed rule.

6 There was a time when this land was
7 filled with exponentially far more vegetation,
8 forest and animals. The indigenous people of
9 this land had no need to manage any of these
10 animals or the vegetation, because they knew how
11 to live in harmony with the land allowing nature
12 to do the managing.

13 They also understood the balance that
14 the creator had already put in place. And while
15 they were far outnumbered by all the animals,
16 they were never overrun, harmed or had to be
17 hunted by them.

18 We all know that all animals, big and
19 small, play a vital role in our ecosystem and
20 our environment as a whole.

21 The wolf has a particular important
22 part of the grand scheme of it all as an Apex

1 predator. My own personal connection to the
2 wolf runs very deep. It is both my brother and
3 it is also a part of my spirituality, a very
4 deep part of that.

5 They have tried to tell us that we
6 have been tearing this land apart. We don't
7 understand this, because we don't hear them.
8 It's time that we stop this insanity. We have
9 not recovered.

10 Do not delist them, please.

11 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you very much.

12 Next speaker, please.

13 MS. PAQUETTE: Hi. Good evening. My
14 name is Nicole Paquette, N-i-c-o-l-e,
15 P-a-q-u-e-t-t-e.

16 I'm here as the Vice President of
17 Wildlife for the Humane Society of the United
18 States. And we urge you to not delist the
19 still-recovering Gray Wolf from the Endangered
20 Species Act. We will also be submitting
21 detailed comments closer to the due date.

22 The Gray Wolf once roamed across the

1 United States in the hundreds of thousands;
2 however, Federally-funded eradication programs,
3 which lasted through the mid-1900s, bounty
4 programs, poisons, trapping and aerial shooting
5 nearly eliminated the Gray Wolf from the lower
6 48 states.

7 This proposal will now fully transfer
8 all management to the states and leave wolves
9 vulnerable to resumption of exploitation driven
10 by political pressure from ranchers and
11 trophy-hunting industries. While some states
12 have set up sound, capable management plans,
13 many others have taken a regressive, dangerous
14 approach by declaring them a game species.

15 When protections were removed from
16 the Gray Wolves in the Northern Rockies and the
17 Great Lakes, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana,
18 Wisconsin and Wyoming all rushed to enact state
19 regulations to authorize some of the most
20 abusive and unsporting practices, including
21 hound hunting, wire leg snares, night hunting,
22 and the use of painful steel dog leg fold traps.

1 Hunters and trappers in those five
2 states have actually killed more than 1,650
3 wolves if you add in the Great Lake states.
4 And this is just in the past two years alone.

5 And now Michigan is embarking on the
6 exact same program. Just this past weekend
7 hunting tags went on sale, and they're nearly
8 sold out. Michigan actually snubbed their nose
9 at the will of the people. They first passed a
10 law. The public actually went there. They
11 collected more than enough signatures. And
12 then, upon that, they actually then put it back
13 on the agenda and passed another law to make
14 them a game species.

15 This clearly is not science. This is
16 pure politics.

17 The Federal government should be
18 driving the nation toward full recovery of
19 wolves. This is a short-sighted proposal.

20 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

21 Next speaker, please.

22 MS. CASTRO: Hi. Thank you for

1 hearing me and staying here this late.

2 My name is Ines Castro, I-n-e-s,
3 C-a-s-t-r-o. And I didn't prepare anything, so
4 I may not be the most eloquent speaker. But I
5 am concerned, like most people here, about the
6 science you presented to base your decision or
7 your proposals to delist the wolf. And I see in
8 your representation you have what they were in
9 1975 in a very little part of the map and then
10 what they are now, but you didn't show what they
11 should be, like their original range.

12 I think that's a little bit misleading
13 in your presentation that you don't show -- you
14 show that that is what it should be. But it
15 isn't. They should go back to what their
16 original range is.

17 I also have a little bit of concern
18 about the science that you showed when you say
19 that a few populations, 300 wolves, 500 wolves,
20 are stable populations that are good source
21 populations.

22 I mean, I've been working with the

1 conservation biology for a while, and I know
2 those numbers are super low, especially for a
3 species of large mammal, complex social
4 structure, only one female reproduces, most of
5 the time, I think, per pack.

6 So how can six -- you know, oh, we
7 have six packs, yea. That's nothing. That is
8 nothing in conservation biology world.

9 I urge you to consider and review your
10 science, please.

11 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

12 Next speaker.

13 MR. BENSON: Hello. My name is Ryan
14 Benson. I represent Big Game Forever. I do
15 represent the sportsmen and livestock industry
16 in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and many other
17 states in the country.

18 I appreciate the opportunity to
19 be here and speak in support of this delisting
20 proposal. We recognize the fact that with the
21 wolf's current distribution and numbers that
22 they are no longer at risk of extinction. We

1 strongly feel that these states have done a
2 wonderful job in managing all large predators,
3 mountain lions, bears and other species, and we
4 feel they'll do a great job managing the Gray
5 Wolf.

6 We also recognize in some areas wolf
7 numbers are not sustainable. And I've spent
8 many, many days meeting with hard-working
9 ranching families or talking with families who
10 have spent generations in the outdoors who have
11 been personally impacted by the delay in Gray
12 Wolf management.

13 For the most part, despite some
14 of the rhetoric that's been on display here
15 tonight, these people support Gray Wolves on
16 the land. They recognize that they have a
17 place. And we support responsible management
18 of the Gray Wolf in sustainable numbers, and we
19 feel that this delisting proposal will allow
20 that to happen.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

1 I'm going to read the names one more
2 time. I have Dori Simmons, Patricia Soble,
3 Patty McGrath, Elizabeth Martine, Gary Stillman,
4 Sarah Gam, Lisa Arkin, Ellen Gordon, Francisco
5 Santiago Avilla, Terry Avmiol and Christine
6 McMurray.

7 Please come forward if you'd like to
8 testify.

9 Speaker, please. Yes.

10 MS. McGRATH: I'm Patty McGrath,
11 P-a-t-t-y, M-c-G-r-a-t-h. I've come here as a
12 private person.

13 I believe it was John Muir who
14 reflected that going into the wilderness
15 restored his soul. And he maintained that the
16 quality of wilderness is a reflection of the
17 soul of our country.

18 I think eliminating wolves from
19 wildlife, because they have a part in wildlife,
20 was a terrible, terrible mistake.

21 The whole program of putting Gray
22 Wolves on the Endangered Species List was an

1 attempt to address a mistake.

2 Wolves didn't almost become extinct
3 in the lower 48 states by accident. It was a
4 reflection of a certain energy and a certain
5 small group of people, minority, who thought
6 that it would be good to just clear out these
7 animals. It wasn't a good idea, and wilderness
8 suffered and the soul of the country suffered.

9 Five thousand wolves is a pittance.
10 Maybe there were a hundred thousand or two
11 hundred thousand. Look at the percentage, not
12 just of the habitat, but of the total number of
13 wolves that exist now. It's not time to delist
14 the Gray Wolf.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

17 Next speaker.

18 And any additional speakers this
19 evening?

20 MS. LEWIS: Elizabeth Martine Lewis.

21 MS. TRAVERS: I'm sorry. I could not
22 hear your name.

1 MS. LEWIS: Elizabeth Martine Lewis is
2 my name. I live in Maryland.

3 I wanted to begin opening my statement
4 here with your own website mission, Protecting
5 America's Great Outdoors. It's from your actual
6 website that I was on today.

7 The U.S. Department of Interior
8 protects America's natural resources and
9 heritage, honors our culture and tribal
10 communities.

11 Being that I share -- I am an
12 American, number one, and take great pride in
13 that, and being that I also do have Cherokee
14 blood in me, I find it -- I'm greatly opposed to
15 delisting the Gray Wolf.

16 We think of him as a brother. And we
17 think of him -- the Native Americans often said
18 they learned their greatest lessons from the
19 wolf.

20 I think it's very iconic, just like
21 our Bald Eagle. They're on the same level.

22 If you look at China, China has the

1 Pandas. People go in droves to see the Pandas,
2 and they are just mesmerized by them. And I
3 know the tourism, which generates at least 33
4 million in just people going to visit these
5 wolves, is Yellowstone's biggest attraction.
6 And we're just iconically known for that.

7 And if you take that away from
8 America, it's like taking a Bald Eagle off that
9 flag right there, in my opinion.

10 I guess other people could say
11 different things, but it's very super important.
12 They brought back 200 plant and animal species.
13 They did the research. They figured out that
14 the trees were dying because of the excess of
15 elk, because they were eating the bark off. And
16 it changed the geography without the wolves.
17 And with them back, all these things are
18 thriving, like Lords Of Nature says, which is a
19 documentary, which these people put all of this,
20 the conglomeration of 1,100 biologists and
21 scientists that put this together.

22 So I think the evidence speaks for

1 itself.

2 Thank you all for your time, and thank
3 you for everyone who came out.

4 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

5 It is now 8:54.

6 On behalf of the U.S. Fish and
7 Wildlife Service, we appreciate the time
8 and effort you took this evening to take the
9 comments. They have been very informative and
10 will be fully considered in coming to a final
11 decision.

12 Again, as a reminder, written
13 comments may be submitted to the staff at the
14 registration table, or they may be submitted to
15 the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service by October
16 28th, 2013.

17 The hearing is closed. I show the
18 time to be 8:55.

19 We are off the record.

20 A VOICE: Wait. I have one more.

21 Okay. We're back on the record.

22 MS. WESTON: Hi. I just want to

1 speak. Actually, I've never been to one of
2 these. I'm not a professional --

3 MS. TRAVERS: What is your name?

4 MS. WESTON: My name is Ellen Weston,
5 E-l-l-e-n, W-e-s-t-o-n.

6 I've been a fan of the wolf since I
7 was young. I have a good fortune that I grew up
8 in the suburbs. I was able to see them at Teton
9 National Park, and I was around a bunch of them.
10 And it's something I'll never forget. And I
11 hope everyone can have that privilege. They're
12 absolutely gorgeous in their natural habitat.
13 And they deserve to have every chance to live,
14 just as any other animal or anyone's pet dog.

15 I'm from Virginia, and I see people
16 literally every day walking their dogs in my
17 neighborhood that look just like wolves, maybe a
18 little smaller.

19 People are devoted to their animals.
20 And I also love canines. And I think people
21 need to take that into account that they're so
22 genetically similar, just a few genes different.

1 I don't think they're frightening. I
2 was never afraid of them when I was around them
3 as a teenager. And I've talked to ranchers, and
4 they're not afraid.

5 I know a rancher from Montana that
6 I met, and he actually told me that he's not
7 concerned. He laughed when I asked him about
8 the wolves. He owns hundreds of acres, and he
9 told me that he's more concerned about his
10 cattle tripping over a stump or a rock or
11 dealing with the weather or illness.

12 And, you know, I think that's very
13 realistic. And I don't think they're being
14 hunted for a good purpose. People don't eat
15 them. It's just cruel. It's inhumane. People
16 care about their dogs. Why don't they care
17 about wolves? They're a native species. And
18 I'm totally speaking off the top of my head, but
19 I just wanted to say this from the heart. I
20 really care about them, and that's why I'm here.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

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Any further testimony this evening?
I show the time to be 8:56.
We are off the record.
(Hearing concluded -- 8:56 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I do hereby certify that I am a Notary Public in good standing, that the aforesaid hearing was taken before me, pursuant to notice, at the time and place indicated; that the hearing was correctly recorded in machine shorthand by me and thereafter transcribed under my supervision with computer-aided transcription; that the transcript is a true and correct record of the hearing; and that I am neither of counsel nor kin to any party in said action, nor interested in the outcome thereof.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 25th day of October, 2013.

Notary Public

| 1 | 1998 47:8 | 4 | 7 |
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