

0001

1

2

BEFORE THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

3

4

5

-----  
HEARING ON PROPOSED RULE TO REMOVE THE GRAY WOLF IN

6

WYOMING FROM THE FEDERAL LIST OF ENDANGERED AND

7

THREATENED WILDLIFE AND THE REMOVAL OF THE POPULATION'S

8

STATUS AS AN EXPERIMENTAL POPULATION

9

10

11

12

13

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING PROCEEDINGS

14

15

Transcript of Hearing Proceedings in the above-

16

entitled matter before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

17

commencing on the 15h day of November, 2011, at

18

6:30 p.m. at the Robert A. Peck Arts Center, Central

19

Wyoming College, 2660 Peck Avenue, Riverton, Wyoming,

20

Ms. Lesley Travers presiding.

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Hearing proceedings commenced  
6:30 p.m., November 15, 2011.)

MS. TRAVERS: This is a public hearing regarding the Yellowstone wolf delisting. Please begin to take your seats. We are now on the record. Good evening, and welcome to this public hearing. My name is Lesley Travers, and I will be your hearing officer tonight. My role is to conduct this hearing in the order that we receive your comments accurately into the record and to allow as many of you as possible any opportunity to comment on the revised proposed delisting rule for the gray wolf in Wyoming.

I represent no point of view about wolves or their recovery/delisting. I am not affiliated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and I don't represent them. My purpose here tonight is to help things run smoothly and to allow as many of you as possible an opportunity to comment on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to remove the gray wolf in Wyoming from the list of endangered and threatened species.

If you've already signed in or if you have any questions, you will find a registration table just outside this room with Fish and Wildlife staff to assist you and answer your questions. This is a public hearing

1 under Section 4(b)(5)(E) of the Federal Endangered  
2 Species Act as amended. Notice of the public hearing was  
3 published in the Federal Register on October 5th, 2011 in  
4 Volume 76 of the Federal Register on pages 61782 through  
5 61823. The comment period ends at the close of business  
6 on January 13th, 2012. After review and consideration of  
7 your comments and all other information gathered during  
8 this comment period, the Fish and Wildlife Service will  
9 make a final determination on the proposal in 2012.

10 The purpose of the hearing is to receive your  
11 comments on the proposal. Comments on all aspects of the  
12 proposal are very important and will be carefully  
13 considered. Because of the importance of your comments,  
14 it is necessary that we follow certain procedures this  
15 evening. If you want to present comments at this  
16 hearing, please register at the table outside this room.  
17 When you register, indicate any organization that you are  
18 representing in your comments today. I will call  
19 speakers in the order they are registered.

20 Your comments tonight will be recorded and  
21 transcribed by a court reporter. Both the transcript and  
22 all written comments will be reviewed by the U.S. Fish  
23 and Wildlife Service in considering its final decision to  
24 remove the gray wolf in Wyoming from the list of  
25 endangered and threatened wildlife.

1           There are some copies of the Service's proposal  
2           on the information table outside the hearing room in case  
3           you need one. A website and mailing address is also  
4           available. And I believe it's behind us. Yes. So the  
5           website mailing address is also available at the  
6           information table for the additional wolf information and  
7           comments.

8           Delegated members of Congress, the governor and  
9           official representatives of Indian tribes or their  
10          representatives will be our first speakers and will be  
11          given five minutes each. If there any other State or  
12          local elected officials, they will follow with five  
13          minutes each, and members of the public will be given  
14          three-minute blocks for the remainder of the hearing.

15          I will check with the court recorder  
16          periodically to see if he needs a short break to recover.  
17          Smoking is not permitted in the arts center. And if the  
18          crowds are large enough, we have to abide by the fire  
19          marshal's recommendation for room capacity.

20          I will call speakers in the order which they  
21          are provided to me by the registration desk. When you  
22          are called to present your comments, please come forward  
23          to the microphone in front. Please begin your  
24          presentation by stating your full name, spell it for the  
25          record, and indicate if you represent an organization.

1 If you are reading your comments, please take care to  
2 read them slowly for the court reporter to understand.  
3 Also, if possible, please provide the court reporter a  
4 written copy of the comments you read. Your comments are  
5 being recorded to preserve them for the record. Please  
6 keep in mind that the recorder will not record any  
7 statements from the audience or statements which are made  
8 to the audience. Comments must be made directly into the  
9 microphone facing the front of the room.

10           Instead of presenting oral comments here  
11 tonight, or in addition to oral comments, you may submit  
12 comments in writing. There are no limits on the length  
13 of written comments. Written comments may be submitted  
14 to the staff at the registration table, or they may be  
15 submitted by one of the following methods.  
16 Electronically, you can go to the Federal eRulemaking  
17 Portal, which is <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the  
18 "enter key word" or ID box, enter FWS-R6-ES-2011-0039,  
19 which is the docket number for this rule making. In the  
20 search panel at the top of the screen, under the  
21 "document type" heading, check the box next to "proposed  
22 rules" to locate this document. You may submit a comment  
23 by clicking on "submit a comment."

24           Hard copy, submit by U.S. mail or hand delivery  
25 to Public Comments Processing, attention, FWS-R6-ES-2011-

0006

1 0039, Division of Policy and Directives Management, U.S.  
2 Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, MS  
3 2042-PDM, Arlington, Virginia 22203. And I believe all  
4 those are up there. This information is available also  
5 at the registration table.

6 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife will not accept  
7 e-mail or faxes and will post all comments on  
8 <http://www.regulations.gov>. We appreciate everyone's  
9 cooperation in minimizing distractions. As this is a  
10 formal public hearing and testimony only, we cannot allow  
11 questions, comments, applause, jeers or demonstrations.  
12 The hearing is scheduled to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

13 Earlier today in the Robert Peck Arts Center,  
14 an open house provided an opportunity for public to ask  
15 questions and obtain additional information on the  
16 Service's proposal. This hearing provides you with an  
17 opportunity to provide testimony on this same subject.  
18 Written comments submitted tonight or by regular mail or  
19 electronic mail will receive the same review by Service  
20 officials.

21 I would like to introduce Mike Thabault,  
22 assistant regional director for the Ecological Service in  
23 the Mountain-Prairie Region, Mike Jimenez, wolf science  
24 and management coordinator for the Northern Rockies, and  
25 Seth Willey, regional recovery coordinator for Mountain-

0007

1 Prairie Region. They are here to just listen to your  
2 testimony and are not here to answer questions. They  
3 will take a few minutes to briefly summarize the proposed  
4 rule. After this rule presentation, I will go over the  
5 instructions for tonight's public hearing and ask for  
6 testimonies to begin. The hearing will adjourn at 8:30  
7 tonight.

8 MR. THABAULT: Thank you. We, the U.S.  
9 Fish and Wildlife Service, are proposing to remove the  
10 gray wolf in Wyoming from the list of endangered and  
11 threatened wildlife. This proposed rule focusses on the  
12 Wyoming portion of the Northern Rocky Mountain's distinct  
13 population segment. The best scientific and commercial  
14 data available indicate that wolves in Wyoming are  
15 recovered and no longer meet the definition of endangered  
16 or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

17 Wyoming's population is stable. Threats are  
18 addressed, and a post-delisting monitoring and management  
19 framework has been developed. Additional changes to the  
20 Wyoming state law and Wyoming Game and Fish Commission  
21 regulations are necessary. We expect Wyoming to adopt  
22 the necessary statutory and regulatory changes within the  
23 next several months. If this proposal is finalized, the  
24 gray wolf will be delisted in Wyoming, the nonessential  
25 experimental population designation would be removed, and

0008

1 the future management for this species, except in  
2 national parks and national wildlife refuges, would be  
3 conducted by appropriate state and tribal wildlife  
4 agencies.

5 We are seeking information, data and comments  
6 from the public about this proposal, including post-  
7 delisting monitoring and management framework. The  
8 format of this hearing is not for us to respond, but  
9 rather, for invitation for you to voice your thoughts.  
10 Thank you.

11 MS. TRAVERS: Are there any questions  
12 related to the procedures or ground rules before we  
13 begin?

14 (No response.)

15 MS. TRAVERS: If not, we will get started.  
16 The first speaker is Don Lewis. Please come to the  
17 microphone, state your name, spell it for the record,  
18 identify who you represent, and begin your comments.

19 MR. LEWIS: My name is Don Lewis, D-O-N  
20 L-E-W-I-S. I just found out of the meeting about an hour  
21 and a half before the meeting --

22 MS. TRAVERS: Wait a minute. Can you hear  
23 him?

24 (Pause in proceedings.)

25 MR. LEWIS: My name is Don Lewis, D-O-N

1 L-E-W-I-S. I represent myself, not representing any  
2 organization at this time. I just found out of the  
3 meeting about an hour and a half beforehand. So I'm  
4 going to provide all of my comments electronically  
5 through e-mail. Since this is recorded for the record, I  
6 would just like to say I support the delisting of wolves  
7 in the state of Wyoming. I support Wyoming Game and Fish  
8 having the ability to manage our wildlife, including  
9 wolves. I think that's the right thing to do.

10 I have quite a number of comments. I'll  
11 provide them electronically. I just want people to  
12 understand that hunters have provided hundreds of  
13 millions of dollars through many years to provide the  
14 type of population we have. Wolves uncontrolled have  
15 decimated these populations. We have lost hunting  
16 opportunities for moose, for elk in a number of areas.  
17 This causes problems with hunters who typically hunted,  
18 say, in the national forest and around the Yellowstone  
19 area. And those hunting opportunities are not as good as  
20 they once were. Those hunters are having to go to other  
21 areas of the state, which puts further stress on the  
22 remaining elk populations that have not been impacted by  
23 wolves as much as the areas around Yellowstone.

24 The economic impact I think needs to be well  
25 understood. Hunters spend quite a lot of money, through

0010

1 hunting licenses from Game and Fish agencies, through  
2 gasoline, food, motels, all of these different areas in  
3 the state. By limiting tags, the entire community loses  
4 quite a lot of money to these areas caused by wolves.  
5 Our moose population, I would love to hunt moose in  
6 Wyoming. I haven't had that opportunity. Because of the  
7 moose populations, haven't been able to draw a tag.  
8 Hunting areas in my area where I live, I can't draw an  
9 elk tag. Haven't drawn an elk tag in six years where I  
10 live because those hunters have been displaced from the  
11 Yellowstone area, Yellowstone ecosystem, national forest  
12 around Yellowstone and have been moved toward my area, I  
13 think, for those limited number tags.

14 There's quite a lot without getting into it  
15 now. I'll do that in an e-mail. But I just wanted to  
16 make a couple comments while I was here. Thank you.

17 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. Daryle Murphy.

18 MR. MURPHY: My name is Daryle Murphy.  
19 That's D-A-R-Y-L-E M-U-R-P-H-Y. And I am here  
20 representing the Wyoming chapter of the Sierra Club and  
21 some 1.4 million members and supporters of the Sierra  
22 Club nationally to speak in opposition to the plan  
23 proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

24 The Sierra Club regards this plan as  
25 unacceptable and not based on sound science. The Wyoming

1 Game and Fish Department needs to manage wolves  
2 statewide. Absolutely no unregulated killing should be  
3 allowed. In other words, no predator zone. In the  
4 Wyoming plan that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has  
5 agreed to, wolves are listed as predators in nearly 90  
6 percent of the state and can be killed there by anyone by  
7 any means without a license. In addition, there is no  
8 specific commitment from Wyoming Game and Fish to manage  
9 for above the minimum of 100 wolves and ten breeding  
10 pairs, which apparently the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
11 Service is expecting.

12 Both the Department of Interior and the courts  
13 have previously rejected this approach as inadequate to  
14 maintain population. In addition, the plan enshrines  
15 arbitrary and invisible boundaries, the flex zone, within  
16 which wolves will have limited protection for four months  
17 of the year. However, natural wolf dispersal is not  
18 restricted by such arbitrary boundaries, and wolves do  
19 not check the calendar to plan their dispersal.

20 This aspect is also not based on sound science,  
21 but rather, on political expediency. It will not  
22 accomplish sufficient genetic connectivity between  
23 Wyoming and Idaho wolves, a key reason the U.S. Fish and  
24 Wildlife Service views this plan as different from  
25 previously rejected ones. In fact, it's not sufficiently

0012

1 different.

2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service apparently  
3 believes that this dual classification plan is  
4 biologically sound because most of the state is  
5 unsuitable wolf habitat. However, the predator area  
6 currently includes at least three breeding pairs, and six  
7 stable wolf packs have the entire or partial territories  
8 within the predator area with a relatively low level of  
9 cattle conflicts.

10 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to allow  
11 Wyoming to determine what unacceptable impacts to elk and  
12 other large mammals actually are, but Wyoming has no  
13 management plan to do this that withstands scientific  
14 scrutiny.

15 In addition, some of the positive benefits are  
16 completely overlooked. Wolf viewing is a major economic  
17 driver that contributes approximately \$70 million a year  
18 in indirect and direct economic benefit to the region.  
19 And having wolves on the landscape is also beneficial in  
20 other ways, and it enhances the resilience of the  
21 ecosystem. They reduce beaver and song birds.

22 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you, sir. Thank you.

23 Joe Crofts.

24 MR. CROFTS: Good evening. Joe Crofts,  
25 J-O-E C-R-O-F-T-S, representative of Fremont County

0013

1 Cattlemen. We just come to support the delisting  
2 progress that has been made, and we're in support of the  
3 plan itself. Thank you for your time.

4 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

5 Ken Hamilton.

6 MR. HAMILTON: Good evening. My name is  
7 Ken Hamilton, K-E-N H-A-M-I-L-T-O-N. I represent the  
8 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. On behalf of the 2,600  
9 agricultural producers and the 10,000 non-ag producers,  
10 we're here to speak in support of this plan. Recently  
11 adopted Farm Bureau policy supports it, but it's long  
12 past due.

13 We would like to point out that the 2003 plan  
14 that Wyoming adopted and the statutes that we adopted was  
15 rejected by the Fish and Wildlife Service not because of  
16 biological reasons, but because of political reasons.  
17 Therefore, we believe that this plan goes further than  
18 this 2003 plan. It's supported by biology. Over 90  
19 percent of the habitat that wolves use is going to be in  
20 the trophy game animal or protected in the parks. It's  
21 supported legally with the Ted Johnson decision, and it's  
22 supported politically. We believe that the Fish and  
23 Wildlife Services should move ahead with this plan. I  
24 plan to submit written comments at a later date. Thank  
25 you.

0014

1 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

2 David Vaughan.

3 MR. VAUGHAN: My name is David Vaughan. I  
4 represent myself and the Fremont County Farm Bureau. In  
5 2003 I had four wolves enter my ranch, or our ranch,  
6 which is over in Lander, four miles south of Lander. And  
7 I immediately called Mike Jimenez, and I was told that  
8 there were no wolves in the area. Four days later Tracy  
9 Frye, the predator control officer of this area, did, in  
10 fact, say we've had four wolves. And I was standing  
11 almost as close from me to you from the four wolves the  
12 day after that.

13 I'd like to support the plan of returning the  
14 wolf management over to the State of Wyoming. Our Game  
15 and Fish Department is very well trained in handling  
16 wildlife. They know the problems. They're respected  
17 throughout the world. And I think it would behoove us to  
18 do that.

19 After the wolves hit my place in 2003, I  
20 finished calving 70 mother cows. Out of the 70 mother  
21 cows, seven either aborted or had stillborn calves.  
22 That's ten percent. I turned them out on the mountain in  
23 the spring, in May. And when I recovered them in  
24 September, I only had 56 calves. That was another seven.  
25 So I lost 20 percent of my calves to the wolves that

0015

1 year.

2 I doubt if anybody's read this. But it's  
3 called the reintroduction of the gray wolves to  
4 Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho. Well, the  
5 wolves are way outside. And this is the final  
6 environmental impact statement, dated 1995. The wolves  
7 are way out of that area. They're way beyond what we had  
8 and what was authorized by the recovery plan of 1987.

9 I'm probably one of the few guys, in addition  
10 to having wolves on my property, who's authorized by the  
11 United States Air Force to drop napalm and nuclear  
12 weapons. Mike Jimenez also trained me in shooting bean  
13 bags and cracker shells. So I'm probably one of the very  
14 few in the state of Wyoming that does that.

15 Anyway, thank you. And I hope you'll take it  
16 into consideration and turn the wolves over to Wyoming.

17 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. We have called  
18 all the names of the registered speakers. If there's  
19 anyone else.

20 Oh, Darlene Vaughn.

21 MS. VAUGHAN: My name is Darlene Vaughn,  
22 D-A-R-L-E-N-E, V-A-U-G-H-A-N.

23 It is with great hope that I am backing off of  
24 many years of holding to Wyoming's original plan for the  
25 experimental, nonessential population of wolves on

0016

1 Wyoming soil. The agreement that our governor, Matt  
2 Mead, and Interior Secretary, Ken Salazar, have hammered  
3 out should put the management of these wolves into the  
4 hands of Wyoming Game and Fish. I am in favor of  
5 implementing that plan ASAP. Wyoming's wildlife,  
6 domesticated livestock and Wyoming's citizens have been  
7 stoic with the wolf situation but absolutely need relief.  
8 I have researched some of my comments to agencies over  
9 the years and note the same message many times over.  
10 Please get these wolves under the management of the State  
11 of Wyoming.

12 Thank you very much.

13 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. The acoustics  
14 are very bad. So it's not that I'm not paying attention.  
15 I just want to make sure that the recorder can hear you.

16 Sophie Osborn.

17 MS. OSBORN: My name is Sophie Osborn,  
18 S-O-P-H-I-E O-S-B-O-R-N. I represent the Wyoming Outdoor  
19 Council.

20 We strongly support state management of wolves  
21 in Wyoming as long as an adequate plan is in place to  
22 maintain a recoverable population. This management is  
23 based on best available science. We appreciate the Fish  
24 and Wildlife Service's longstanding efforts to ensure  
25 that Wyoming develops a legitimate plan. We've long

1       advocated statewide trophy game status for wolves in  
2       Wyoming.

3               Although most wolf packs currently occur in the  
4       proposed trophy game area, our principal concern is with  
5       wolf management and oversight. Post-delisting, the  
6       Wyoming Game and Fish Department should be responsible  
7       for wolf management throughout the state. We do not  
8       believe that it's appropriate for the general public to  
9       determine when, where and how to kill a species that has  
10      so recently been subject to such intensive recovery  
11      efforts.

12             Nevertheless, the statewide trophy game is no  
13      longer considered a viable option for Wyoming. We  
14      believe, at a minimum, the trophy game area should be  
15      expanded. A number of entities, including Grand Teton  
16      National Park and the Teton County commissioners, share  
17      this view. The Teton County commissioners, for example,  
18      have said that designating wolves as predators within  
19      their county would violate the values expressed by county  
20      residents.

21             Expanding the trophy game area would allow for  
22      greater oversight and more comprehensive management of  
23      wolves by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. It also  
24      would be more defensible biologically and would result in  
25      broader support and buy-in for Wyoming's wolf plan from

1 the conservation community and others.

2 We also are especially concerned with the  
3 seasonal nature of the proposed flex line or trophy game  
4 expansion line. At a minimum, we would like to see the  
5 flex line become a year-round boundary and the flex area  
6 become a permanent part of the trophy game area.

7 Among other concerns, we think the seasonal  
8 nature of this line will create serious enforcement  
9 challenges for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and  
10 will lead to the added persecution of any wolves that  
11 establish themselves in this area during dispersal in the  
12 early breeding season. Most importantly, though, it will  
13 limit effective gene flow between wolves in Idaho and  
14 Wyoming.

15 Although most wolves disperse in late fall or  
16 early winter, they can disperse year-round. And since a  
17 significant proportion of dispersements don't usually  
18 survive, limiting wolf dispersal south of Yellowstone to  
19 just four and a half months will unnecessarily restrict  
20 dispersal opportunities for what will already be a  
21 reduced and more heavily persecuted wolf population.

22 A seasonal flex line will limit the effective  
23 dispersal of wolves and therefore reduce opportunities  
24 for genetic interchange among wolf subpopulations.  
25 Wyoming's proposed plan is less likely to gain legitimacy

0019

1 and support if it's not based on the best available  
2 science, and the delisting of Wyoming's wolves will be  
3 subject to continued opposition. Making a seasonal flex  
4 line a permanent year-round boundary and extending the  
5 proposed trophy game boundary would greatly facilitate  
6 the much desired delisting of Wyoming's wolves.

7 And we also will be submitting written  
8 comments. Thanks.

9 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you.

10 MR. COLLIGAN: Chris Colligan, C-H-R-I-S  
11 C-O-L-L-I-G-A-N, representing the Greater Yellowstone  
12 Coalition.

13 Tonight I didn't bring formal written comments  
14 that I wanted to read. I tried to come here with an open  
15 mind. I wanted to hear some more about the biology  
16 supporting the flex area. And, unfortunately, I don't  
17 think I heard what I was interested in. I think the new  
18 seasonal flex zone proposal will not adequately protect  
19 wolves in Wyoming. Wolves are known to disperse year-  
20 round. And the wolves in this area will face unregulated  
21 hunting for nearly eight months of the year, an  
22 additional four months of trophy game hunting.

23 We think that the Fish and Wildlife Service  
24 should consider withdrawing the proposed rule and coming  
25 back to Wyoming, reopen negotiations for a larger trophy

0020

1 game area. And there is additional opposition to this  
2 plan that's not represented here tonight. We would  
3 request that the Fish and Wildlife Service consider  
4 hosting other public meetings around the state. It's a  
5 very large state to travel here, and winter conditions,  
6 and there is a diverse view of wolf opinions in this  
7 state and many folks who do value wolves and value wolves  
8 economically and ecologically for the benefits that they  
9 provide.

10 I think this plan also will continue -- will  
11 harm the continued recovery of wolves in Grand Teton  
12 National Park. And this park is not included in the area  
13 that wolves will be managed off limits by the State, as  
14 Yellowstone and the Wind River Indian Reservation will  
15 be. Grand Teton wolves do cross public borders and the  
16 private lands and a wide jurisdiction of public lands.  
17 And those wolves in that area demand more support, or  
18 else I think we do risk the genetic connectivity of these  
19 wolves.

20 And knowing that the primary dispersal route is  
21 around the south end of Grand Teton National Park, the  
22 very thing that the Service is trying to protect is not  
23 founded in the Service's own science. And we know that  
24 wolves disperse year-round. We know that there's very  
25 few effective migrants into the GYA, only about roughly

0021

1 five in the fifteen years since reintroduction. We are  
2 risking a very limited number of wolves with unregulated  
3 hunting in this area.

4 I will provide some written comments in the  
5 future. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

6 MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. We've called all  
7 the names of the registered speakers. If there is anyone  
8 else who would like to speak this evening, please  
9 register at the registration table, and we will call you  
10 to the microphone in a few minutes. The hearing will  
11 remain open until 8:30 p.m. Thank you. We're off the  
12 record.

13 (Pause in proceedings.)

14 MS. TRAVERS: Pete Gosar. We are back on  
15 the record. Pete Gosar.

16 MR. GOSAR: Good evening, and thanks.  
17 It's Pete, P-E-T-E, Gosar, G-O-S-A-R.

18 Well, good evening. And thank you for allowing  
19 me to provide some comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
20 to its gray wolf plan. I would like to tell you that I  
21 also will be providing written detailed comments later.

22 I went to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
23 website today. I looked upon the vision of the U.S. Fish  
24 and Wildlife Service. It said, "Our work is grounded in  
25 thorough objective science." Now, I wonder how objective

0022

1       this program is. I would think that many who have spent  
2       their lives managing wild populations would not agree  
3       with this if they were able to be as candid as they would  
4       like to be. And like many of the people that support  
5       this position, I do, do favor wolf management. However,  
6       I'd like to see the management done by those who are  
7       trained professionals.

8                I think our human history is not very kind to  
9       detail what happens to wild populations when it's left to  
10      nonprofessional management. So I would urge the U.S.  
11      Fish and Wildlife Service to reject this and the people  
12      to reject this notion and make it under the vision of  
13      thorough and objective science.

14               Thank you very much.

15               MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. No other  
16      registered speakers? If there's anyone else who would  
17      like to speak this evening, please register at the  
18      registration table, and we will call you to the  
19      microphone. We have no additional speakers. The hearing  
20      will remain until 8:30 p.m. We are off the record.

21                               (Hearing proceedings recessed  
22                               7:08 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.)

23               MS. TRAVERS: We are back on the record.  
24      Jim Hellyer.

25               MR. HELLYER: Thank you for your time

0023

1       tonight. I'd like to introduce myself as a rancher from  
2       Fremont County. I have suffered predation on the ranch  
3       quite frequently, most often in the form of pneumonia and  
4       early-term abortions as a result of stress. So that is a  
5       factor which doesn't show up in your statistics. I would  
6       like to support the governor's efforts and support this  
7       plan. Thank you for your time.

8                       MS. TRAVERS: Thank you. We've called all  
9       the names of the registered speakers. If there is anyone  
10      else who would like to speak this evening, please  
11      register at the registration table, and we will call you  
12      to the microphone. Thank you. We're off the record.

13                               (Hearing proceedings recessed  
14                               7:36 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)

15                       MS. TRAVERS: We are now back on the  
16      record. It is now 8:30 p.m. On behalf of the U.S. Fish  
17      and Wildlife Service, we appreciate the time and effort  
18      you took this evening to present your comments. They  
19      have been very informative and will be fully considered  
20      in coming to a final decision. The hearing is closed.  
21      We are off the record.

22                               (Hearing proceedings concluded  
23                               8:30 p.m., November 15, 2011.)

24  
25

0024

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, RANDY A. HATLESTAD, a Registered Merit Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported by machine shorthand the proceedings contained herein constituting a full, true and correct transcript.

Dated this 29th day of November, 2011.

---

RANDY A. HATLESTAD  
Registered Merit Reporter