

Colorado Gray Wolf Reintroduction 10j and EIS US Fish and Wildlife Service

Cooperating Agency Call Notes

September 28, 2022
1:00 – 2:00 pm MST
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Nicole Alt	FWS
Darren LeBlanc	FWS
Jim deVos	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Jim Heffelfinger	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Joel Humphries	Bureau of Land Management
Les Owen	Colorado Department of Agriculture
Eric O'Dell	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Reid DeWalt	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Robbie LeValley	Delta County
Peter McDonald	Forest Service
Matt Canterbury	Jackson County
Amber Swasey	Mesa County
Cody Davis	Mesa County
Jeff Comstock	Moffat County
Justin Musser	Montrose County
John Mack	National Park Service
Stewart Liley	New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
Callie Hendrickson	White River Conservation District
Jessica Forbes-Guerrero	WSP
Lori Fox	WSP
Margaret Stover	WSP
Dan Thompson	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Doug Brimeyer	Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Project Status

The Service reviewed the project status with the group. The admin DEIS will be sent to the group on Friday, September 30th, most likely along with the scoping report. Comments from cooperating agencies are due back to the Service by close of business on October 7th. The Service will work to address comments during the week of October 10th.

Questions/Review of Comment Matrix

Moffat County asked if socioeconomic analysis would be included in the draft. The Service responded that there is socioeconomic information in the draft but that if any of the cooperators have additional information or data, they should send it in prior to submitting comments. WSP asked for cooperators to share any data they think could be useful as they review the DEIS.

Moffat County asked if the Service has draft concepts of what the 10(j) rule will look like for inclusion with the DEIS. The Service responded that the DEIS will include the three alternatives that are being considered and noted that the document is in draft form and modelled off of previous gray wolf 10(j) rules the Service has done in southern Idaho and in the northern Rocky Mountains.

WSP shared the comment review matrix with the group and asked cooperators to fill out the matrix as they review the DEIS.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department asked for the length of the document and WSP responded that it is 136 pages, including about 30 pages of references.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department asked the Service to review the different alternatives in the document. The Service summarized the alternatives:

- No action alternative: the Service takes no action
- Alternative 1: 10(j) covering the entire state
- Alternative 2: 10(j) in a limited territory and a section 10(a)1(A) permit if a population of wolves is established in Colorado before the completion of the rule

New Mexico Department of Game & Fish asked if impacts to other endangered species, specifically Mexican wolves, were analyzed. The Service responded that impacts to Mexican wolves and other endangered species were evaluated.

Next Steps

The Service will schedule a meeting next week, at 2pm on Wednesday, October 5th. Cooperators who cannot attend the meeting can contact Nicole Alt to ask questions during review of the DEIS. The Service will schedule another meeting with the cooperating agencies after comments are received.