

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

State Coordination Meeting Notes

August 28, 2023
3:00 – 4:00 pm MST
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Scott Becker	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Liisa Niva	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Adam Zerrenner	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jim deVos	Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD)
Reid DeWalt	Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
Brian Dreher	Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
Eric Odell	Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
Stewart Liley	New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF)
Covy Jones	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
Lori Fox	WSP
Margaret Stover	WSP

MOU Update

The Service received approval from their regional director to be a signatory to the MOU. The Region 6 solicitor provided comments on the document, including a clause related to financial responsibility. Region 2 is expected to finish providing comments by the end of the week (9/1/2023). The Service will send the MOU back to the group with both Region 6 and Region 2's comments.

CPW's attorney general and AZGFD's general counsel will also review the MOU.

Request from States to View Language Changes in the 10(j)

The Service shared their screen with the redline/tracked changes version of sections of the 10(j) rule that are relevant to Mexican wolves, noting that changes were minimal. The Service noted that the group can discuss the changes, but the Service is not accepting comments on the language because it could put the timeline for implementing the 10(j) rule in jeopardy. NMDGF, AZGFD, and CPW thanked the Service for their efforts to be as collaborative as possible and for addressing their concerns regarding Mexican wolves.

10(a)(1)(A) Permit Update

The Service plans to publish the NOA for the 10(a)(1)(A) permit at the same time as the final EIS and draft ROD, no later than 10/6/2023, and potentially sooner. The Service used the 10(a)(1)(A) permit for Mexican wolves as a guide for the permit.

Next Steps

The group plans to discuss the MOU status during the next meeting, scheduled for 9/11/2023.