

From: [Alt, Nicole](#)
To: [Philip Anderson](#)
Cc: [Broderdorp, Kurt](#); [Becker, Scott A](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] NEPA/ 10J/ WOLF RELEASE PLANS
Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 11:32:33 AM

Thank you for your inquiry. I hope the following addresses your questions.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) understands that although wolves are likely to be released on state and/or private lands, the released animals are very likely to disperse away from the area of release quickly. Wolves are currently federally protected as an endangered species. The 10(j) rule could provide management flexibility that is not currently available. Assuming there is not an existing population in Colorado, the intent of our draft 10(j) rule is to provide management flexibility within the proposed boundary of the 10(j) area to include the entire state of Colorado. The rule is currently in draft form, and we cannot comment more about the content of the rule until it is approved for publication.

As to your question about who will be in charge of wolf management, the Service expects to retain the ultimate authority to manage wolves as long as wolves remain a federally listed species, and anticipates designating Colorado Parks and Wildlife, as an agent of the Service. As a designated agent of the Service, the State would be the primary agency responsible for management of wolves in Colorado consistent with our 10(j) rule and the state's reintroduction and management plan.

A NEPA analysis would not be required in a source area to capture wolves. Colorado expects to capture wolves from areas where wolves are not federally protected (Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, eastern Oregon or eastern Washington). In terms of what could delay the actual release in December 2023, the Service team is doing our best to meet our time commitments for completion of our rule making and the NEPA process in late 2023.

Please reach out if you need additional information.

Respectfully,

Nicole

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The Colorado Ecological Services Office is moving toward 100% electronic project and technical assistance requests. To aid timely responses, please submit all requests to us via email. Send projects to: eastern slope - ColoradoES@fws.gov, or western slope - GrandJunctionES@fws.gov.

From: Philip Anderson <andersonloomix@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 2:29 PM

To: Alt, Nicole <Nicole_Alt@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] NEPA/ 10J/ WOLF RELEASE PLANS

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Nicole,

I have a question about the eventual release by the USFWS NEPA 10j. Currently the Colorado Wolf Mgt Plan proposal would allow release of experimental numbers of wolves only on State and Private lands. Why then is it necessary for the USFWS to release a ruling on management of problem populations of wolves? I suspect that soon after they are released the wolves will find homes on Federal lands. In this case will the NEPA Finding affect these animals on private and state lands. And who will be in charge of their management?

Another question. Is

a NEPA document needed at the point where wolves will be captured to bring to Colorado?

As this whole process continues forward, what do you expect to see holding up the actual release on December 2023?

Hope you have great plans for Christmas.

Philip Anderson