



NATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY

**Permit Number:** ESPER4054943

**Version Number:** 0

**Effective:** 2023-11-06 **Expires:** 2028-11-05

**Issuing Office:**

**Department of the Interior**

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

ES Lakewood Permit Office

P.O.Box 25486

Lakewood, Colorado 80225-0489

permitsR6ES@fws.gov

  
**Digitally signed by**  
Digitally signed by  
MARJORIE NELSON  
Date: 2023.11.07 11:37:33  
-07'00'

**Permittee:**

Colorado Field Office

dba U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd

Lakewood, Colorado 80228

U.S.A.

**Name and Title of Principal Officer:**

Lisa Niiva

Authority: Statutes and Regulations: 16 U.S.C. 1539 (a) 50 CFR 17.22, 50 CFR 13

**Location where authorized activity may be conducted:**

ON LANDS SPECIFIED WITHIN THE ATTACHED SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**Reporting requirements:**

See permit conditions for reporting requirements

**Authorizations and Conditions:**

A. General conditions set out in Subpart B of 50 CFR 13, and specific conditions contained in Federal regulations cited above, are hereby made a part of this permit. All activities authorized herein must be carried out in accordance with and for the purposes described in the application submitted. Continued validity, or renewal of this permit is subject to complete and timely compliance with all applicable conditions, including the filing of all required information and reports.

B. The validity of this permit is also conditioned upon strict observance of all applicable foreign, state, local tribal, or other federal law.

C. Valid for use by permittee named above.

**Special Terms and Conditions**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Colorado Field Office**

**1. Take<sup>1</sup> authorization is as follows:**

- a. This Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery permit is issued under the authority of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA and its implementing regulations at 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 17.
- b. The permittee is authorized to purposefully take the following federally listed fish and wildlife species in conjunction with the following authorized activities for scientific purposes or to enhance the recovery, survival, and propagation of the species as specified in this recovery permit, in accordance with the Special Terms and Conditions stated herein.

<b>Species Common (Scientific) Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Geographic Localities</b>	<b>Authorized Take Activities</b>
Gray wolf ( <i>Canis lupis</i> )	Endangered	Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Utah	Capture, handle, anesthetize, collar, track, tag, transport, relocate, and collect biological samples.
Mexican wolf ( <i>Canis lupus baileyi</i> )	Endangered	Colorado and Utah	Capture, handle, anesthetize, collar, track, tag, transport, relocate, and collect biological samples.

**2. Geographic Areas:**

- a. Authorized activities are restricted to the geographic areas noted in the table above.
- b. Written authorization for property access shall be obtained by the permittee from the landowner or manager before entering Federal, State, Tribal, public, or privately owned lands to conduct authorized activities.

**3. Authorized Individuals:**

- a. Only individuals on the attached List of Authorized Individuals (List) are authorized to independently conduct activities under this permit. The List may limit activities or identify special conditions or circumstances under which listed individuals can conduct authorized activities. Each named individual shall be responsible for compliance with the

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<sup>1</sup> Take, as defined by the Endangered Species Act (ESA), means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct" for wildlife.

Special Terms and Conditions in this permit. The List must be attached to the permit's Special Terms and Conditions to be valid.

- b. To request changes to the List, the permittee shall submit an amendment request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via the ePermits portal at <https://fwsepermits.servicenowservices.com/fws>. The following must be included in the amendment request:
  - i. The name of each individual to be appended to the List;
  - ii. Current position title and employer's name for each individual;
  - iii. The resume/qualifications statement of each individual, detailing their education, training, and experience with the authorized species and authorized activities in this permit, or similar species and activities, and type of activity for which authorization is being requested;

#### **4. General Permit Responsibilities:**

- a. Acceptance of this permit serves as evidence that the permittee understands and agrees to abide by the following regulations: 50 CFR Part 13 (general permit procedures), 50 CFR 17.22 (endangered wildlife), 50 CFR 17.32 (threatened wildlife), 50 CFR 17.62 (endangered plants), 50 CFR 17.72 (threatened plants), and/or 50 CFR 21.23 and 21.27 (migratory birds), as applicable and available at <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/ECFR?page=browse>. In addition, the permittee must have all other applicable permits prior to the commencement of activities authorized in this permit.
- b. Only individuals on the List are approved to independently conduct activities under this permit. The permittee is responsible for ensuring that all authorized individuals comply with the Special Terms and Conditions in this permit.
- c. The permittee and all authorized individuals must carry an electronic or hard copy, including attachments, of this permit, while conducting authorized activities.
- d. The Service requires that all handling of listed species shall be done in an expedient manner to minimize risk of injury and mortality to these individuals. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, captured individuals shall be released at their capture site as soon as authorized activities are completed or achieved.
- e. To prevent the spread of invasive and nonnative species, all equipment, clothing, and boots must be cleaned to remove mud, debris, and vegetative material before arriving at a project area. Invasive species are organisms (includes nonnative pathogens and other microorganisms) that are nonnative to the ecosystem that is under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or impact human health. Nonnative species are species that have been introduced into new areas which were not historically part of their native range. If any previously undocumented invasive species are observed in a project area, the Service requests that

the permittee contact the Project Leader (see attached list) to report their findings as soon as it is convenient and include the information in the respective annual report.

- f. Ground-disturbing activities must be immediately stopped when human remains, or archaeological materials are discovered at a project location. Upon discovery, the permittee must immediately contact the Recovery Permit Coordinator for further guidance before reinitiating activities.
- g. If the permittee wishes to continue work with listed species after the expiration date of this permit, a request for permit renewal must be received via the ePermits portal <https://fwsepermits.servicenow.com/fws> **at least 30 days prior to the expiration date**. As per 50 CFR §13.22 Renewal of permits, meeting this requirement allows the permittee to continue currently authorized activities until your renewal application is acted upon. If this requirement is not met, this permit becomes invalid on the expiration date.
- h. Any new activities, changes in activities, or work in new geographic areas with same or new listed species will require this permit to be amended. The permittee is not authorized to conduct any of these changes or additions until they have requested and have received an amended permit.
- i. A permit renewal or amendment application will be processed only after all reporting requirements have been met for the current and previous calendar years (see Reporting Requirements, below). If no activities have been conducted during the term of this permit for one or more authorized species, the Service may suspend this recovery permit, or those specific activities for an authorized species under this recovery permit, due to a lack of recovery benefit to the species.
- j. Species listed on this permit may not be donated or transferred without written authorization from the Regional Recovery Permit Coordinator.

## **5. Species Specific Conditions for gray wolf and Mexican wolf:**

- a. Permittee may capture, handle, anesthetize, collar, track, tag, and collect biological samples.
  - i. Capture techniques that may be utilized include:
    - 1. Various foot-hold traps may be used based on circumstances and objectives of the action if the Service has reviewed and approved the method as a safe alternative for capturing wolves.
    - 2. Darting from the ground or aerial operations.
    - 3. Net-gunning during helicopter operations.
  - ii. Other techniques may be used only after the Service has reviewed and approved the method as a safe alternative for capturing wolves.

- b. Permittee may use state, tribal, or Service wildlife capture and handling protocols to anaesthetize individuals for the collection of biological samples, placement of tags, collars, or other invasive activities that necessitate the need to immobilize individuals.
  - i. During immobilization, permittees may:
    - 1. Tag individual wolves utilizing various methods, including but not limited to tattoos, passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags, or ear tags for future identification of individual wolves.
    - 2. Administer appropriate first aid in response to injuries, illness, or adverse reaction.
- c. Permittee may place tracking collars (global positioning system (GPS) or very high frequency (VHF)) on individual wolves for radiotelemetry monitoring or other demographic studies.
  - i. Other novel tracking methods may also be used provided that the permittee has consulted with the Service and received approval for the method.
  - ii. Permittee may collect tissue and/or biological samples such as feces, urine, hair, saliva, semen, ova, or blood for use in:
    - 1. Confirming identification.
    - 2. Conducting contaminant or disease analysis and testing.
    - 3. Conducting studies on the genetics, ecology, behavior, physiology, reproductive biology, and developmental biology of wolves.
- d. Rescue and relocating:
  - i. Permittee may transport and hold wolves for treatment or rehabilitation in the event of injury, or other threats when no other options are feasible.
  - ii. In consultation with the Service and authorized on a case-by-case basis, relocating wolves for supporting recovery purposes may be conducted.
  - iii. Mexican wolves that disperse into Colorado or Utah may be returned to Arizona or New Mexico upon coordination with the Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator.
  - iv. Gray wolves may be relocated upon coordination with the gray wolf recovery coordinator.
- e. Euthanize:
  - i. Permittees may euthanize severely injured, diseased, or moribund individuals that are encountered in the wild or in captivity.

## **6. Reporting Requirements:**

- a. All accidental injury and mortality of individual species must be reported within 24 hours to the applicable project leader and the regional recovery permit coordinator. A detailed report must be provided to the project leader and regional recovery permit coordinator within 5 business days.

- b. An annual report of activities conducted under this permit shall be submitted to the regional recovery permit coordinator. All reports must be submitted by **January 31** following each calendar year this permit is in effect. To track, document, and assess all project-specific activities conducted pursuant to this permit, the annual report must summarize all the activities conducted pursuant to this permit during the previous calendar year. Activities that are continuous (*i.e.*, overlapping in 2 or more calendar years), must be reported each year the activity is in effect. The annual report shall be in the following format:
- i. An introduction section addressing reasons and objectives for taking the species, as appropriate;
  - ii. A methods section addressing data collection and analysis procedures, personnel working on the project, and effectiveness of the Special Terms and Conditions in minimizing take and/or habitat damage or destruction of the species;
  - iii. A results section that summarizes the data collected, including information on any other federally listed species detected while conducting activities authorized under this permit; and
  - iv. A conclusion section that specifically provides, at a minimum, application of the results to recommendations for the recovery of the species.
- c. The annual report must include, but need not be limited to, the following information. The status of ongoing projects and studies under the permit must be briefly summarized as requested below. A comprehensive report(s) on completed projects and studies must be submitted with the respective annual report or any time during the calendar year at the time of completion.
- i. Summary presentation and brief discussion of significant research results and their importance with regards to recovery of the authorized species;
  - ii. Maps and/or descriptions of locations (including GPS/GIS data, as appropriate) where authorized activities occurred;
  - iii. The results of all survey or sampling efforts, including estimates of population size of any federally listed species, if possible;
  - iv. Number of authorized species salvaged under the recovery permit, including capture locations and their deposition;
  - v. Results of any genetic studies from bio-samples collected under this recovery permit;
  - vi. Quantified take of the authorized species, including numbers of individuals unintentionally killed (including dates, locations, and circumstances of lethal take), and an estimate of the numbers of individuals otherwise harmed or harassed;
  - vii. Quantified take of other listed species not authorized under this permit, including numbers of individuals unintentionally killed (including dates, locations, and circumstances of lethal take), and an estimate of the numbers of individuals otherwise harmed or harassed;

- viii. Discovery information and documentation for any potential criminal activities that were reported to the Service's Office of Law Enforcement;
  - ix. Repositories where the specimens were sent, including salvaged specimens and any issued diagnostic or examination reports from a repository;
  - x. Other pertinent observations made during permitted activities regarding the status or ecology of the species;
  - xi. Reports or other documents that include information on human remains or significant archaeological materials if they were discovered at a project location;
  - xii. Reports or other documents that include information gathered under the authority of this permit, including the presence of any previously undocumented native or nonnative invasive species observed in a project area; and
  - xiii. Planned future activities if authorized under this permit.
- d. If no authorized activities occur over the course of a calendar year, indication of such must be submitted to the regional recovery permit coordinator.
- e. Failure to comply with reporting requirements may result in non-renewal or suspension/revocation of this permit.



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

MAILING ADDRESS:                      STREET LOCATION:  
Post Office Box 25486                      134 Union Boulevard  
Denver Federal Center                      Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

### **LIST OF AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS** **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** **Colorado Field Office**

1. Authorized to independently conduct all activities for the gray wolf and Mexican wolf:
  - a. [REDACTED], Wolf Coordinator.
2. Supervised individuals (*i.e.*, individuals not authorized above) may conduct activities pursuant to this permit only under the direct, on-site supervision of the authorized individual(s) listed above. "On-site supervision" is defined as having an authorized individual at a distance close enough to enable the authorized individual to immediately assist a supervised individual, as needed, while the supervised individual is conducting an authorized activity. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends that each supervised individual receive pre-instructions and/or training before attempting to conduct an authorized activity.
3. To request personnel changes to this List of Authorized Individuals, refer to Authorized Individuals, Section 3, in this recovery permit.

Digitally signed by MARJORIE  
NELSON  
Date: 2023.11.07 12:59:01 -0700'

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services

*This List of Authorized Individuals (List) is valid only when dated on or after the permit issuance date. This permit is considered invalid without this List.*



## Appendix / Contact List

### ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION | SPECIES LEAD CONTACTS:

Annual reports, due by January 31, submitted electronically:

Region 6 wolf lead: [Scott\\_Becker@fws.gov](mailto:Scott_Becker@fws.gov)

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### OFFICES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT:

CO, KS, UT, WY Resident Agent in Charge: [lizz\\_darling@fws.gov](mailto:lizz_darling@fws.gov)  
(303)704-0005

NE, SD, ND, MT Resident Agent in Charge: [jeremy\\_tenkley@fws.gov](mailto:jeremy_tenkley@fws.gov)  
(402)760-1890

Assistant Special Agent in Charge: [erryl\\_wolgemuth@fws.gov](mailto:erryl_wolgemuth@fws.gov)  
(614)732-3327

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### REGIONAL RECOVERY PERMIT COORDINATORS:

Southwest Region 2 Office: [permitsR2es@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR2es@fws.gov)  
P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

Mountain-Prairie Region 6 Office: [permitsR6ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR6ES@fws.gov)  
134 Union Blvd. Lakewood, CO 80228