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To: [Johnson, Aran](#); afrost@southernute-nsn.gov; [Baker, Melvin J](#)
Cc: [Coffman, Amy](#)
Subject: Notification of draft 10(j) rule and environmental analysis related to Colorado's gray wolf reintroduction
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 2:00:24 PM

I am writing today to provide information on our action, schedule follow up discussions, and extend an invitation to general information sessions.

We are evaluating a range of alternatives to address a request from the State of Colorado for issuing a section 10(j) rule, consistent with section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 United States Code [USC] 1531 et seq.) to provide management flexibility to the state for the reintroduction and management of the gray wolf. Designating the population as experimental would allow the Service to tailor ESA protections for the population to provide management flexibility and better address stakeholder concerns, while still achieving conservation benefits for the species. The draft rule and analysis publish on Friday, February 17, 2023, and comments will be accepted for 60 days through April 18, 2023.

Based on our previous discussions, we recognize that there may have spiritual, historical, and cultural connection to this species, other species in the wolf reintroduction area, or concerns about potential impacts to tribal resources. We look forward to continuing our dialogue and request the opportunity to schedule a meeting.

Additional opportunities for information include our public meetings and Tribal information sessions scheduled on Monday, February 27, and Monday, March 6, at 2pm MT. Both information sessions will be the same. We are offering two sessions to accommodate schedules of a large number of people. An invitation to these information sessions will be sent separately.

The rule and associated environmental analysis are available on our website at: www.fws.gov/coloradowolf.

Your comments are very important to us, and to the successful completion of this project. I look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or require any additional information, feel free to contact me at Nicole_Alt@fws.gov or (303) 236-4213.

Respectfully,

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