

# Management of Wolves as an Experimental (10j) Population

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# Gray Wolf Federal Listing Status

- **2020:** delisting rule
- **2021:** petitions to relist wolves
- **2022:** delisting rule vacated
- **COLORADO**



# Present Status in Colorado

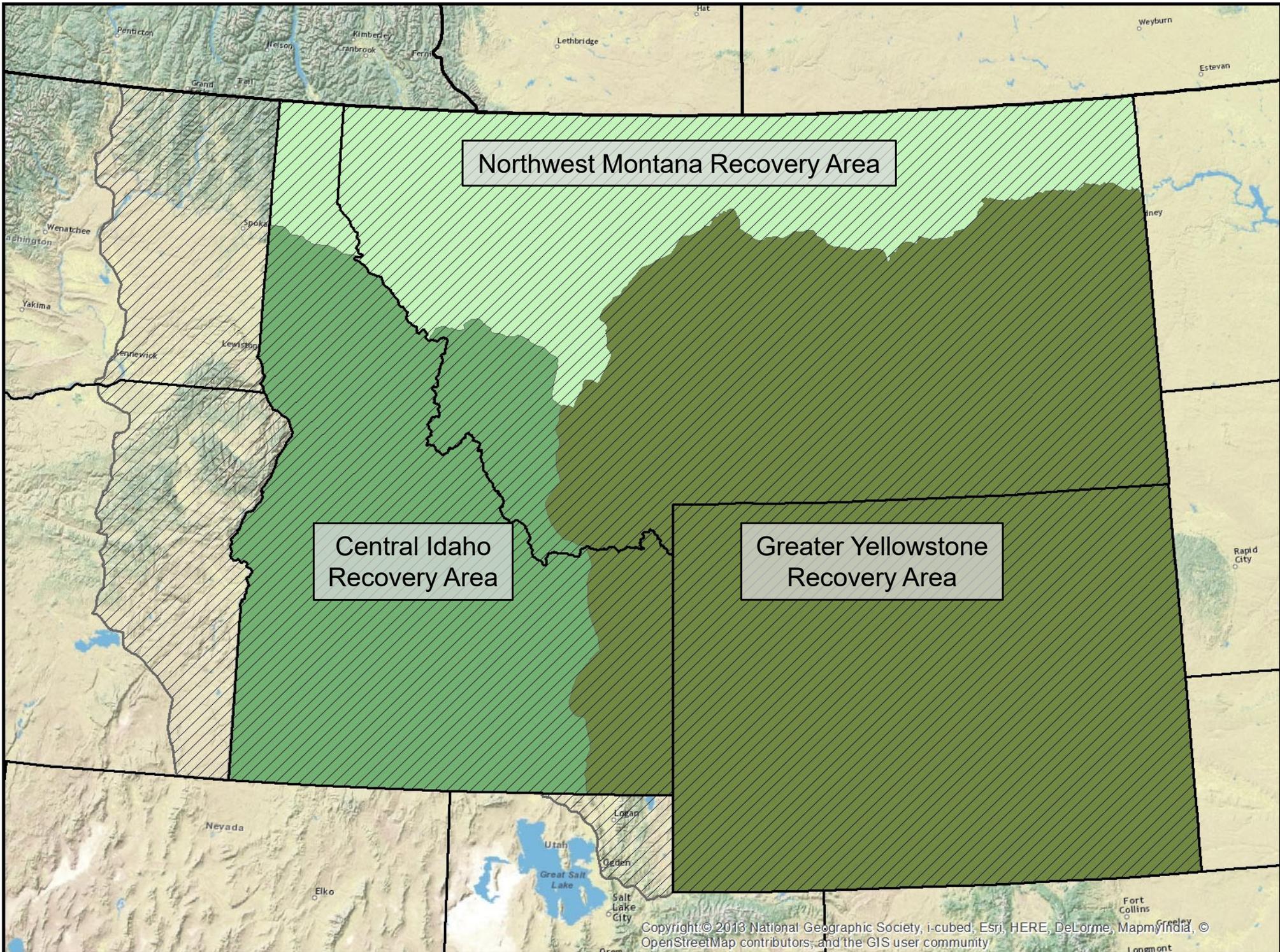
- Federally endangered under ESA
- Take (harass, injure, or kill) of endangered species is prohibited
  - Except in defense of life or the life of others
  - Only non-injurious 'take' allowed
- CPW statutorily required to reintroduce wolves
- Designate wolves as an experimental population in CO to provide increased management flexibility and reduce regulatory burden

# ESA Section 10(j): Experimental Populations

- Listed species reintroduced outside of current range
- Separated geographically from other populations
  - **POPULATION:** 2 breeding pairs for 2 consecutive years
- All wolves reintroduced in lower 48 states reintroduced as experimental populations

# ESA Section 10(j): Experimental Populations

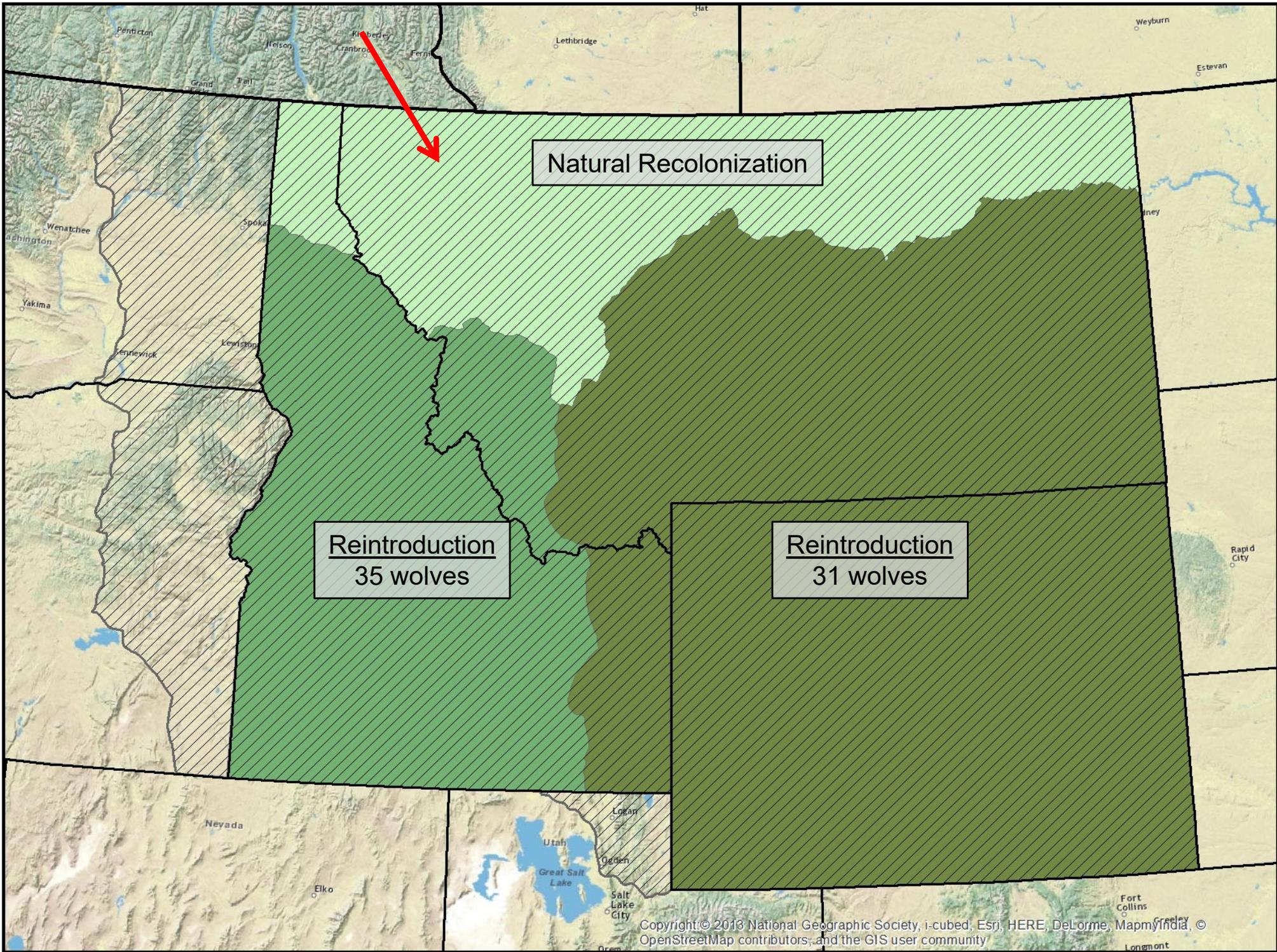
- Increases flexibility and discretion in managing a reintroduced, listed species
- Less restrictive take prohibitions of listed species
- Clearly defines under what circumstances all forms of take (harass, injure, or kill) may be allowed
- NEPA required and rulemaking process



Northwest Montana Recovery Area

Central Idaho Recovery Area

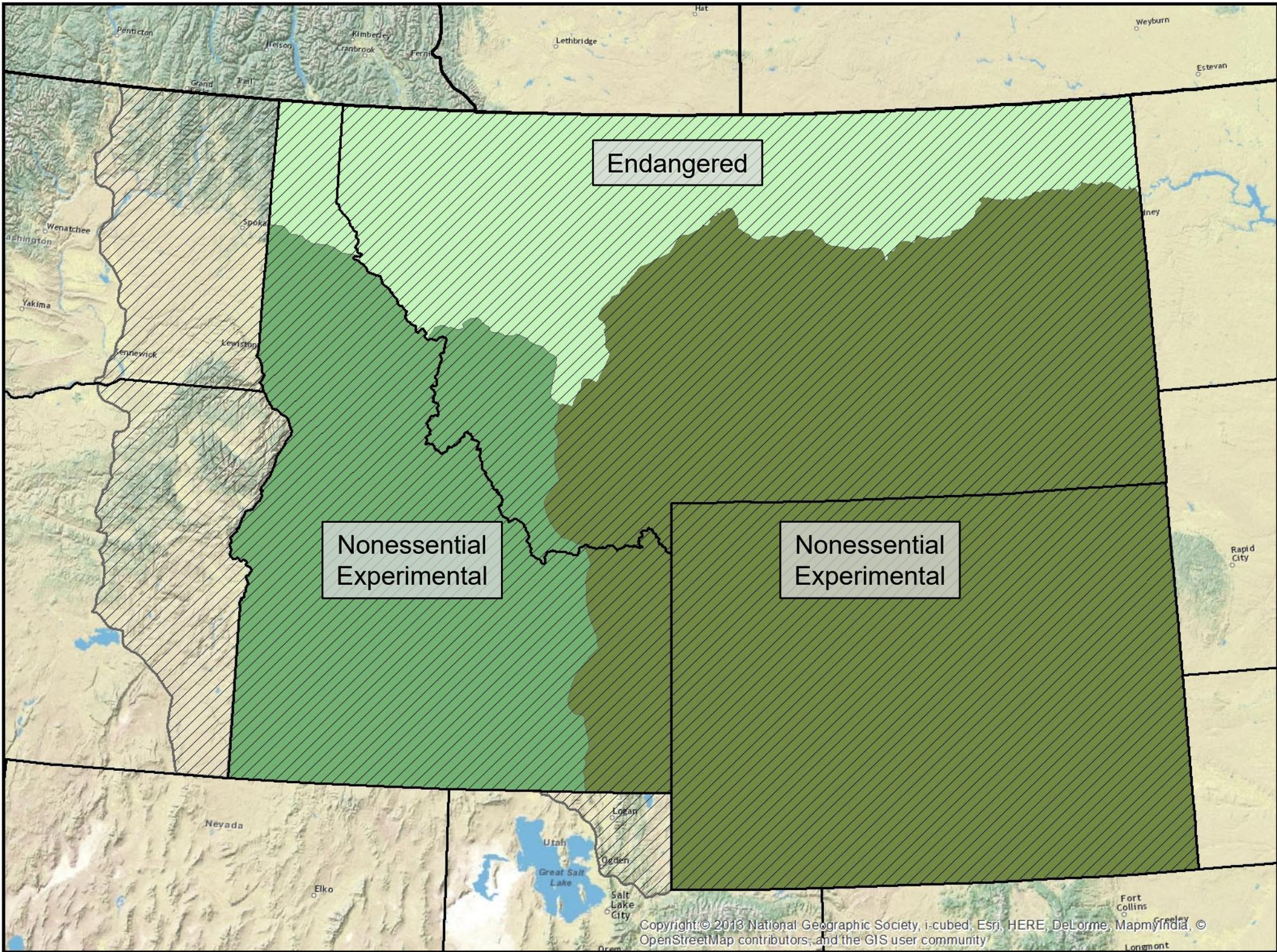
Greater Yellowstone Recovery Area



Natural Recolonization

Reintroduction  
35 wolves

Reintroduction  
31 wolves



Endangered

Nonessential  
Experimental

Nonessential  
Experimental

<b>Mgmt. Option</b>	<b>Endangered</b>	<b>1994 Exp Pop</b>	<b>2005/2008 Exp Pop</b>
<b>Defense of life and life of other; non-injurious harassment</b>	<b>ALLOWED</b>	<b>ALLOWED</b>	<b>ALLOWED</b>
<b>Non-lethal injurious harassment</b>	<b>NOT ALLOWED</b>	<b>ALLOWED</b>	<b>ALLOWED</b>
<b>Caught-in-the-act (private)</b>	<b>NOT ALLOWED</b>	<b>ALLOWED</b> (no permit needed; evidence wolves harassed, molested, wounded, or killed livestock required)	<b>ALLOWED</b> (no permit needed; evidence wolves harassed, molested, wounded, or killed livestock required)
<b>Caught-in-the-act (public)</b>	<b>NOT ALLOWED</b>	<b>ALLOWED</b> (permit only; evidence wolves harassed, molested, wounded, or killed livestock required)	<b>ALLOWED</b> (no permit needed; evidence wolves harassed, molested, wounded, or killed livestock required)
<b>Shoot-on-sight (private)</b>	<b>NOT ALLOWED</b>	<b>ALLOWED</b> (permit only; evidence wolves harassed, molested, wounded, or killed livestock required)	<b>ALLOWED</b> (permit only; evidence wolves harassed, molested, wounded, or killed livestock required)
<b>Shoot-on-sight (public)</b>	<b>NOT ALLOWED</b>	<b>ALLOWED</b> (permit only; evidence wolves harassed, molested, wounded, or killed livestock required)	<b>ALLOWED</b> (permit only; evidence wolves harassed, molested, wounded, or killed livestock required)
<b>Agency directed control</b>	<b>NOT ALLOWED</b>	<b>ALLOWED</b>	<b>ALLOWED</b>



# Project schedule

Timeframe	Milestone
Summer – Fall 2022	Gather data, refine alternatives, analyze impacts, and prepare the Draft EIS
Winter/Spring 2023	Draft EIS and proposed rule available for public review
Fall 2023	Final EIS and rule released; record of decision finalized
December 2023	Final rule becomes effective





# Additional Information or Questions

- To read more about the 10(j) rulemaking process, please visit our project website at: <https://www.fws.gov/office/colorado-ecological-services-field-office/colorado-gray-wolf-updates>
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