

State Coordinating Call

2/28/23

Clay Crowder (AZGF), Reid DeWalt (CPW), Kim Hersey (UTDWR), Brady McGee, Nicole Alt, Scott Becker, Lauren Toivonen

Topics this coordinating call can discuss:

- AZ and NM: how can our state agencies help FWS as they develop the DEIS?
 - Overall, AZ and NM agencies are willing to help.
 - Can assist with language that can be incorporated into the DEIS and makes sense for the states.
- Additions and revisions to the FEIS
- Developing the MOU agreement and identifying signatories
 - Ideally this MOU agreement is ready for signature by the time the FEIS is released, and is signed before ROD is signed.
- Permits are completed after the rule is completed.
- Can utilize Mexican wolf docs as a template.

Timeline:

- April 18: Comment period for proposed rule and DEIS ends.
- July 13: Final rule due to RO
- Late July/August: MOU Agreement completed, incorporate any info (re: MOU) into the FEIS as it gets cleared.
- October 7: FEIS published
- ROD is signed at the beginning of November so the rule can be cleared and sent to Federal Register
- Nov 15: Publish final rule
- Dec 15: Final rule effective date
- January 2024: Permits would come out after the rule is effective

Recommendation from Brady based on what he did with Mexican wolf:

- Take the help from state agencies to work on drafts.
- Offered to help with impacts to Mexican wolf in the DEIS.
- Similar to considering gray wolf movement south, consider Mexican wolf movement north (into CO), manage for both directions of movement.
 - Never documented in Colorado, but have den camera photos near the border of CO
 - Intent is to keep them from going into Colorado but suspect that it won't be 100%
 - Current population: 241 wolves, 23% growth

Colorado: What is the term of the commitment from the state of CO to accept wolves back into CO?

- In perpetuity or sunset clause
- CPW will need to get direction from Governor's office

Utah: if the state has management authority, UT will deal with it. If listed: take it back, upon delisting: Utah will manage

- Dispersing wolves from CO to UT
- Sent a letter to CPW

Scott:

What is the timeline that CPW is thinking of when it comes to wolves once they are on the ground.

- For the future: how to identify what populations wolves are from, including logistics such as how and where will those animals be held.

Tribes:

- Tribes outside of CO: should Tribes have separate agreement or be party to this proposed MOU agreement?
- FYI for Mexican wolf: one tribe is signed on the MOU and no tribes are signed up on a separate agreement
 - Most tribes in MWEPA don't want wolves.
 - If a tribe wants to manage wolves, they could sign up for an agreement
 - If a tribe doesn't want wolves, they can contact FWS and they can be removed
 - Found in 10(j) clauses: tribes can set up a separate and stand alone MOU
- CO wolf 10(j): strongly encouraging the 2 Tribes in CO to draft a management plan or regulations so they can have management authority on Tribal lands
 - Plans or regs Don't have to be in place by the time the final rule goes into effect.
 - Tribes: How/if they'd be able to have reimbursement for take of livestock through the state program (or not)
 - Want to have their own management authority but will they be eligible for compensation program under the state plan

Meeting scheduling:

- Recommended to start off with meeting every week: scheduling via doodle poll
- Earlier in the week is better than later in the week; noon to early afternoon work better for Stewart and Reid during legislative session.
- Kim: relatively clear after 3pm on Monday afternoons

Action items:

- Share the Mexican wolf MOU
- Send calendar invite for weekly coordination calls on Mondays at 3pm MT
- Send out a Save the Date for the in-March 27 in-person meeting
- Start working on a draft agenda for the 3/27 meeting
- Reid will reserve a room at CPW for the 3/27 meeting as a backup option