



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
445 W. Gunnison Ave Suite 240
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R6/Colorado Wolf 10(j)
Ecosphere Project number: 2023-0100717

July 11, 2023

Memorandum

To: Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Mountain-Prairie Region

From: Acting Field Office Supervisor, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
~~Grand Junction, CO~~

Subject: Biological Opinion for the section 10(j) rulemaking for designation of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf in Colorado

This memorandum transmits the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) ~~B~~biological opinion (~~BO~~opinion), based on our review of the proposed regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Colorado to manage gray wolves inside the nonessential experimental population area. The attached ~~BO~~opinion analyzes impact of the proposed action on the experimental population of gray wolves. According to the ESA Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1539(j)(2)(C)(i)), any experimental nonessential population located outside a National Park or National Wildlife Refuge System unit is treated as a proposed species. We concluded that the proposed actions will not jeopardize the continued existence of the gray wolf.

The attached ~~BO~~opinion is based on information provided in the proposed regulations for the nonessential experimental population of the gray wolf, (published February 17, 2023), the associated ~~Final-Draft Final~~ Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed regulations, and other sources of information available to the Service. A complete administrative record of this consultation is on file at the Colorado Ecological Services Filed Office, Grand Junction, ~~CO~~olorado.

We have determined that the proposed action will have no effect to all other federally listed species in Colorado.

Attachment: Biological Opinion Regarding the Designation of a Non-essential Experimental Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) Population within the State of Colorado.

