

From: [Smith, Julia B \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Hansen, Craig](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: PEER REVIEW REQUEST | Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) in Colorado
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 1:08:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[Peer review Proposed Establishment NEP of the Wolf in Colorado JBSmith.pdf](#)

Hi Craig,

Please find attached my review of the proposed rule. Please let me know if you need anything additional from me. Thank you again for the opportunity to participate as a peer reviewer.

Sincerely,



Julia B. Smith

Wolf Policy Lead, Wildlife Program
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501
Julia.Smith@dfw.wa.gov
360-790-1029
wdfw.wa.gov/wolves

From: Hansen, Craig <Craig_Hansen@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 6:11 AM
To: Smith, Julia B (DFW) <Julia.Smith@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: PEER REVIEW REQUEST | Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) in Colorado

External Email

Yes, totally acceptable! Thank you so much for your time!

Craig

From: Smith, Julia B (DFW) <Julia.Smith@dfw.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 6:39 PM
To: Hansen, Craig <Craig_Hansen@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: PEER REVIEW REQUEST | Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) in Colorado

Hi Craig,

I have not yet completed my comments, but they're in progress. Would a week's extension be possible?

Thanks so much.

Sincerely,



Julia B. Smith

Wolf Policy Lead, Wildlife Program
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Julia.Smith@dfw.wa.gov

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From: Hansen, Craig <Craig_Hansen@fws.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:47 PM

To: Smith, Julia B (DFW) <Julia.Smith@dfw.wa.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: PEER REVIEW REQUEST | Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Colorado

External Email

Greetings,

Just checking in on this peer review request. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Thank you again,

Craig.

From: Hansen, Craig <Craig_Hansen@fws.gov>

Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2023 12:12 PM

To: Smith, Julia B (DFW) <Julia.Smith@dfw.wa.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: PEER REVIEW REQUEST | Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Colorado

Dear Julia Smith:

Thank you for your willingness to participate as a scientific peer reviewer of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service's) [proposed rule to establish a nonessential experimental](#)

[population \(NEP\) of the gray wolf \(*Canis lupus*\) in the State of Colorado](#), under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2022-0100). Following the 60-day public comment period, which closes on **April 18, 2023**, we will review and address all peer and public comments, and work to finalize this rulemaking.

Thank you for completing your conflict of interest form. I have reviewed and approved your submission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In accordance with our July 1, 1994, peer review policy (59 FR 34270), the Service's August 22, 2016, Director's Memo on the Peer Review Process, and the Office of Management and Budget's December 16, 2004, Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review, we now invite your assistance in conducting an independent peer review of this proposed rule. The purpose of this peer review is to ensure that our proposed rule is based on scientifically sound data, assumptions, and analyses. The [Peer Review Plan](#) for this rulemaking provides additional information.

During this peer review process, we invite you to comment on the specific assumptions and scientific assessments included in proposed rule. The opinions of all peer reviewers will be incorporated or summarized, and your input will be taken into consideration as part of our rulemaking process.

Additionally, we ask that you focus your review of the document on the scientific information and analyses relevant to your area of expertise. Please note that we are not asking for and will not accept input on the policy determinations that we are charged with making under the Act. The Service retains full control over relevant policy determinations and no pre-decisional assumptions regarding those determinations will be discussed. You were selected as peer reviewer based solely on your scientific qualifications, rather than as a representative of any particular position of an agency, employer, or other interested party.

We ask that you consider the following questions about the content of the documents, and we welcome any other relevant comments:

1. Is our description and analysis of the biology, habitat, population trends, conservation status, and historical and current distribution of the species accurate?
2. Are there any significant oversights, omissions, or inconsistencies?
3. Are the conclusions we reach logical and supported by the evidence we provide?
4. Did we include all the necessary and pertinent literature to support our assumptions, arguments, and conclusions?
5. Are there additional considerations regarding the geographic boundary of the NEP, the adequacy of the proposed regulations for the NEP, or additional management that may be needed to address

expanding gray wolf populations?

If you find that our data are inadequate, please identify additional data or studies that may be needed. Please provide literature, data, and full citations, if appropriate.

Please be aware that your comments, including your name and address, will be included in the administrative record for this action, which will be available to the public, upon request. Per our peer review policy, we must also post your complete conflict of interest forms to our agency's [peer review webpage](#); the policy also directs us to make your comments available to the public, either on our own website or on Regulations.gov with the associated docket (FWS-R6-ES-2022-0100).

DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR YOUR PEER REVIEW:

You may access the proposed rule, the references cited, and the peer review plan using the following hyperlinks:

- [Peer Review Plan](#):
- [Proposed rule for your peer review](#)
- [References Cited in the Proposed Rule](#)

DUE DATE:

We would appreciate receiving your peer review in 60 days from the publication in the *Federal Register*, so by **April 18, 2023**, **returned by email to me at craig_hansen@fws.gov**. No need to also submit your peer review through Regulations.gov.

Thank you again for your time and expertise to help us ensure that our proposed rule includes the best possible scientific information and analyses. I look forward to receiving your review. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time by telephone or email if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Craig Hansen
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(303) 236-4749; craig_hansen@fws.gov

From: Smith, Julia B (DFW) <Julia.Smith@dfw.wa.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 3:14 PM

To: Hansen, Craig <Craig_Hansen@fws.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: PEER REVIEW REQUEST | Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Colorado

Hi Craig,

Just submitted it. Thanks for the nudge!

Sincerely,



Julia B. Smith

Wolf Policy Lead, Wildlife Program
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501

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From: Hansen, Craig <Craig_Hansen@fws.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 8:46 AM

To: Smith, Julia B (DFW) <Julia.Smith@dfw.wa.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: PEER REVIEW REQUEST | Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Colorado

External Email

Greetings, Julia:

Just checking to see if you were able to complete this COI form. I haven't seen it come through yet. Thank you!

<https://forms.office.com/g/fEq1hk41Ls>

Craig

From: Hansen, Craig <Craig_Hansen@fws.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 11:43 AM

To: Smith, Julia B (DFW) <Julia.Smith@dfw.wa.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: PEER REVIEW REQUEST | Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Colorado

Not a problem at all! Thank you so much for agreeing to peer review.

Please complete this conflict of interest form at your earliest convenience, and then I will

distribute the document for your peer review:

<https://forms.office.com/g/fEq1hk41Ls>

Thank you!

Craig.

From: Smith, Julia B (DFW) <Julia.Smith@dfw.wa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Hansen, Craig <Craig_Hansen@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: PEER REVIEW REQUEST | Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Colorado

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Craig,

Apologies for the delay in my reply; I was on leave. I am willing and available to serve as a peer reviewer of this document. Thank you for considering me.

Sincerely,



Julia B. Smith

Wolf Policy Lead, Wildlife Program
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501

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From: Hansen, Craig <Craig_Hansen@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 1:29 PM
Subject: PEER REVIEW REQUEST | Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Colorado

External Email

PEER REVIEW REQUEST | Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Colorado

Greetings:

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) has drafted a proposed rule to establish a nonessential experimental population (NEP) of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the State of Colorado, under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). You have been recommended as a potential peer reviewer of the proposed rule based on your area of scientific expertise. I am writing to to ask whether you would be willing and available to serve as a peer reviewer of this document.

Peer review will run concurrently with the proposed rule's public comment period. If you agree to participate as a peer reviewer, I anticipate distributing the document within the next week, or as soon as the document publishes in the *Federal Register*. You would then have **60 days** to provide your peer review back to me by email. We will not be providing financial compensation to peer reviewers. Before receiving the document, you would be asked to complete and return an online conflict of interest form.

Additional information about this peer review process and specific questions to help focus the peer review can be found in the attached peer review plan. Please let me know as soon as possible, preferably by **this Friday, February 17, 2023**, whether you would be willing and able to participate as a peer reviewer. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

We would greatly appreciate your input, expertise, and time. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig Hansen
Regional Recovery Coordinator - Mountain-Prairie Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Craig Hansen

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6
Ecological Services - Branch of Classification & Recovery
Recovery Coordinator / Fish & Wildlife Biologist
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