



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

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) biological opinion (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 opinion analyzes impact of the proposed action on the experimental population of gray wolves. According to the 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 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 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, Colorado.

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.