



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington D.C. 20240



October 10, 2025

Director Jeff Davis
Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80216

Dear Director Davis:

I write pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“Service”) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (“CPW”) for Management of Gray Wolves in Colorado and Designation of Colorado Parks and Wildlife as a Designated Agent of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, executed on December 12, 2023, (“MOA”) regarding requirements of the Colorado gray wolf 10(j) rule (November 8, 2023; 88 FR 77038-77039) (“10(j) rule”).

In the 10(j) rule, the Service authorized the State of Colorado, through CPW, to release and establish gray wolves in Colorado as an experimental population subject to Service oversight. Specifically, the 10(j) rule allowed that gray wolves obtained from the delisted NRM population areas, defined as Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, the eastern third of Oregon, the eastern third of Washington, and north-central Utah (NRM Areas), be transported and then released on multiple sites in Colorado west of the Continental Divide.

The MOA provided that the Service will ensure that the State’s management of gray wolves, as a federally listed species, is conducted in full compliance with the 10(j) rule.

We have reason to believe that CPW may be seeking to capture, transport, and/or release one or more wolves from areas outside of the specified NRM Areas outlined in the 10(j) rule. To the extent that these reports are true, such actions are violative of the 10(j) rule. If CPW is currently engaged in such activities, CPW must immediately cease and desist any and all efforts related to the capture, transport and/or release of gray wolves not obtained from the NRM Areas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Nesvik
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service