



April 11, 2023

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041

*Delivered electronically via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) to Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2022-0100*

RE: Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2022-0100, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants;  
Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf in the State of Colorado;  
Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Nicole Alt,  
Ecological Services Supervisor, USFWS

The Moffat County, Colorado, Board of County Commissioners are pleased to offer comments regarding the Draft EIS and Proposed 10(j) rule. Moffat County is a Cooperating Agency with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding this EIS and 10(j) rule. Moffat County also has seen wolves migrate from Wyoming into our County, and have been active in virtually every stage of the Colorado wolf planning efforts, including one of our County Commissioners participating on Colorado's Stakeholder Advisory Group. We have testified and participated in every wolf comment period, both through the federal 10(j) process as well as the State of Colorado wolf planning processes. First of all, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work that you and your staff and partners have accomplished by the drafting of the DEIS and 10(j) rule, especially under such a tight time-frame.

### **Comments Relating to the DEIS:**

1. **Alternatives:** Moffat County supports Alternative 1, where the 10(j) rule would consider wolves a non-essential, experimental population, and would apply to the entire state of Colorado. In the absence of an established wolf population (2x2x2 rule), there is no reason to subject landowners or reduce flexibility in wolf management by not applying 10(j) to the entire state. If a population of wolves is designated prior to the adoption of the 10(j) rule Moffat County would support Alternative 2 if the smallest possible boundary were drawn around the established population, whereby the 10(j) rule was applied to the maximum area within Colorado. Under no condition does Moffat County support the No Action Alternative.

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