



**COLORADO**

Governor Jared Polis

May 16, 2023

Dan Gibbs  
Executive Director - Department of Natural Resources  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver 80203

Dear Director Gibbs:

As you know, on November 3, 2020, the Colorado voters passed Proposition 114 directing the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission (“Commission”) to restore gray wolves to the State. Since then, the Commission has unanimously approved the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan (“Plan”) through a collaborative process engaging the Federal government, a Technical Working Group, a Stakeholder Advisory Group, and a robust public comment period with careful attention to the most impacted communities in the State. This outreach resulted in 18 field and virtual hearings across the State and over 4,000 comments. The Plan outlines a holistic view of the impact gray wolves will have on the State and a thoughtful approach to gray wolf reintroduction and management.

The Plan also contemplates the role of Endangered Species Act regulations on gray wolves. Concurrent with the planning process, Colorado Parks and Wildlife worked closely with US Fish and Wildlife Services (“USFWS”) to develop a rule designating Colorado’s gray wolves as a non-essential, experimental population under 16 U.S.C. sec. 1539 (j), commonly known as “10j.” To make progress towards the 10j, the Department of Natural Resources, the Commission, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff worked with USFWS to adhere to the process mandated under the National Environmental Policy Act and invested one million dollars to secure the 10j prior to December of 2023. USFWS also completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, with the assistance of the Commission. Thanks to this hard work, we expect the 10j to be in place prior to the introduction of gray wolves to the State in December of 2023.

This team of passionate public servants has invested a significant amount of time and resources ensuring the success of Proposition of 114 for all Colorado citizens. To support this effort, I’m directing you to continue to work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Commission in taking all steps possible to obtain a 10j rule prior to release of gray wolves in Colorado.

Sincerely,

Jared Polis  
Governor  
State of Colorado