

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 2, 2021

Honorable Deb Haaland  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Martha Williams  
Principal Deputy Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland and Deputy Director Williams,

The state of Colorado has been mandated, through Proposition 114, to restore a viable population of gray wolves through reintroductions beginning December 31, 2023.

The gray wolf, previously listed under the Endangered Species Act as endangered, was removed from the list in January 2021. The fluctuating listing status of the grey wolf has caused uncertainties for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, as management restrictions may be enacted if the reintroduced species and their progeny are again protected as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The ability for the state to properly manage the gray wolf is paramount to the success of the reintroduction effort. State authorities need the flexibility to relocate, tag, or manage wolf and livestock interactions to ensure a more favorable process for local stakeholders. Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act offers a permit option that could allow Colorado Parks and Wildlife management flexibility and would afford a degree of regulatory certainty to the state and other stakeholders.

We ask that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior work closely with the state of Colorado, in a timely manner, to establish federal-state agreements and to invoke Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act, where appropriate. It is essential the state be provided the necessary management capabilities to implement a successful reintroduction of the gray wolf.

Thank you for your consideration and please notify our offices of any relevant decisions made on the matter.

Sincerely,



John W. Hickenlooper  
U.S. Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
U.S. Senator