

June 16, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
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Martha Williams, Principal Deputy Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street N.W.
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Re: Gray Wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains Need ESA Protections

Dear Secretary Haaland and Principal Deputy Director Williams:

We, the undersigned – who represent national, regional, and local wildlife conservation organizations from across the United States – write in support of immediately restoring protections under the Endangered Species Act to gray wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains.

The states of Idaho and Montana have just passed legislation to drastically reduce their wolf populations. Hunters, trappers, and private contractors in Idaho can kill up to 90% of the state’s estimated 1,500 wolves, using new—and highly effective—methods of hunting that have not previously been available. In Montana, new rulemaking may pave the way for killing approximately 85% of the population, currently reported at 1,200 wolves. Unless the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service restores federal protections, the region’s wolves will soon lose decades of progress toward recovery.

To prevent the states’ planned wolf extermination, on May 26, 2021 a coalition of conservation organizations asked the Service to immediately protect gray wolves in the Northern Rockies with its emergency listing authority under the ESA. 5 U.S.C. §§ 553(e), 555(b); 16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(7). The [Petition](#) requests one of two alternative Distinct Population Segment (“DPS”) designations: a regional DPS for the Northern Rocky Mountains or a “Western DPS” that includes the Northern Rocky Mountains, West Coast and Southern Rocky Mountains.

We ask that you accept our letter of support for the Petition and restore life-saving protections for gray wolves under the Endangered Species Act.

Sincerely,

Animal Legal Defense Fund
Cristina Stella, Managing Attorney
Cotati, CA

Animal Welfare Institute
Johanna Hamburger, Director and Senior Staff Attorney, Terrestrial Wildlife Program
Washington, D.C.

Apex Protection Project

Paula Ficara, Executive Director
Palmdale, CA

Born Free USA

Julie Kluck, Campaigns Associate
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Center for Biological Diversity

Andrea Zaccardi, Senior Attorney
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Christian Council of Delmarva

Rev. Robert P Hall, OSL, President
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Colorado Wolf Alliance

Rhonda Dern, Founder
Colorado

Defenders of Wildlife

Shawn Cantrell, Vice President, Field Conservation Programs
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Earthjustice

Tim Preso, Managing Attorney
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Endangered Species Coalition

Tara Thornton, Deputy Director
Washington, D.C.

Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)

Thomas Wheeler, Executive Director
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Farmer Frog

Jane Hutchinson, Wildlife Program Director
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Footloose Montana

Stephen Capra, Executive Director
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Friends of Animals

Adam Kreger, Associate Attorney
Centennial, CO

Friends of Animals and Their Environment

Howard Goldman, Director
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Friends of Wisconsin Wolves and Wildlife

Amy Mueller, Board of Directors
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Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Shelley Silbert, Executive Director
Durango, CO

Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Boise Chapter

Pam Conley, Leader
Boise, ID

Heartwood

David Nickell, Council Chair
Kentucky

Howling For Wolves

Maureen Hackett, Founder and President
Hopkins, MN

Humane Society International

Teresa M. Telecky, Ph.D., Vice President, Wildlife
Washington, DC

Humane Society Legislative Fund

Keisha Sedlacek, Director of Regulatory Affairs
Washington, D.C.

The Humane Society of the United States

Nicholas Arrivo, Managing Attorney, Wildlife
Washington, DC

International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute

Mark J. Palmer, Associate Director
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Kettle Range Conservation Group

Timothy Coleman, Executive Director
Republic, WA

Klamath Forest Alliance

Kimberly Baker, Executive Director
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Living with Wolves

Garrick Dutcher, Research and Program Director
Ketchum, ID

National Wolfwatcher Coalition

Nancy Warren, Executive Director
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Natural Resources Defense Council

Amy McNamara, Northern Rockies Director
Bozeman, MT

Northeast Oregon Ecosystems

Wally Sykes, Co-Founder
Joseph, OR

Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative

Matthew K. Barnes, Research Associate
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Northwest Animal Rights Network (NARN)

Rachel Bjork, President
Seattle, WA

NY4WHALES

William Rossiter, Vice President
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Oceanic Preservation Society

Courtney Vail, Campaign Director
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Oregon Wild

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Program Coordinator
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Pacific Wolf Coalition

Chris Bachman, Biologist/Executive Committee Member
Spokane, WA

Pennsylvania Habitat Connectivity

Deborah Woodard, Ecological Connectivity Advocate
Erwinna, PA

Plan B to Save Wolves

Betsy Klein, Co-Founder
Sedona, AZ

Project Coyote

Michelle L. Lute, PhD, National Carnivore Conservation Manager
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Resource Renewal Institute

Deborah L. Moskowitz, President
Mill Valley, CA

RESTORE: The North Woods

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Roaring Fork Audubon

Mary Harris, Chair
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Save Wolves Now

Eileen Sutz, Founder/Manager
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Sierra Club

Bonnie Rice, Senior Representative, Greater Yellowstone/Northern Rockies Campaign
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Sierra Forest Legacy

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Speak for Wolves

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WildEarth Guardians

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Wilderness Watch

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WildLands Defense

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Wolf Conservation Center

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Wolf Hollow

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Wyoming Untrapped

Loren Taylor, Executive Director
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