

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

January 12, 2023

Director Hank Warsech
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59601-0701

Director Warsech,

Montana's efforts toward gray wolf recovery date back to the 1980s. Recovery efforts quickened when gray wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park and the wilderness areas of central Idaho. In 2002, the federal recovery goal was met. Since that conservation victory, the people of Montana, with significant interest and earnest participation, have engaged in wolf management.

In 2002, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks ("FWP") opened the public scoping period for its wolf management environmental impact statement. At the conclusion of a comprehensive public process, the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (the "Wolf Plan") was finalized and approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 2004. Congress delisted wolves in 2011, and since that time, Montana has retained statewide management authority.

Given the public and legislature's engagement in wolf management, it is an appropriate time to revisit the Wolf Plan. Accordingly, I am directing FWP to collaborate with the citizens of Montana to form a new Wolf Plan.

I understand this task is not simple, especially given FWP's current efforts to re-examine the elk management plan and complete the grizzly bear management plan. Your ongoing leadership and public engagement on these initiatives, however, leaves me confident that this directive is timely. I remain certain that as we engage in this new planning endeavor, the Montana gray wolf population will continue to be managed effectively as a viable population far into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Gianforte".

Greg Gianforte
Governor