



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington DC, 20004



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AES/DCC/BLPS/47117

Ms. Kristen Boyles
Earthjustice
810 Third Avenue, Suite 610
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Ms. Boyles:

We received your notice of intent to sue regarding our November 3, 2020, delisting of the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act (85 FR 69778). Your letter, received in late fall 2020, generally alleges that we violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) when we delisted the gray wolf.

We are committed to the conservation and protection of all species, including the gray wolf. We made our delisting determination using the best scientific and commercial data available and properly evaluated all relevant factors as required by the ESA and APA. We are implementing post-delisting management in cooperation with Federal, state, and tribal partners to ensure that the gray wolf populations in the lower 48 United States continue to be conserved and remain healthy. Our delisting action recognizes the successful recovery of one of the most iconic species to our nation's natural heritage, which currently numbers more than 6,000 wolves, greatly exceeding our recovery goals for the Northern Rocky Mountains and Western Great Lakes populations.

Thank you for your interest in conserving the gray wolf. If you have any questions regarding this letter, or wish to share further information, please contact me at 202/208-4646 or gary_frazer@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Assistant Director for
Ecological Services