



Office of the Governor

September 4, 2007

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
5400 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82006

Dear Commission Members:

I write to you concerning the wolf boundary contemplated in House Bill 213. I write with particular reference to the trophy game management boundary set forth in proposed Wyo. Stats. § 11-6-302(a)(x)(B)(I) and 23-1-101(a)(xii)(B)(I) and the authority specifically granted to the governor by the legislature in proposed Wyo. Stats. §§ 11-6-302(b) and 23-1-101(b) to direct the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) to modify that boundary "to the extent necessary to achieve federal government delisting of the gray wolf."

As the Commission is well aware, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been adamant in its view that the boundary set forth in Wyo. Stats. §§ 11-6-302(a)(x)(B)(I) and 23-1-101(a)(xii)(B)(I) is insufficient to sustain a fully recovered wolf population. While we may disagree on this point, it is clear that delisting will not proceed until that boundary is modified. Consequently, I hereby direct the Commission, pursuant to Wyo. Stats. §§ 11-6-302(b) and 23-1-101(b), to adopt the following trophy game management boundary in the contingent gray wolf management plan that will be before you at your next Commission meeting:

Beginning at the junction of Wyoming Highway 120 and the Wyoming/Montana state line; southerly along Wyoming Highway 120 to the Greybull River; southwesterly up said river to the Wood River; southwesterly up said river to the Shoshone National Forest boundary; southerly along said boundary to the Wind River Indian Reservation boundary; westerly, then southerly along said boundary to the Continental Divide; southeasterly along said Divide to the Middle Fork of Boulder Creek; westerly down said Creek to Boulder Creek; westerly down said creek to the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary; northwesterly along said boundary to its intersection with U.S. Highway 189/191; northwesterly along said highway to the intersection with U.S. Highway 26/89/191; northerly along said highway to Wyoming Highway 22 in the town of Jackson; westerly along said highway to the Wyoming/Idaho State line; north along said state line to the Wyoming/Montana state line; north and then east along said state line to Wyoming Highway 120.

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While our past experience with the Endangered Species Act has been a case study in frustration, I am hopeful that we might be on a better course with regard to wolf delisting. If my hope is misplaced, I believe that the language set forth in House Bill 213 adequately protects the state's interests such that the full range of options, including continuing with our present litigation, are fully preserved.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Freudenthal", written over a large, sweeping flourish that extends upwards and to the left.

Dave Freudenthal
Governor

c: John Schiffer, President of the Senate
Roy Cohee, Speaker of the House
Terry Cleveland

DF:RL:bjw