



MEMO TO FILE

From: Hilary Cooley, Idaho Wolf Recovery Coordinator

Date: October 29, 2013

Subject: Review of Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2013-2014 Wolf Hunting Regulations

On September 24, I discussed with Seth Willey, Shawn Sartorius, and Mike Jimenez whether we should conduct "on-the-spot" reviews of the 2013 wolf hunting regulations in Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. The Service conducted such reviews for Idaho and Montana in 2011 and 2012, and for Wyoming in 2012. On-the-spot reviews are not a required element of the post-delisting period. We acknowledge this in the 2012 review of Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2012-2013 Wolf Hunting Regulations, and we anticipated that they would no longer be necessary as the Sates achieve desired wolf population reductions.

In our phone conversation, we agreed that a review for Idaho is not necessary this year for the following reasons:

- In comparison with hunting regulation changes in Idaho for the 2011 and 2012 seasons, we felt changes made to this year's regulations to be relatively minor and unlikely to significantly increase the harvest.
- The 2012 population estimate of 683 wolves in Idaho is still well above the recovery goal of 100 wolves. Given impacts of harvest over the last two years, it is highly unlikely that the current regulations will cause the population to decline to anywhere close to the recovery goal.
- The Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Program Interagency Report, published annually by States in March, will assess numbers and distribution of wolves throughout the state. Shortly thereafter, we will publish an analysis of the report, including impacts of harvest and status of the population.