



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 23-0795	Date:	July 5, 2023
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Will; Roberts Rep. Lukens; Soper	Bill Status:	Vetoed by Governor
		Fiscal Analyst:	Alexa Kelly 303-866-3469 alex.kelly@coleg.gov

Bill Topic: **MANAGEMENT OF GRAY WOLVES REINTRODUCTION**

Summary of Fiscal Impact: **No fiscal impact.** The bill would have codified the Department of Natural Resources process for restoring gray wolves to Colorado and was assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation was required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the enrolled bill. The bill was vetoed by the Governor on May 16, 2023; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Summary of Legislation

The bill prohibits the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) commission from restoring gray wolves into an area if the U.S. Secretary of the Interior has not made final determination that the gray wolf population is a nonessential experimental population in accordance with 16 USC sec. 1539 (j), known as Section 10 (j), of the Endangered Species Act.

Background

Colorado voters approved Proposition 114 in the November 2020 election, which required the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission (commission) restore they gray wolf to the state. The commission is currently reviewing the Draft Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan, which recommends wolf reintroduction begin December 2023.

After Proposition 114 passed, gray wolves in Colorado were relisted under the Endangered Species Act and management authority returned to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). To assist the commission with the wolf reintroduction, the USFWS initiated a process to develop an experimental population of gray wolves in Colorado, which is authorized under Section 10 (j)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and is known as the 10 (j) rule. The [proposed rule](#) was published on the Federal Registry in February 2023, which proposed the establishment of a nonessential experimental population of the gray wolf in Colorado.

Assessment of No Fiscal Impact

It is anticipated that the 10 (j) rule process will be finalized prior to the planned wolf reintroduction in December 2023. As such, the bill's allowance for CPW to reintroduce wolves upon federal approval and publishing of the 10 (j) codifies the current reintroduction process and will not impact CPW's workload, expenditures, or revenue. The bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources