

**Mike Crapo**  
**United States Senator**  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**James E. Risch**  
**United States Senator**  
483 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



**Mike Simpson**  
**Member of Congress**  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Russ Fulcher**  
**Member of Congress**  
1514 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

August 10, 2026

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary of Interior  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

As you review endangered species, we request that you act to address the impact of the federal injunction against wolf trapping in Idaho.

In the 2009 delisting rule, US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) identified a population goal of 500 wolves in Idaho. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has since adopted this as the statewide population goal. According to IDFG, in 2021, Idaho had a high of nearly 1,600 wolves. Through sportsmen-led hunting and trapping, supported by IDFG, this population was reduced to 1,250 animals by 2024.

While the wolf population remains significantly higher than the target population, sustainable progress was being made in reducing wolf numbers by gradually lengthening trapping seasons. However, this collaborative effort was hindered by a federal injunction cutting the Idaho wolf trapping season on public land from 201 days to 89 days. This cut has resulted in a 40% reduction in statewide wolf harvest, making it impossible for IDFG to reach management objectives.

The federal injunction was placed ostensibly to prevent the incidental take of grizzly bears, despite there being no cases of a legally set wolf trap resulting in the take of a grizzly bear in Idaho. Overzealous concern for grizzly bears has led to an inability to manage the wolf population in Idaho, creating conflict between wolves, livestock producers, and ungulate populations, as well as a lack of suitable habitat.

We applaud the recent release of the proposed 4(d) and ask that it be used as a mechanism to restore trapping opportunity curtailed by the federal injunction. We believe it is critical that Idaho be allowed to continue managing these populations for the improvement of both species.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Crapo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Crapo" clearly legible.

MIKE CRAPO  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James E. Risch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Risch" clearly legible.

JAMES E. RISCH  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Simpson" clearly legible.

MIKE SIMPSON  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russ Fulcher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Russ" and last name "Fulcher" clearly legible.

RUSS FULCHER  
Member of Congress