

Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 1126
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March 22, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Chairman Westerman & Ranking Member Grijalva:

The Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau thanks you for taking the time to hold a hearing on H.R. 764, the Trust the Science Act. Science is critically important issue in addressing natural resource and wildlife protections and management. Without it, the management of our important natural resources and wildlife fall prey to the whims of lawsuits, administrative technicalities, and politics.

In the US Fish and Wildlife Service's current proposed rule notes there are over 21,000 wolves in the United States and Canada (not including Alaska). This apex predator is certainly in no danger of going extinct in North America.

2023 is the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA has good intentions and has had many successes. We should be celebrating the success of recovering wolves in the United States. Unfortunately, special interest groups have manipulated the law and legal system to keep the management of this species in limbo. They use the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) to make money by filing lawsuits and "winning" on technicalities. This process costs the United States taxpayers millions of dollars each year and has paralyzed our federal government agencies efforts to implement real science and management that the scientists are hired to do.

Representing the ranchers, Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau strongly supports Representative Boebert's H.R. 764, "Trust the Science Act". Thank you again for holding this hearing and moving this Bill forward for approval.

Respectfully,

/s/ Janice Weinholdt, President