

REC'D CGS

2005 JUL -5 A 11:28

USFWS

FWS Agreement No: 1448-60181-05-J468
DCN: 60181-5-J468
Charge Code: 61130-1113-6WUF
Amount Obligated: \$ 530,000.00
CFDA Number: 15.617
DUNS Number: 809791007

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

between

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6

and

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

I. AUTHORITY

This agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter referred to as the "Service") and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (hereinafter referred to as MTFWP) is entered into under the authority of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934 (16 USC Section 661-666c; 48 stat. 401), as amended; Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC 1531-1543; 87 State. 884), and Final Rule, Endangered and threatened wildlife and Plans; Regulation for nonessential experimental populations of the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Gray Wolf; Final rule (50CFR Part 17.84(n)).

II. BACKGROUND

Wolf recovery has been occurring in Montana since the early 1980's. Gray wolves increased in number and expanded their distribution in Montana, because of natural emigration from Canada and a successful federal effort that reintroduced wolves into Yellowstone National Park and the wilderness areas of central Idaho. Since 1974, the Service has managed wolves in Montana under the authority of the Endangered Species Act. Wolves in northern Montana are currently being managed as "endangered" species. Wolves in the rest of southern Montana are managed as "experimental, non-essential" according to regulations that became effective February 2005.

The biological requirements for wolf recovery in the northern Rocky Mountains of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming were met in December 2002. Before the Service can propose to delist gray wolves, federal managers must be confident that a secure, viable