The Greater Yellowstone Coalition said:

This latest proposal is clearly flawed for numerous reasons, most notably:

* It abandons the USFWS commitment to a recovered self-sustaining Northern Rockies wolf population, proposing heavy-handed management techniques such as trucking in wolves from elsewhere and artificial insemination to address concerns about the population's long-term genetic health. These tools are used for species on the brink of extinction and are not an appropriate means of ensuring the genetic health of a recovered population.

* It takes a piecemeal approach to delisting, dividing Greater Yellowstone wolves into separate populations based on artificial political boundaries.

* It denies Wyoming the chance to fix its wolf management plan. Wyoming's legislature has the opportunity during this legislative session to demonstrate they can appropriately manage wolves by eliminating its predator zone.

"By proceeding to delist on a state-by-state basis, this proposal is guaranteed to tie us up in court for years," Kenworthy said.

"This latest proposal is a giant step backward that's bad both for wolves and the people who have worked so hard to find on-the-ground solutions to this issue. We hope the new secretary of the interior will pull back this decision and chart a new course for achieving wolf management by the states."

The best long-term solution for wolves is to create good state plans that manage wolves as an integral part of our wildlife heritage, so they don't require federal protection.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has made clear that Wyoming's plan and its dual classification is not sufficient to sustain the state's wolf population. The Wyoming legislature has an immediate opportunity to fix these problems so that when a legally defensible delisting plan is finally proposed the state can be a part of that process.

Thoughtful state-management plans that consider the interests of all those with a stake in wolf management -wildlife enthusiasts, ranchers, hunters and conservationists - will serve the wolves and the public best.'