



PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION

February 3, 2017

Mr. Bob Broscheid
Director
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
1313 Sherman Street, Sixth Floor
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Notice of intent to file a petition to delist the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) under the Endangered Species Act

Dear Mr. Broscheid:

Pursuant to 50 C.F.R. § 424.14(b), Petitioners Dr. Rob Roy Ramey II, Center for Environmental Science, Accuracy & Reliability, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Association of Home Builders, and Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs provide notice of their intent to file a petition with the Secretary of the Interior and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to delist the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) from the list of threatened wildlife, 50 C.F.R. § 17.11(h), under the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544.

Delisting is warranted because the best available scientific data show that the mouse's subspecies designation is based on unsound taxonomy. Published, peer-reviewed analysis of the available data demonstrate that the populations within the putative Preble's mouse subspecies actually belong to one of the largest and most widespread genetic lineages of North American jumping mice. See Jason L. Malaney & Joseph A. Cook, *Using biogeographical history to inform conservation: the case of Preble's meadow jumping mouse*, 22 MOLECULAR ECOLOGY 6000-17 (2013) (enclosed). No basis exists to continue to apply the Act's protections to the Preble's mouse as a separate subspecies. Accordingly, upon the expiration of the thirty-day notice period, Petitioners will petition the Secretary and the Service to delist the mouse.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Damien M. Schiff".

DAMIEN M. SCHIFF
Principal Attorney

Enclosure

cc: See attached Declaration of Service

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