

# PROJECT COYOTE

F O S T E R I N G   C O E X I S T E N C E



September 23, 2021

President Joe Biden  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230  
president@whitehouse.gov

**Re: Recommendation for Mr. Michael Phillips for appointment as Director of the USFWS**

Dear Mr. President:

It is with enthusiasm that we write to recommend Mr. Michael Phillips for appointment as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Phillips would bring exceptional qualifications to the role of Director. He is a respected leader in biodiversity conservation with special expertise in endangered species management. His vision has resulted in critical ecological restoration of vast landscapes across North America through his leadership of gray and red wolf reintroductions. His ability to direct conservation of some of the most controversial animals, from wolves and grizzly bears to bison and black-footed ferrets, and his excellent track record as a Montana Senator and Representative have prepared him well for the challenges of directing the USFWS through unprecedented challenges of biodiversity and climate crises. His demonstrated leadership, ability to coalesce diverse interests toward a common goal, and big picture vision with deep knowledge of strategic planning and implementation would serve him well in this position.

We have no doubt that Mr. Phillips would continue his dutiful service to the public good in this position as he has in his other leadership positions in government and nonprofit organizations. His many accolades, including this year's prestigious Aldo Leopold Memorial Award from The Wildlife Society, and his dedicated service through important committees and appointments all speak for themselves. His outstanding contributions to imperiled species conservation cannot be overstated and will provide the blueprint and inspiration for future generations of conservationists.

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Mr. Phillips is eminently qualified to serve your administration in this role. His career has included assignments with both the USFWS and the National Park Service. He has earned the respect of diverse stakeholders across conservation, rural and tribal communities, building a sense of common purpose among all wildlife stakeholders to achieve some of North America's most renown species reintroduction successes.

We give Mr. Phillips our highest recommendation for the role of Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in your administration. Thank you for your careful consideration of this critical conservation position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Camilla H. Fox".

Camilla H. Fox  
Founder & Executive Director, Project Coyote

cc: Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland (via Mackenzie Landa, Advisor to the Deputy Secretary)  
Senator Cory Booker (via Adam Zipkin, Deputy Chief of Staff)  
Senator Jon Tester (via Erik Nylund, Regional Director/Natural Resources Liaison)

***And on behalf of:***

David Parsons, M.S. Wildlife Biology  
US Fish and Wildlife Service Retired  
Carnivore Conservation Biologist, The Rewilding Institute  
Science Advisor, Project Coyote

Michelle L. Lute, PhD  
National Carnivore Conservation Manager, Project Coyote

Joanna E. Lambert, PhD  
Professor, University of Colorado - Boulder  
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Fred W. Koontz, PhD  
Commissioner  
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Carter Niemeyer  
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CEO/Founder, Fishpond

Kevin Bixby, Executive Director  
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Kim Wheeler  
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Kate Scott  
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