

EXHIBIT B

Dear FOIA Officer,

My name is Ryan Devereaux and I am a staff investigative journalist with The Intercept, an award-winning national news website based in New York City. I am making this request in my capacity as a member of the news media in conjunction with a forthcoming news article.

On January 30, 2022, a wolf that was collared and studied by Yellowstone National Park staff was shot and killed outside park boundaries in Southwest Montana, near an area known as Beattie Gulch. The individual who shot and killed this animal was a National Park Service employee.

The National Park Service staff conducted an investigation into this incident and the conduct of its employee. I am seeking all files created by the National Park Service in conjunction with this investigation.

I am asking that these records be delivered electronically. Attached below is a Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks report — obtained through a public information request — confirming the harvest of the wolf described above.

The materials requested above are directly relevant to two ongoing deliberations processes that are squarely in the public's interest.

The first is the ongoing formulation of regulations in Montana for the state's 2022 wolf hunting season, an issue of extraordinary local and national interest. The second is an ongoing review by the Department of Interior concerning the potential resighting of wolves in the Northern Rockies under the Endangered Species Act, which was launched in part in response to the nature of Montana's 2021 wolf hunting — including concern over incidents like the one at the center of this request. Both of these deliberative processes will conclude at the end of summer 2022 — in August, in the case of Montanans' ability to comment on proposed wolf hunting regulations, and in September, in the case of the Department of Interior's review.

The release of the materials requested above, detailed in a news article, will provide critical information to both the public and policymakers as they navigate these public policy issues. I am a member of the news media primarily engaged in disseminating information and the information I am seeking to disseminate is at its most valuable to the public right now, as members of the public and public officials are gathering information to make public policy decisions on a timeline that will terminate in a matter of just two to three months. The sooner this information can be disseminated, the more time the public and public policymakers will have to consider the information and apply their judgment of the information in making their decisions.

Sincerely,

Ryan Devereaux

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