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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management who understands the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Marsha Oldakowski
27 Tierra Adentro
Santa Fe, NM 87508-9513

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

upgrade the legal status of the reintroduced Mexican wolves from their current "experimental non-essential" standing to a fully protected endangered status.

Please do not include any alternative for analysis that would increase take of wolves, set any limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other respect infringe on the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which will likely be required in a future revision of that plan.

The Conservation Alternative should include the following provisions:

- 1) Allow release of wolves from the captive breeding population directly into New Mexico. This is particularly important to enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to release genetically valuable animals into areas in which no wolf packs have established territories.
- 2) Allow wolves to roam freely outside the boundaries of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and not be geographically constrained by any other politically derived restrictions - just as other endangered species are allowed free movement.
- 3) Require livestock owners using public lands to remove or render inedible the carcasses of non-wolf-killed stock so as to prevent wolves from being attracted to areas where domestic animals are vulnerable and habituating to preying on stock. This could be accomplished, at least in part, by holding blameless for subsequent depredations any wolf that has scavenged on dead livestock - and protecting such wolves from any governmental or private "take" or predator control.
- 4) Authorize release of wolves into the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, which is just a few dozen miles to the east of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. White Sands has already been analyzed for its suitability for wolves and could serve as a home for genetically valuable wolves that might not otherwise be released. White Sands has only been found "unsuitable" if wolves are required to stay within its boundaries, but as part of a population that interacts with wolves in the Gila, it would serve an important role.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Buckholdt
11414 Blazing Sunset
San Antonio, TX 78253

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Dear Mr. Milsap,
Briefly, I want the full protection of the Endangered Species Act to

continue to apply to the gray wolves in Az. as well as all the other reintroduction areas. How can they be delisted when there are hardly any left in Az?

I also think ranchers could be compensated for picking up the cow carcasses which seem to cause so much trouble for the wolves. How are they not to be attracted to a ready-made meal?

If a new reintroduction area can be agreed upon, that would certainly seem to reduce resistance to wolves being released. I suppose agreement is quite difficult.

Also, wolves should be better protected, but I can see that determined individuals manage to kill them almost no matter what.

Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Maureen Fisher Tucson, Az. 85706

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Elise Veillette
1623 24th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122-3315

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

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Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter. Please help. Wolves are a very important part of our ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Miss Dani Cole
2715 Kentwood Forest Pl
Chester, VA 23831-8023

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Dear program managers,

I attended the scoping meeting here in Las Cruces and include my responses to suggested changes in the program:

* Wolves should be allowed to establish home ranges outside the Blue Range Recovery area.

* Initial releases should be expanded beyond the current Blue Range recovery area to include the Gila N. F.

* I think that the recovery area should not include the White Sands Missile Range because there is an insufficient prey base. If future studies ever indicate that the prey base is sufficient, then this should be reconsidered.

* Livestock and pet owners should be allowed to harass wolves that are attacking livestock or pets.

* I think that pet owners should not be allowed to shoot or kill wolves that are harassing pets. Pet owners should deal with this problem by taking more responsibility for the pets.

* Livestock owners should be required to take more responsibility for carcass removal or management and wolves that scavenge livestock carcasses should not be defined as nuisance or problem animals.

Thank you for your consideration,
Eric Burnham

Research Assistant
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
1175 North Horseshoe Drive
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88003
505 646 1499 Office

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NM

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Gary Gregerson
328 Hyde St. #7
San Francisco, CA 94142-1912

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John et. al. -

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Ø I also ask that you improve communication efforts. This should include educating the public about the impacts of wolf reintroduction in a "non-partisan" manner, so to speak, with neutral, fact-based information being provided (rather than information provided by groups that are either pro- or anti-wolf).

In conclusion, I ask that you please keep in mind that the Mexican Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) is an endangered subspecies of gray wolf. This animals used to range freely throughout much of the southwestern U.S. and is an important part of our natural world and our ecosystem.

As you may already be aware, the percentage of outdoorsmen/women has declined over the decades as more and more people become city dwellers. Meanwhile, the percentage of wildlife watchers has increased as more and more people have both the time and the financial ability to enjoy viewing and photography in the great outdoors (hence the trend of "eco-tourism.")

In addition, other states (Minnesota, Wyoming) have not experienced the same amount of controversy or negative reaction to their wolf reintroduction programs. In fact, they have been able to profit from these programs by bringing in tourism dollars. Perhaps Arizona, too, can also benefit in this fashion—a "New Year's resolution," so to speak, where our wolf program is examined in a more positive light.

Sincerely,

Marijke Van Fleet

1717 E. Union Hills

Phoenix, AZ85024

Don't get caught with egg on your face. Play Chicktionary! Check it out!

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3246 Ashford
San Diego, CA 92111

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John et. al. -

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Ø In the documentation provided me, there is a section that states, "the proposed rule provision that restricted public land grazing allottees from waiting for wolves in order to harass them has been deleted." I am not a lawyer, but in reading this statement, it appears that it says, in essence, that it is okay for someone using public land for grazing his/her animals to wait for and knowingly harass a wolf(ves). This seems both unnecessary and unfair, especially on public land that is owned by the people of the state, not by this individual rancher (who is only "renting" a portion of the public's land).

Ø In the rules and regulations from January, 1998, the Service stated that is "does not intend to designate critical habitat for the Mexican wolf" and that is "foresees no likely situation which would result in such changes in the future." That was a decade ago. Perhaps it is time to examine designating critical habitat for these endangered animals.

Ø I also ask that you improve communication efforts. This should include educating the public about the impacts of wolf reintroduction in a "non-partisan" manner, so to speak, with neutral, fact-based information being provided (rather than information provided by groups that are either pro- or anti-wolf).

In conclusion, I ask that you please keep in mind that the Mexican Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) is an endangered subspecies of gray wolf. This animals used to range freely throughout much of the southwestern U.S. and is an important part of our natural world and our ecosystem.

As you may already be aware, the percentage of outdoorsmen/women has declined over the decades as more and more people become city dwellers. Meanwhile, the percentage of wildlife watchers has increased as more and more people have both the time and the financial ability to enjoy viewing and photography in the great outdoors (hence the trend of "eco-tourism.")

In addition, other states (Minnesota, Wyoming) have not experienced the same amount of controversy or negative reaction to their wolf reintroduction programs. In fact, they have been able to profit from these programs by bringing in tourism dollars. Perhaps Arizona, too, can also benefit in this fashion—a "New Year's resolution," so to speak, where our wolf program is examined in a more positive light.

Sincerely,

M. Van Fleet

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Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to express my grave concern over the situation of the

Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) in my home state of Arizona. The restoration of this animal to the Southwest is a matter of personal importance to me because I desire the restored ecological integrity and wildness of my home landscape, and I know that science shows wolves to help

restore ecological integrity and diversity as part of their keystone predator role.

In response to your agency's request for public input on changes to the existing rules governing the Mexican gray wolf reintroduction project, I

would like to let you know that: a) I am aware that the amended rules will

determine the future of wolves in Arizona and New Mexico and am personally

determined to fight for their future, and b) I am also aware that under

the

existing rule, the Fish and Wildlife Service is not fulfilling its mandate

under the ESA to "recover" Mexican gray wolves. This rule change is our

opportunity to improve the program and shift the Fish and Wildlife Service's

focus

where it needs to be: from wolf control to wolf survival in the wild.

In order to reinvigorate the reintroduction program to the point where our

wolves can survive and recover in the wild without the risk of bureaucratic

imperilment due to agency negligence, we need to make the following changes:

1) Include a "Conservation Alternative" that will change the classification

of this subspecies from "experimental, nonessential" to "experimental, essential" or "endangered" in order to give wolves more protection.

They

are not being recovered under the existing classification, and recovery is

the legally mandated goal.

The Blue Range population of Mexican gray wolves is essential to long-term

recovery of this endangered subspecies; captive populations will not safeguard Mexican wolves from extinction in the long-term. An

"essential"

or an "endangered" designation will give these wolves the stronger protections they need to succeed in the wild. Congress has provided

for

"experimental, essential" as a classification, but it has never been used

by

the Fish and Wildlife Service. Now is the time for the Service to start

using this designation.

2) Allow wolves to expand their territory. Eliminate all restrictions to

wolf dispersal and movements.

Under the current rules, Mexican wolves must stay within the boundaries of

the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA), meaning within the Gila and Apache National Forests in NM and AZ. But wolves have large area requirements and often cross these invisible political boundary lines in

search of quality habitat and prey. Under the existing rule, wolves that

leave the BRWRA boundary are captured and relocated back into the Blue Range, which severely disrupts pack social structure and attempts at establishment, thwarts expansion and dispersal of the population, and sometimes causes serious injury to individual wolves, on whom the future of

the subspecies directly depends. In the revised rule, there should be no

exclusion of geographic areas from potential occupation by wolves.

3) Expand the initial releases to anywhere within the Blue Range Wolf

Recovery Area.

Under the current rules, releases of wolves from the captive population are

only allowed in Arizona, a provision that severely limits the involved agencies' options for meeting the BRWRA objective of a viable, self-sustaining population of at least 100 Mexican wolves in the wild. For

example, the portion of the population residing in New Mexico would benefit

from genetic augmentation by releasing wolves currently in captivity.

A

rule change that allows new releases throughout the BRWRA will give agency

managers much-needed management tools for assuring the viability and self-sustainability of the BRWRA population of Mexican gray wolves.

4) Resolve livestock-wolf conflicts in ways that keep wolves in the wild and

achieve progress toward reintroduction objectives.

Under the current rules, ranchers using public lands are not required to

remove or render inedible the carcasses of livestock that die for various

reasons like disease and starvation. Wolves are attracted to and often scavenge on these carcasses, and may begin to prey on live cattle or horses

nearby. Wolves that kill three head of livestock in a year are either killed or placed in captivity for the rest of their lives. A revised rule

must require owners of livestock using the public land to clean up dead stock before wolves find and scavenge on them.

5) Stop killing and removing wolves: reduce "take".

The current rule allows excessive wolf removal (defined as "take" in the

ESA) that is precluding achievement of the reintroduction objective of 100+

wolves in the BRWRA population. A revised rule must allow less "take" of wolves.

6) Revise the Recovery Plan. The Recovery Plan is out of date; it has not been amended for 25 years and does not include objectives for full recovery of Mexican gray wolves. The Fish and Wildlife Service is attempting to change the rule before recovery has even been defined for Mexican gray wolves. The FWS needs to revise the recovery plan before or concurrent with this rule change so that rule changes do not preclude future recovery actions.

7) Expand the number of wolves in the wild population. A viable, self-sustaining population of at least 100 wolves is a minimum objective for the BRWRA population of wolves. Recovery has yet to be defined through revision of the recovery plan. No maximum should be set for the number of wolves in the wild through this rule change.

8) Keep future recovery options open. This rule change should not include any provisions that would limit in any way future options for recovery of Mexican gray wolves anywhere outside the current boundaries of the BRWRA. As an Arizona citizen, I will support your agency in creating these changes to the fullest extent of my ability. Conversely, I will also oppose any further illegal negligence of Mexican wolf recovery by your agency to the fullest extent of my ability. I want to feel I am close to or part of a functional ecosystem, be able to travel in my home state and see Mexican wolves who are neither in captivity nor critically endangered by human guns and political bureaucracy, and be able to pass these privileges down the generational line. Thank you for hearing my comments.

Sincerely,
Lane Elizabeth Butler
1122 E Lemon St Apt 9
Tempe, AZ 85281

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

upgrade the legal status of the reintroduced Mexican wolves from their current "experimental non-essential" standing to a fully protected endangered status.

Please do not include any alternative for analysis that would increase take of wolves, set any limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other respect infringe on the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which will likely be required in a future revision of that plan.

The Conservation Alternative should include the following provisions:

- 1) Allow release of wolves from the captive breeding population directly into New Mexico. This is particularly important to enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to release genetically valuable animals into areas in which no wolf packs have established territories.
- 2) Allow wolves to roam freely outside the boundaries of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and not be geographically constrained by any other politically derived restrictions - just as other endangered species are allowed free movement.
- 3) Require livestock owners using public lands to remove or render inedible the carcasses of non-wolf-killed stock so as to prevent wolves from being attracted to areas where domestic animals are vulnerable and habituating to preying on stock. This could be accomplished, at least in part, by holding blameless for subsequent depredations any wolf that has scavenged on dead livestock - and protecting such wolves from any governmental or private "take" or predator control.
- 4) Authorize release of wolves into the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, which is just a few dozen miles to the east of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. White Sands has already been analyzed for its suitability for wolves and could serve as a home for genetically valuable wolves that might not otherwise be released. White Sands has only been found "unsuitable" if wolves are required to stay within its boundaries, but as part of a population that interacts with wolves in the Gila, it would serve an important role.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Steve Kreider
954 Oak Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

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NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Deb Olson
5381 Blue Bonnet Ct.
Castle Rock, CO 80109

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kimberly Daly
6219 N Zorrela Segundo
Tucson, AZ 85718-3041

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management who understands the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. William Hanson
1321 Orkney Dr
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-2966

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December 31, 2007

Mr. John Slown

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office

2105 Osuna NE

Albuquerque, NM 87113

I am writing with regard to the Mexican grey wolf plans. First, let me express my appreciation and admiration for the success to date. I feel that now further steps need to be taken to ensure true repopulation of the Mexican grey wolf.

1. It is clear that now is the time to reclassify the wolves from 'experimental, non-essential' to 'endangered' in order to provide the wolves with the level of protection they need for the program to reach it population goals.
2. The territory must be expanded. The existing range is too artificial and reduces the likelihood of success. The wolves need access to habitat throughout their natural range.
3. The area for initial releases should be expanded to include the entire Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area, i.e., they should be released in New Mexico as well as Arizona.

Thank you for taking the time to review the comments and continue with your efforts to ensure the successful repopulation of the Mexican grey wolf.

David McCaleb

4500 E. Maderos del Cuenta Dr.

Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

upgrade the legal status of the reintroduced Mexican wolves from their current "experimental non-essential" standing to a fully protected endangered status.

Please do not include any alternative for analysis that would increase take of wolves, set any limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other respect infringe on the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which will likely be required in a future revision of that plan.

The Conservation Alternative should include the following provisions:

- 1) Allow release of wolves from the captive breeding population directly into New Mexico. This is particularly important to enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to release genetically valuable animals into areas in which no wolf packs have established territories.
- 2) Allow wolves to roam freely outside the boundaries of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and not be geographically constrained by any other politically derived restrictions - just as other endangered species are allowed free movement.
- 3) Require livestock owners using public lands to remove or render inedible the carcasses of non-wolf-killed stock so as to prevent wolves from being attracted to areas where domestic animals are vulnerable and habituating to preying on stock. This could be accomplished, at least in part, by holding blameless for subsequent depredations any wolf that has scavenged on dead livestock - and protecting such wolves from any governmental or private "take" or predator control.
- 4) Authorize release of wolves into the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, which is just a few dozen miles to the east of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. White Sands has already been analyzed for its suitability for wolves and could serve as a home for genetically valuable wolves that might not otherwise be released. White Sands has only been found "unsuitable" if wolves are required to stay within its boundaries, but as part of a population that interacts with wolves in the Gila, it would serve an important role.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Shulman
377 N Lake Way
Palm Beach, FL 33480

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The lack of success of the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program is disappointing, and frustrating. The program is not a failure yet; because there is opportunity to reassess and make changes to the program which will give the wolf an opportunity to reestablish a viable population. I appreciate this opportunity to submit my comments to the "Mexican Wolf NEPA Scoping". Comments submitted by Gene Tatum, 1916 Madeira Dr NE, Albuquerque, NM87110

The management of the current program needs to be modified in several areas. The three strikes and your out rule needs to be eliminated. I do not know who made the decision that a Mexican Wolf is worth 3 head of livestock, but this decision appears to me to be the fundamental flaw that has prevented the success of this program. Frankly, I do not care how you accommodate this change, but it needs to be done.

The concessions made to the grazing permittees in and around the release area have given them more control over the success or failure of the program than is warranted. SOP 13 is the center piece of their control. I assume that SOP 13 was considered to be reasonable accommodation to the local ranchers. However, SOP 13 has morphed into a lever used by the ranchers to kill the program, not to protect their economic well being. The tradition of leaving livestock caresses where they land has attracted wolves to scavenge red meat. From carcasses to baiting, the "Habituated Wolf" concept evolved. Next the "Habituated Wolf" is stalking children and this fear has produced serious emotional issues for these families. To mitigate this fear, radio telemetry tracking was provided to these families so they could avoid being stalked, attacked or killed. Recently, we have heard that telemetry and baiting have been combined to locate, bait, habituate and eliminate in one cost saving step. It appears that the managers are being out maneuvered by those whose purpose is to end the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program

Law enforcement has been misdirected and ineffectual. The designation of the program as experimental/non-essential is the lynch pin for half hearted law enforcement which is undermining the program. Changing the non essential designation would be helpful. Regardless-of the designation, shifting the law enforcement focus to protection of wolves

not livestock is, however, necessary. All the measures used to entrap or habituate wolves is the result of misguided compliance/enforcement. If law enforcement is not redirected, reintroduction will eventually fail.

Management program needs to become proactive. Livestock management practices need to change to insure success of the Mexican Wolf. For example, measures could be implemented to discourage scavenging on livestock carcasses or to reduce livestock and wolf interaction. These management practices should not be optional, but required. For those who participate in the program, they would be compensated for livestock losses. For those choosing not to participate, they would not be compensated for livestock losses. For those who are complicit in or directly bait or kill Mexican wolves, there should be heavy fines and/or imprisonment. For those having Public Lands grazing permits, fines, suspension and/or cancellation of their grazing permits should be levied to those involved with the harassment, baiting and/or killing a Mexican Wolf.

Finally, the size of the recovery area needs to be expanded to allow for the establishment of a viable Mexican Wolf population. But the fundamental problems like those mentioned above have to be addressed, are expanding the recovery will just be increasing the size of the wolf killing ground.

Respectfully Submitted 12/31/07,

Gene Tatum

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Penny Govedich
PO BOX 903
PAULDEN, AZ 86334

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

upgrade the legal status of the reintroduced Mexican wolves from their current "experimental non-essential" standing to a fully protected endangered status.

Please do not include any alternative for analysis that would increase take of wolves, set any limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other respect infringe on the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which will likely be required in a future revision of that plan.

The Conservation Alternative should include the following provisions:

- 1) Allow release of wolves from the captive breeding population directly into New Mexico. This is particularly important to enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to release genetically valuable animals into areas in which no wolf packs have established territories.
- 2) Allow wolves to roam freely outside the boundaries of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and not be geographically constrained by any other politically derived restrictions - just as other endangered species are allowed free movement.
- 3) Require livestock owners using public lands to remove or render inedible the carcasses of non-wolf-killed stock so as to prevent wolves from being attracted to areas where domestic animals are vulnerable and habituating to preying on stock. This could be accomplished, at least in part, by holding blameless for subsequent depredations any wolf that has scavenged on dead livestock - and protecting such wolves from any governmental or private "take" or predator control.
- 4) Authorize release of wolves into the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, which is just a few dozen miles to the east of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. White Sands has already been analyzed for its suitability for wolves and could serve as a home for genetically valuable wolves that might not otherwise be released. White Sands has only been found "unsuitable" if wolves are required to stay within its boundaries, but as part of a population that interacts with wolves in the Gila, it would serve an important role.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Maus
9148 Upton Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55431

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Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of increased protection for the Mexican gray wolf in New Mexico, and elsewhere. These beautiful, intelligent animals are part of our heritage, and their survival is important to help restore balance to Southwest forests, and to our very souls. Their protection should be a priority, and every effort made to allow them to reach and maintain sustainable levels. I urge you to:

- Allow wolves to roam beyond the current artificial boundaries to find suitable habitat and prey.
- Resolve livestock-wolf conflicts in ways that keep wolves in the wild

and achieve progress towards reintroduction objectives.

- Revise the Fish and Wildlife Service's 25-year-old recovery plan.
- Allow for opportunities to to expand wolf reintroduction to other appropriate areas in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dona Upson, MD
530 Montclair SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

See AOL's top rated recipes
(<http://food.aol.com/top-rated-recipes?NCID=aoltop00030000000004>)

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123116135543-269945 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 16:13:55 -0700
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NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sasha Silvestrini
"501 19th St., Apt. B"
Sacramento, CA 95814

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123116123507-269932 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 16:12:35 -0700
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Dear Mr. Millsap:

This email is in reference to the Mexian Gray Wolf. I am asking that you please consider changing the classification of the Mexican Gray Wolf from

experimental, non-essential," to experimental, essential" or "endangered"

to give the wolves more protection. This would give them stronger protections that they need to succeed in the wild.

I would also ask that you allow the wolves to expand their territory by

eliminating all restrictions to wold dispersal and movements. They need

good access to habitats throughout their historic range. They cannot read maps and often cross over into political lines in search of new homes and prey.

Please also reslove livestock-wolf conflicts in such a way that will allow the wolves to remain in the wild.

Please allow the wolves to thrive. They will restore the balance, they

are pat of our and our children's heritage, and add to our experiences in

nature and in life.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alison Ferrante

4218 E Milky Way

Gilbert, Arizona 85295

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123116091128-269899 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 16:09:11 -0700
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Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of increased protection for the Mexican gray wolf in New Mexico

See AOL's top rated recipes
(<http://food.aol.com/top-rated-recipes?NCID=aoltop00030000000004>)

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To the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Department:

The Mexican Gray Wolf should be allowed every opportunity to recover, roam, and flourish in ANY habitable areas, not just those within the Blue Range Wolf Recovery area, nor those designated as "safe" by the ranching industry. Capture & re-release is disruptive to the packs and killing should not be an option, except for in the most extreme cases (threat to human population). The wolves should be listed as a full endangered species and given all of the protections thereof, instead of the current listing of non-essential and experimental. Furthermore, the ranching industry should be held accountable for the proper disposal of cattle carcasses, to deter the wolves from ever developing a taste for beef, and thus discouraging them from attacking herds.

The public was in full support of this program 10 years ago and that support has not wavered; the Mexican Wolf belongs in the wild. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Department needs to do the right thing here and protect the wolves, not pander to a small special interest group. The fees that ranchers pay for grazing rights does not entitle them to sole use of the land; it belongs to the public and to the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Maese

17607 N. Lindner Dr.

Glendale, AZ 85308

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123116084020-269892 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 16:08:40 -0700
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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

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Please do not include any alternative for analysis that would increase take of wolves, set any limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other respect infringe on the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which will likely be required in a future revision of that plan.

The Conservation Alternative should include the following provisions:

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- 3) Require livestock owners using public lands to remove or render inedible the carcasses of non-wolf-killed stock so as to prevent wolves from being attracted to areas where domestic animals are vulnerable and habituating to preying on stock. This could be accomplished, at least in part, by holding blameless for subsequent depredations any wolf that has scavenged on dead livestock - and protecting such wolves from any governmental or private "take" or predator control.
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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jenny Russell
PO box 895
Telluride, CO 81435

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123116085739-269895 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 16:08:57 -0700
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Subject: Wolf expansion
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I wish to oppose the expansion of wolf territory in Arizona and New Mexico. The fact that the number of wolves is not meeting the projected number indicates the program is flawed, not that they need more territory. The fact that they have not been able to succeed in the largest "wilderness" area in Arizona indicates that they would be even less likely to prosper in areas where there would be even more conflict with human population. The ranchers of the present have borne the brunt of the experiment, and are being unfairly blamed for its lack of success. The simple fact is that the present Arizona environment is not compatible with a large wolf population. Face the facts and live with the limitations of the real world!

James R. Meador Jr., M.D.

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123116072919-269875 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 16:07:29 -0700
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To: Brian Millsap, State Administrator U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services

Mr. Millsap

I am writing you in support of the re-introduction of the gray wolf back into the New Mexico environment. I am currently a supporter of the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary in the high desert of Candy Kitchen New Mexico. I am outraged over the current article in the High Country New where rancher Mke Miller boasted about baiting wolves to resulting in there removal or destruction. Why is it humans are not satisfied with destroying just their environment but must destroy all other species as well. I would be proud to have majestic wolves and wild mustangs roaming my habitat. Instead, I have disgusting cattle from a rancher with grazing rights. I would love to play a part in a re-introduction program for the gray wolf.

Thank you for championing the plight of the gray wolf.
Michael Bishop

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Bridget Barron
1279 2nd Ave
San Francisco, CA 94122

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Eric Polczynski
Po Box 3483
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management who understands the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Emily Wagner
408 Epsilon Dr
Wernersville, PA 19565-9200

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
David Gustafson
3419 50 Street
Moline, IL 61265

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management who understands the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery

efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Deborah Rossum
708 Valley View Dr Apt 11
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-5195

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NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
yasmina torrecillas
diputacion 10
mollet del valles, NY 08100

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Sincerely,
Mary Kanda
POB 729
Alcalde, NM 87511

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NM

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Sincerely,
Ellen Barth
642 Santa Rosa Ave
Berkeley, CA 94707

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Julia Burwell
1488 Reed Ave
Apt 10
San Diego, CA 92109

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Israel Diaz
1391 Wooden Valley St.
Chula Vista, CA 91913

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTMP id 2007123115430509-269576 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 15:43:05 -0700
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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

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- (5) Prohibit the construction of walls or fences in wilderness areas on the U.S.-Mexico border. Such barriers are likely to have a destructive impact on local wildlife, including wolves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Rachael Denny
2680 Lynch Canyon Rd
Bradley, CA 93426-9656

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTMP id 2007123115430426-269575 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 15:43:04 -0700
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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Amber Tidwell
2420 1/2 N. Beachwood Dr
Los Angeles, CA 90068

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Dear Brian Millsap:

It's time to respect the intent of the Endangered Species Act. Studies have shown that wolves improve the ecology of wild lands, while ranching typically degrades it. Therefore, please implement measures that will bolster the wolf reintroduction program, that will expand the current wolf population to a sustainable level, and will ensure a healthy future for wolves on wild lands.

Specifically, please hold ranchers who use public lands responsible for removing cattle and horse carcasses, which can unfairly attract

wolves.

Thank you,

Katharine Beebe
PO Box 2282
Tijeras, NM 87059

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123115405959-269552 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 15:40:59 -0700
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Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

December 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

State Administrator

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office

2105 Osuna NE

Albuquerque, NM 87113

R2FWE_AL@fws.gov

Re: Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151, Pages 44065-44069: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Scoping Meetings and Intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Gray Wolf ("Mexican Gray Wolf").

Dear Dr. Millsap:

Please accept this letter as Sky Island Alliance's comments on the proposal to revise the ESA section 10(j) rule that established and governs the management of the nonessential experimental population of Mexican wolves in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. SkyIslandAlliance is a grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the rich natural heritage of native species and habitats in the SkyIsland region of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. Sky IslandAlliance works with volunteers, scientists, landowners, and government agencies to establish protected areas, restore healthy landscapes, and promote public appreciation of the region's unique biological diversity.

The Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) is a native species of the SkyIsland region and an important part of our natural heritage. We strongly support the recovery of the Mexican wolf to appropriate habitat throughout the region. We believe the success of wolf recovery in the southwest must be science-based and must involve cooperative efforts between federal, state, tribal, and private landowners. Our goal is to work with scientists and landowners to support wolf recovery, and, in particular, to assist public and private landowners who wish to protect or enhance wolf habitat. We support the elimination of the current

boundary restrictions for the wolf. The wolves should be able to go where appropriate habitat allows, following prey. SkyIslandAlliancesupports release of wolves on public lands and private or tribal lands where landowner support is strong and recovery goals clearly warrant such actions. Given such parameters, we recommend that it is unnecessary to maintain or further reinforce the artificial geographical boundaries that currently restrict recovery efforts.

According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), 90 wolves have been released since 1998. Today, however, only 50 some wolves remain in the wild, a result of nine years of recapture, relocation, and lethal removal. If a wild population of Mexican gray wolves is to persist on the landscape, major changes must be made to the recovery program. Sky IslandAlliancesubmits the following recommendations and comments:

The BlueRangeWolf Recovery Area Boundary (BRWRA) boundary rule should be eliminated

According to the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project Five-Year Review, the dominate factor influencing the persistence of wolf on the landscape is not mortality, but rather removal. The high rate of Mexican wolf removal, whether lethal or live capture for placement into captivity, is often the direct result of wolves dispersing beyond the recovery boundary. If removal rates are combined with mortality rates to formulate a failure rate, Mexican wolves are not persisting on the landscape. As such, existing boundaries are counterproductive to long-term recovery goals for Mexican wolves. The small size of the primary recovery zone and the restriction of wolves to the BRWRA are hindering recovery of a self-sustaining and viable population of Mexican wolves. The natural dispersal of wolves outside the recovery area boundaries is required if the population is to be viable.

Allow direct release of wolves into New Mexico

Currently wolves from the captive breeding population can only be released into the primary recovery zone in Arizona. Mexican wolves can

inhabit New Mexico though natural dispersal from Arizona or via relocation of captured wolves because of nuisance issues. The latter cause is problematic because only those wolves that have been captured one or more times previously may be released into New Mexico. This restrains the agency from making decisions on where to release wolves based on science and habitat, and may increase the number of "problem" wolves within New Mexico. The Gila and Apache National Forests are inherently connected, and we believe that each state should have equal opportunity to release new or re-captured wolves as appropriate. Therefore, we strongly recommend the dissolution of the rule restricting releases in New Mexico.

No cap on the number of wolves in wild

The current rule sets a population goal of 100 wild wolves in the BRWRA. Today's wild population consists of less than 60 individuals, well below the stated goal. Science does not warrant an artificial cap on the number of animals allowed to inhabit any particular area. Combined with our recommendation of dissolving the recovery area boundary, we cannot recommend any limit to the number of wolves allowed to exist in the wild. Our main concern is whether the wolves are fulfilling their role as a natural component of the ecosystem, and thus we believe that aside from significant points of conflict, the ecosystem is the best indicator for how many wolves can be supported within the region. Therefore, we recommend the new rule should not contain a cap on the maximum number of wild Mexican gray wolves.

White Sands Missile Range eliminated as "reintroduction" zone, but remains potential dispersal habitat

White Sands Missile Range may not contain appropriate habitat for reintroduction or provide prime Mexican gray wolf habitat. However, when recovery boundaries are eliminated White Sands Missile Range could provide a "stepping-stone" dispersal route for wolves moving to other suitable habitat.

Maintain limited provisions for private individuals to "harass" wolves

Currently there are provisions for private individuals to "harass" wolves engaged in nuisance behavior or livestock depredation. Based on the USFSW request for exploration of all possible alternatives and remedies to deter problem wolves, we support non-lethal and non-injurious harassment of Mexican wolves engaged in nuisance behavior or attacking livestock or pets, but do not support any permission to kill wolves that are not posing an immediate physical threat to an individual or livestock at this time.

Definition of "breeding pair"

Definition of "breeding pair" should remain the same as written in the 1998 final rule: an adult male and an adult female wolf that have produced at least two pups during the previous breeding season that survived until December 31 of the their birth year.

More releases of Mexican wolves from the captive breeding program

Currently there are approximately 300 Mexican wolves in 48 breeding facilities in the United States and Mexico, with approximately only 59 wolves in the wild. The recovery program is operating on the premise that the captive population can serve as a safeguard to prevent extinction of the subspecies and therefore could be tapped to bolster a failing wild population. Recently published research (Frankham 2007) on the genetic fitness of captive populations points to a possible reversal of that supposition because the genetic value of the captive population decreases as more generations are bred in captivity. Captive breeding populations adapt genetically to the captive environment and these adaptations may be detrimental when populations are returned to wild environments. To ameliorate this dilemma and to bolster the program in general, the release of more wolves into the wild is essential, along with protections that allow the wild population to thrive and expand naturally.

Change the existing protected classification from "experimental, non-essential" to "experimental, essential"

The nonessential experimental designation significantly reduces the ESA's regulatory requirements, and is presumably used to provide management

flexibility in recovery areas that are intersected by human inhabitation. Such regulations are instituted to satisfy political constraints rather than fulfill the biological requirements of the endangered species and are responsible for the frequent recaptures and re-releases of Mexican wolves which may interfere with pack formation and the establishment and maintenance of home ranges. Mexican gray wolves are not recovering under the existing classification.

Revise the Recovery Plan

The Recovery Plan has not been amended for 25 years and does not include objectives for full recovery of Mexican gray wolves. So that rule changes do not preclude future recovery actions, the recovery plan should be revised before or concurrent with the rule change.

Keep future recovery options open

The rule change should not include provisions that limit future options for recovery of Mexican gray wolves outside the current boundaries of the BRWRA.

In closing we would like to reiterate our strong support of recovery of the critically endangered Mexican gray wolf and we urge the USFWS to fulfill its mandate under the Endangered Species Act and adopt changes to the 10(j) rule that produces a protected Mexican gray wolf population that is not restricted by unnatural boundaries.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Przybyl

Wildlife Linkages Program Coordinator

Sky Island Alliance

P.O. Box 41165
Tucson, AZ 85717

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves.

Previous policy focused overly narrowly on wolves as predators to be controlled. That policy has suppressed the wolf population and has contributed to inbreeding. There is certainly no reason now to analyze alternatives that would increase take of wolves, set limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other way harm the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which may well be required in future plan revisions.

Rather, compliance with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act calls for a new policy which enables rapid growth and genetic rescue of the wolf population, with protection from undue loss - including from government take and illegal poaching. - For this purpose, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This alternative would upgrade the legal status of the reintroduced Mexican wolves from their current "experimental non-essential" standing to a fully protected endangered status.

The Conservation Alternative should include measures along the following lines:

- 1) Allow release of wolves from the captive breeding population directly into New Mexico. This measure would advantageously enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to release genetically valuable animals into areas in which no wolf packs have established territories.
- 2) Allow wolves to roam freely outside the boundaries of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and not be geographically constrained by any other politically derived restrictions - just as other endangered species are allowed free movement.
- 3) Proactively help keep wolves from being attracted to and habituated to vulnerable domestic prey. This could be done by requiring livestock owners using public lands to remove or render inedible the carcasses of non-wolf-killed stock.
- 4) Authorize release of wolves into the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area. White Sands, not far east of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area, could be valuable and has already been found suitable for a wolf population that can interact with wolves in the Gila.

Thank you for your heed.

Sincerely,
Joseph Weinstein
4000 Linden Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90807

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Dear Mr. Slown,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on proposed changes to the Mexican wolf reintroduction program. You and I have spoken about my concerns over the phone as well as at the recent open house held in Tucson, AZ.

As we discussed, I am a wildlife biologist and a strong supporter of the Mexican wolf program. I have been a frequent visitor to the back country within the BlueRange for over 25 years.

My only area of disagreement is the legal stipulation, posted on signs all over the White Mountains, that states that you may not legally "Kill or injure a Wolf that attacks your pet (including working and hunting dogs) , regardless of land ownership (private, tribal, or public)."

As the owner of valuable working dogs, I find this stipulation patently offensive and believe that it potentially alienates large numbers of people who would otherwise support your efforts. As you and I discussed, on three occasions I have had wolves threaten my hunting dogs in my presence. Twice in 2001 (April and August) a wolf entered my camp at night to interact with my chained Chesapeake Retriever. The second time this happened I believe that the wolf was only seconds away from attack when I was able to intervene. This occurred near the KP Rim trailhead at Hannigan Meadows. These events were not reported. The most dramatic encounter I had with Wolves interacting with my dog occurred in 2003 on Escudilla Mountain while blue grouse hunting with my pointer. A wolf presented himself at about 11.00 am at the head of toolbox draw, howling at my dog. I was forced to leash my dog with my belt and return to my vehicle. The animal followed us almost all the way to the trailhead. For a little while, I thought I would have to watch it kill my dog. At the trailhead I encountered a USFWS wolf volunteer who did take an incident report.

I have done some investigating and it appears the Arizona/New Mexico wolf project may be the only US wolf program where the owners of working/hunting dogs depredated by wolves are not compensated. Why is this? A trained bird dog is worth several thousand dollars. I find it offensive that you expect the owners of working dogs to stand by and allow wolves to kill valuable animals without compensation that is provided to dog owners elsewhere. I recommend that you contact agencies in the other affected states that provide compensation for dogs killed by wolves to learn about

their programs and implement an analogous program in Arizona and New Mexico.

Regards,

Mike Cross

1641 W. Jagged Rock Road

Tucson, AZ

85704

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

upgrade the legal status of the reintroduced Mexican wolves from their current "experimental non-essential" standing to a fully protected endangered status.

Please do not include any alternative for analysis that would increase take of wolves, set any limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other respect infringe on the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which will likely be required in a future revision of that plan.

The Conservation Alternative should include the following provisions:

- 1) Allow release of wolves from the captive breeding population directly into New Mexico. This is particularly important to enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to release genetically valuable animals into areas in which no wolf packs have established territories.
- 2) Allow wolves to roam freely outside the boundaries of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and not be geographically constrained by any other politically derived restrictions - just as other endangered species are allowed free movement.
- 3) Require livestock owners using public lands to remove or render inedible the carcasses of non-wolf-killed stock so as to prevent wolves from being attracted to areas where domestic animals are vulnerable and habituating to preying on stock. This could be accomplished, at least in part, by holding blameless for subsequent depredations any wolf that has scavenged on dead livestock - and protecting such wolves from any governmental or private "take" or predator control.
- 4) Authorize release of wolves into the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, which is just a few dozen miles to the east of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. White Sands has already been analyzed for its suitability for wolves and could serve as a home for genetically valuable wolves that might not otherwise be released. White Sands has only been found "unsuitable" if wolves are required to stay within its boundaries, but as part of a population that interacts with wolves in the Gila, it would serve an important role.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dani Duke
2819 Brookside Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52245

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

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Please do not include any alternative for analysis that would increase take of wolves, set any limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other respect infringe on the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which will likely be required in a future revision of that plan.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sally March
4728 Symes Dr.
Belle Mead, NJ 8502

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

upgrade the legal status of the reintroduced Mexican wolves from their current "experimental non-essential" standing to a fully protected endangered status.

Please do not include any alternative for analysis that would increase take of wolves, set any limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other respect infringe on the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which will likely be required in a future revision of that plan.

The Conservation Alternative should include the following provisions:

- 1) Allow release of wolves from the captive breeding population directly into New Mexico. This is particularly important to enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to release genetically valuable animals into areas in which no wolf packs have established territories.
- 2) Allow wolves to roam freely outside the boundaries of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and not be geographically constrained by any other politically derived restrictions - just as other endangered species are allowed free movement.
- 3) Require livestock owners using public lands to remove or render inedible the carcasses of non-wolf-killed stock so as to prevent wolves from being attracted to areas where domestic animals are vulnerable and habituating to preying on stock. This could be accomplished, at least in part, by holding blameless for subsequent depredations any wolf that has scavenged on dead livestock - and protecting such wolves from any governmental or private "take" or predator control.
- 4) Authorize release of wolves into the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, which is just a few dozen miles to the east of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. White Sands has already been analyzed for its suitability for wolves and could serve as a home for genetically valuable wolves that might not otherwise be released. White Sands has only been found "unsuitable" if wolves are required to stay within its boundaries, but as part of a population that interacts with wolves in the Gila, it would serve an important role.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Katrina Godshalk
1400D Cerro Gordo
Santa Fe, NM 87501

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
John Anderson
2246 Quebec Ave. So.
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

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Subject: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping
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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management who understands the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery

efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lynne Mattingly
934 19th Ave N
Texas City, TX 77590-5612

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ReplyTo: Michael Hughes <mchaz@attg.net>
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Subject: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping
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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery efforts in the Southwest.

There are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world. Why isn't the Service making better progress in restoring them?

I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Hughes
5601 N Palo Cristi Rd
Paradise Vly, AZ 85253-7544

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SendTo: r2fwe_al@fws.gov
Subject: My comments regarding the Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping
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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management, I understand the value wolves can bring to ecosystems. I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Why is it that while Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world, and that they play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests, The USFWS has not made any real progress in restoring them.

Something is indeed wrong with the rules here. I know that there are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive. But Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules need to become better aligned with what is stipulated in the Endangered Act

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

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I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Herdliska
2631 W Prato Way
Tucson, AZ 85741-2542

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SendTo: r2fwe_al@fws.gov
Subject: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping
MIME_Version: 1.0
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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

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efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

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Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Dougherty
PO Box 669
Bernalillo, NM 87004-0669

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTMP id 2007123114563324-268891 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 14:56:33 -0700
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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jon Abbey
2305 Highland Road
Anderson, IN 46012

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Zach Hurst
929 Lynchburg Turnpike
Salem, VA 24153

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NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Olive Mayer 245 Josselyn Ln.
Woodside 94062-3611

Sincerely,
Olive Mayer
245 Josselyn Ln.
Woodside, CA 94062-3611

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123114441605-268676 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 14:44:16 -0700
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Dear Brian,

I'm writing you this email on New Years as I've learned it's the last chance to provide feedback to your scoping efforts related to the NM Gray Wolf. I apologize for the late submittal.

My name is Steve Denison and I am an Albuquerque resident.

In brief, I want to provide my support for any efforts you and your team make to preserve the current, and promote the growth of the NM Gray Wolf population New Mexico.

The negative political and economic impact of these wolves presence is miniscule compared the benefit of keeping a native species of animal alive here in NM.

If necessary, you can reach me at the following:

8613 Pristine Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122

--

Best Regards,

Steve Denison

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For the sake of all things wild, please enhance the Mexican gray wolf recovery program. The species should be listed as endangered and have an updated recovery plan. The current situation is obviously not working. More wolfs need to be released in an area larger than current designation. Cooperation is needed on EVERYONEs part! The wolfs are

native, cows are not.

Dana Backer
Tucson, AZ

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123114335017-268540 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 14:33:50 -0700
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NM

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The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Rogue Slayer
555 sw 37th blvd
lakeland, FL 32534

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Cindy E. Boomer
915 E. CAMPUS DR.
Tempe, AZ 85282-3908

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Richard Harvey
2430 Geneseo Road
Paso Robles, CA 93446

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Sincerely,
Jeanne Ruggles
626 Main St
Concord, MA 01742

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Autumn K. Dial
618 N. 64th St.
Seattle, WA 98103

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management who understands the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery

efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Marian Reisman
14826 N 55th Pl
Scottsdale, AZ 85254-2387

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management who understands the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery

efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

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I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Joanne Versage
4724 Quiet Woods Ln Apt G
Fairfax, VA 22033-5057

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Dec 31, 2007

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Ms. Eva Van Loon
PO Box 2988
Wailuku, HI 96793-7988

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Sincerely,

Ms. Karen Chaney
10000 E Moccasin Pl
Tucson, AZ 85749-8148

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Michele Connelly
HC 68 Box 79 W
Silver City, NM 88061

Wolves

I think the greatest mistake the Fish & Wildlife Service has made in the wolf reintroduction program has been to manage them as though they are the only animal/being in the recovery area. This shortsighted and totally false proposition has been the source of most of the problems:

*an alienated public that also uses, works and lives in the recovery area

a. unfair policies with heavy punishment for defending livestock and pets on public land, pets on private land
b. removal of cattle, contributing to heavy grass load (high fire danger) and brushed up, inaccessible rivers for the general public, as well as loss of income which has turned area ranches into subdivisions for the wealthy (high water use, septic tanks, domestic animals attacking wildlife, no maintenance of stock tanks and salt that wildlife also use)

* a lack of game management to restore the wilderness deer and elk herds that have been devastated by drought, and in the case of deer, over the counter deer licenses. A predator must have prey and because a cow is easier to kill than an elk or deer the wolves have followed the cattle off the wilderness and created problems in human communities

* wolves habituated to humans, dangerous to humans. Everyone who lives in this area is used to the dangers of wild animals. This is a given, something we are willing to live with, but so called wild animals who show no fear of humans should not be allowed to terrorize residents or animals. With every other species these are killed. Animals, wild or habituated, do not live by politically supported rules. Not one of those wolves knows if it's the first or the third strike against them. They only know they want to eat and will opportunistically kill what is available. The habituated wolves must be removed, and preferably not allowed to breed and rear pups to their lifestyle.

Solutions/Suggestions

*Advisory board made up of people who live/work in recovery area. Those who are adversely affected should have some say. These are all people who appreciate wildlife and could be allies rather than antagonists. Yes, I'm talking about ranchers as well as outfitters, hunters, etc. I believe there is a way to have both wolves and cattle, wolves and game. But the game herds must be improved and the number of wolves allowed pegged to it.

* Is there a way to have a sort of wolf training area at Sevilleta where wolf packs, 1 at a time, are put into a large well fenced acreage with some elk and left on their own?

*The coordinator of the program stated in Glenwood that there is no

statistical evidence that wolves become habituated to cattle by feeding on dead carcasses, which is the main argument of the so called environmentalists (most of whom live in cities and have a preservationist rather than conservationist ethic) whose true agenda seems to be to get cattle off public land. If that is true, then aren't they habituated to cattle as food by being fed zoo logs, by having contact with humans at Sevilleta, in transport and when humans bring them zoo logs in the wild?

* It is a fundamental American right to be able to defend one's property, which includes one's pets from danger. The current policy has so many crazy rules-- is it a stock dog or just a pet, is it on private land or public, has the wolf actually attacked or is it going to? It is this kind of beaureacratic rigamarole that makes sense to government agencies and not an iota of sense to someone confronted with losing a pet or horse or livestock in the moment.

* The boundary area should NOT be extended simply because it inconveniences wildlife biologists. This is the policy blindness that infuriates those of us who live in the area and are greatly inconvenienced by the damage wolves cause to US, our children and livestock. Instead of ramming policy down our throats, please find a way to work with us. It will be easier on everyone and the reintroduction may actually succeed instead of just costing millions of dollars of tax dollars. It is particularly infuriating to people who can lose their shirts by some quirk of the weather, the price of feed or the sales market, to see people who get paid week in week out regardless of how poorly run your operation is. If you were ranchers you'd be out of business.

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

upgrade the legal status of the reintroduced Mexican wolves from their current "experimental non-essential" standing to a fully protected endangered status.

Please do not include any alternative for analysis that would increase take of wolves, set any limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other respect infringe on the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which will likely be required in a future revision of that plan.

The Conservation Alternative should include the following provisions:

- 1) Allow release of wolves from the captive breeding population directly into New Mexico. This is particularly important to enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to release genetically valuable animals into areas in which no wolf packs have established territories.
- 2) Allow wolves to roam freely outside the boundaries of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and not be geographically constrained by any other politically derived restrictions - just as other endangered species are allowed free movement.
- 3) Require livestock owners using public lands to remove or render inedible the carcasses of non-wolf-killed stock so as to prevent wolves from being attracted to areas where domestic animals are vulnerable and habituating to preying on stock. This could be accomplished, at least in part, by holding blameless for subsequent depredations any wolf that has scavenged on dead livestock - and protecting such wolves from any governmental or private "take" or predator control.
- 4) Authorize release of wolves into the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, which is just a few dozen miles to the east of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. White Sands has already been analyzed for its suitability for wolves and could serve as a home for genetically valuable wolves that might not otherwise be released. White Sands has only been found "unsuitable" if wolves are required to stay within its boundaries, but as part of a population that interacts with wolves in the Gila, it would serve an important role.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Deanna Prine
201 Brown Road
Wexford, PA 15090

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
I Gac
424 Brookview Drive
Rochester, NY 14617

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kristen Quay
4551 fairbairn
oakland, CA 94619

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Good day to all - I wish to say that it is all about balance. What the world needs now is balance, and that includes allowing a top predator to help keep our precious and inreplacable ecosystem in balance. The ranchers are not God and jury and they should not be allowed to control what Nature has bestowed upon us to satisfy their own economical success.

And, no I do not eat cows nor drink milk. The point is, wolves belong to all of us for various reasons including the spiritual beauty of our precious wilderness. Thank you for reading my comment. Yvonne K. Marley

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Sincerely,
Therese DeBing
885 Seamist Place #204
Ventura, CA 93003-0476

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Hello,

Regarding the reintroduction of Mexican gray wolves is there a way to include the surrounding ranchers in this program and in the decision-making process as well as providing compensation up front? Working together seems like it could be the key to success.

As I understand it, if a calf, etc. is killed by a wolf or other predator there is a tedious process to get compensated for the loss. Can you eliminate that process, provide a monthly or annual payout to ranchers and have them become part of the protection – protect the wolves and protect their compensation and prevent the problems at the end.

Also, I saw on the website that wolves and people are hunting the same areas. Since wolves hunt to survive, could the hunting in those areas be limited? This may not be a popular idea but may help in the recovery program.

I live in Santa Fe. Please let me know if you need people to donate time to help the wolf recovery program. Below I have provided a couple of links to groups that seem to be successful with cooperation and incentive programs.

Thank you,

Pat Lillis
Santa Fe, NM
505-988-8978

Here are url's for a website explaining cooperation in the jaguar community:

<http://www.northernjaguarproject.org/>
<http://northernjaguarproject.org/project/programs/guardians.aspx>
<http://northernjaguarproject.org/project/programs/contest.aspx>

from these sites...

The Jaguar Guardians also work with area ranchers to minimize conflicts with livestock and reduce the killing of jaguars. They strive to build community acceptance of jaguars through a number of methods, including introducing the use of jaguar-compatible husbandry practices. By working on the ground with affected parties to win acceptance of jaguars and by assisting with research efforts to guide future conservation actions, Northern Jaguar Project, Naturalia and Defenders of Wildlife are helping to preserve one of the most majestic – and threatened – animals in North America.

. . .
Northern Jaguar Project and Naturalia, in partnership with Defenders of

Wildlife, have initiated a collaborative program with ranchers living in jaguar country. The Wildcat Photo-Survey Contest offers incentives to conserve area wildlife and provides indirect compensation for cattle losses due to jaguar and puma predation.

The goal of the Photo-Survey Contest is to immediately reduce the high rate of jaguar mortality while simultaneously gaining valuable information on jaguar ecology and building key relationships that help ensure their survival and recovery.

The Photo-Survey Contest takes place on ten large, private cattle ranches surrounding the emerging Northern Jaguar Reserve. Once each month a vaquero, trained and employed by the Project, visits each of the participating ranches and places remote, motion-triggered cameras in areas where cats are likely to be present. The Project develops the film and awards participating ranchers between \$50 to \$300 for pictures of jaguars, pumas, ocelots and bobcats obtained on their ranches. In return, participating ranchers sign a contract agreeing to protect these cats - and all wildlife - within their ranches and to end predator killing, including the use of traps, poisons and hounds. The contract also allows project staff to randomly visit participating ranches to ensure compliance.

Another group that works with ranchers:

<http://philadelphiazoo.org/wildlifematters/mar06/takeaction.html#B>

Protect Private Land

Throughout the United States ranchers are finding ways to peacefully coexist with wildlife that shares their land.

The Malpai Borderlands Group, a nonprofit formed by Arizona and New Mexico ranchers in 1993, has achieved remarkable success in rallying ranchers around the concept of preserving habitat while still maintaining profitable operations. 800,000 acres of fragile desert landscape has been protected thanks to the sustainable land use practices adhered to by members of the Malpai Group - which means the chances of jaguars finding suitable habitat, if crossing into the United States in this region, are increased. One of the Group's management techniques, known as "grass-banking", involves utilizing nearby ranch lands protected by conservation easements as alternative places to graze cattle when their own lands need to rest. The more traditional version of a conservation easement, which simply protects your property from ever being developed, may be something for you to consider if you own land and are looking for

ways to preserve habitat. Private land protection goes a long way in saving species.

Photo Credit: PA Game Commission; Hal Korber

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Robert Petersen
975 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02138

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123114052022-268017 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 14:05:20 -0700
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NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Carol Napurano
32 Edgehill Rd.
Blairstown, NJ 07825

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123114040980-267996 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 14:04:09 -0700
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Dear Mr. Millsap

The range of the Mexican gray wolf must be increased in order for it to

be safe, to increase in number and to reduce the attacks on domestic cattle.

We have interfered too much in the natural order of species (as we are now learning with fire containment) and must step back and allow the wolf

to return to its original area. I support the efforts of Defenders of Wildlife and feel that ranchers should be recompensed for loss of livestock by wolves.

Please do what you can to increase their range and numbers

Sincerely

Janice Catt

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123114001650-267912 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 14:00:16 -0700
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NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
James Little
560 Kingsley Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123113593083-267882 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 13:59:30 -0700
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Dear Mr. Millsap,

The science is clear. We need to have the wolf reintroduction program be successful in order for the gray wolf to survive as a species. Please

implement programming based on science and not the hysterical cries of
a
few ranchers.

The public overwhelmingly supports wolf reintroduction, and we are
talking
about federal, public land. Public land ranching would cease to exist
without all of the federal subsidies, state fencing, cattle guards etc.
provided with tax money of the public.

Please do your job based on science and the will of the public, which
supports wolf reintroduction.

Charmeine Wait
Grant County, New Mexico

Be a better friend, newshound, and know-it-all with Yahoo! Mobile.
Try
it now.

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007123113575509-267845 ; Mon, 31 Dec 2007 13:57:55 -0700
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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management who understands the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Joleane Dutzman
6517 Cavalier Dr
Alexandria, VA 22307-1303

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management who understands the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery

efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Susan Hampton
1437 Richmond St
El Cerrito, CA 94530-2228

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management, I attended several of the wolf reintroduction discussions several years ago. I

understand the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, to be sure, but I

even more than that, I value the fact that they represent what is great about our native environment, namely its wildness. It is because of this that I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of the almost one million members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

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Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Van Hulsteyn
1833 Arroyo Chamiso
Santa Fe, NM 87505-5771

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

upgrade the legal status of the reintroduced Mexican wolves from their current "experimental non-essential" standing to a fully protected endangered status.

Please do not include any alternative for analysis that would increase take of wolves, set any limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other respect infringe on the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which will likely be required in a future revision of that plan.

The Conservation Alternative should include the following provisions:

- 1) Allow release of wolves from the captive breeding population directly into New Mexico. This is particularly important to enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to release genetically valuable animals into areas in which no wolf packs have established territories.
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- 3) Require livestock owners using public lands to remove or render inedible the carcasses of non-wolf-killed stock so as to prevent wolves from being attracted to areas where domestic animals are vulnerable and habituating to preying on stock. This could be accomplished, at least in part, by holding blameless for subsequent depredations any wolf that has scavenged on dead livestock - and protecting such wolves from any governmental or private "take" or predator control.
- 4) Authorize release of wolves into the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, which is just a few dozen miles to the east of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. White Sands has already been analyzed for its suitability for wolves and could serve as a home for genetically valuable wolves that might not otherwise be released. White Sands has only been found "unsuitable" if wolves are required to stay within its boundaries, but as part of a population that interacts with wolves in the Gila, it would serve an important role.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Cindy Ramsey
4003 S 150th St
Tukwila, WA 98188

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NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Frances Howell-Coleman
203 Lake Pansy Dr. NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881-9618

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NM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
pat Lillis
2119 Conejo Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Hampton
1437 Richmond St
El Cerrito, CA 94530

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
cara gubrud
15144 chestnut road
milaca, MN 56353

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I would like to see the wild predators back in their natural environment, but we seem to have major problems with that. Wolves are wild. Cattle, horses, dogs, and humans are not. We and our domestic animals need to stay clear of powerful wild predators. Enlarge the truly wild wolf habitat, and increase the size of the buffer areas. Keep roads, and the people they bring, out of the core habitat. Also, do we need to pay more

attention to a sufficiency of wild prey when we introduce the wolves?

Not

being a meat-eater myself, I tend to think of cattle ranching as a wasteful, self-indulgent way of life. The wolves can't choose their diet,

available environment, or what they do for a living, but people can.

People seem to be so very afraid of being attacked by wolves, but more people are killed by pit bulls and rottweilers every year than have ever

been killed by wolves. I've read that at a given moment this year there

were thirty-five pit bulls being held at the Doña Ana county humane society -- animals too dangerous to be released back into the community.

If that is true, we seem to have much more to be afraid of from dog packs

than wolf packs.

Judith Naomi Scott

538 Northpark Drive

Las Cruces, NM 88005-3865

(575) 527-8432

jnaomi@mac.com

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Having twice visited the Wolf Center in San Diego, I can attest to the noble spirit of these animals that display many traits that we humans should exhibit more frequently. The re-introduction of the wolves into wild parts of great country is a necessary and noble act.

Thank you for your concern for public input.

Sincerely,
Nick Bollo
4311 Sheldon Drive
La Mesa, CA 91941

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Deborah Dexter-Mendez
2732 E. Griffith Way
Fresno, CA 93726-4111

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management who understands the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery

efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status. This will preserve the management flexibility of the rule, but require that other agencies consult about impacts on wolves.

Second, allow the wolves to disperse beyond the recovery area, and to be released where biologists say is best.

Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them and ensure that any authorized removals take into account individual wolves' genetic value, the size and health of the population, the number of breeding pairs, and whether progress toward recovery is being made.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track and these wolves will have a real chance at recovery in the wild lands of the Southwest.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robin Neft
2303 Winder Dr
Bridgewater, NJ 08807-3583

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

Dear Millsap,

As a supporter of scientifically sound wildlife management who understands the value wolves can bring to ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to take a more balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery efforts in the Southwest.

After ten years of reintroduction efforts, there are fewer than 60 wolves in the wild lands of the Southwest, more than 40 short of the reintroduction goal of establishing 102 wolves in the wild by 2006.

My understanding is that Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world and play an important role in restoring balance to Southwest forests. But despite these facts, the Service hasn't made much progress in restoring them.

There are millions of acres of public land in the Southwest where wolves could thrive, but Mexican wolves continue to be confined to a much smaller, politically defined recovery area. The rules as they stand do not live up to the promise of the Endangered Species Act.

As one of 900,000 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife, I am asking you to make the following changes in the reintroduction rule.

First, "uplist" the Mexican wolf to Experimental Essential status.

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Third, don't limit wolf numbers, or allow any new reasons to kill them.

I am confident that if you make all of these changes, the Mexican gray wolf recovery program will get back on track.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christy Kleinschnitz
PO Box 2494
Fairfield, IA 52556-0042

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

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Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Amanda Ottaway
1316 Morten St Apt 204
Cincinnati, OH 45208-2749

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Subject: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping
MIME_Version: 1.0
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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

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Thank you for considering my viewpoints on this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Leslie Byrnes
5729 Avenida La Mirada NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114-4737

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Dec 31, 2007

Brian Millsap

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Barbara Hudson
913 N Pine St
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-1146

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Dr. Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM

Dear Dr. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The opportunity to comment on the rule-change for managing reintroduced Mexican gray wolves comes not a moment too soon. Fish and Wildlife Service management, with its heavy reliance on predator control targeting the wolves, has suppressed the wolf population and contributed to inbreeding. The solution must comply with the conservation mandate of the Endangered Species Act and not allow loss of wolves - from any and all sources, including government take and illegal poaching - to keep the population from rapid growth and genetic rescue.

To this end, please develop a Conservation Alternative to be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement that would

upgrade the legal status of the reintroduced Mexican wolves from their current "experimental non-essential" standing to a fully protected endangered status.

Please do not include any alternative for analysis that would increase take of wolves, set any limits on wolf numbers, restrict their movements, or in any other respect infringe on the potential of establishing additional Mexican wolf populations, one of which is already called for in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and more of which will likely be required in a future revision of that plan.

The Conservation Alternative should include the following provisions:

- 1) Allow release of wolves from the captive breeding population directly into New Mexico. This is particularly important to enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to release genetically valuable animals into areas in which no wolf packs have established territories.
- 2) Allow wolves to roam freely outside the boundaries of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and not be geographically constrained by any other politically derived restrictions - just as other endangered species are allowed free movement.
- 3) Require livestock owners using public lands to remove or render inedible the carcasses of non-wolf-killed stock so as to prevent wolves from being attracted to areas where domestic animals are vulnerable and habituating to preying on stock. This could be accomplished, at least in part, by holding blameless for subsequent depredations any wolf that has scavenged on dead livestock - and protecting such wolves from any governmental or private "take" or predator control.
- 4) Authorize release of wolves into the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, which is just a few dozen miles to the east of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. White Sands has already been analyzed for its suitability for wolves and could serve as a home for genetically valuable wolves that might not otherwise be released. White Sands has only been found "unsuitable" if wolves are required to stay within its boundaries, but as part of a population that interacts with wolves in the Gila, it would serve an important role.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lisa Wolf
"30 Monroe St., #AJ-5"
New York, NY 10002-7705