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Received: from p01c11m021.mxlogic.net (mx1144v247.mxlogic.net [208.65.144.247]) by smtp1.fws.gov (Postfix) with ESMTTP id 6143419E8011 for <r2fwe_al@fws.gov>; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 19:06:42 -0700 (MST)
Received: from unknown [66.196.97.45] (HELO web56601.mail.re3.yahoo.com) by p01c11m021.mxlogic.net (mx1_mta-5.3.0-1) with SMTP id ee137674.2685397936.27818.00-003.p01c11m021.mxlogic.net (envelope-from <padrephil@yahoo.com>); Mon, 17 Dec 2007 19:35:26 -0700 (MST)
Received: (qmail 49218 invoked by uid 60001); 18 Dec 2007 02:35:26 -0000
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Received: from [70.176.239.33] by web56601.mail.re3.yahoo.com via HTTP; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 18:35:25 PST
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From: Philip Evanstock <padrephil@yahoo.com>
Subject: Wolves Restoration
SendTo: R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
MIME_Version: 1.0
\$MessageID: <52429.48978.qm@web56601.mail.re3.yahoo.com>
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\$Orig: 1C9DBF95C1565AEA872573B5000E3B75
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DeliveredDate: 12/17/2007 07:35:29 PM

Sir:

I am urging you to take all possible steps to insure the success of our wolf restoration program. It is imperative that obstacles be removed so that the implementation of this program be successful. With all due

respect to the hard working ranchers, the unjustified objections of
some
of them need to be neglected. Public lands are the lands of the people
and
not that of those who may graze cattle on them. The use of the public
lands is for the common good and not for the private gain of a few. The
wolf restoration program is for the common good.

Phil Evanstock
10928 West Granada Road
Avondale, Arizona 85392
(623) 907-2419

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Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121719040108-314436 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 19:04:01 -0700
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Received: from fedlrmimpo03.cox.net ([70.169.32.75]) by fedlrmmtao103.cox.net (InterMail vM.7.08.02.01 201-2186-121-102-20070209) with ESMTTP id <20071218020400.WUHT18667.fedlrmmtao103.cox.net@fedlrmimpo03.cox.net> for <r2fwe_al@fws.gov>; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 21:04:00 -0500
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Subject: Wolves
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MIME_Version: 1.0
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Categories:
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DeliveredDate: 12/17/2007 07:04:02 PM

Please allow the wolves to prosper in Arizona and New Mexico. The farmers should not call all the shots in this country. I am sick of hearing about the poor farmers and all their problems with wolves in the western U.S.

It took a long time to get the wolves to this point.

Please leave them alone!!

Sue Chaplinski
Mesa, 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 2007121718564432-313897 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 18:56:44 -0700
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Received: from [68.2.214.140] by web38309.mail.mud.yahoo.com via HTTP; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 17:56:43 PST
PostedDate: 12/17/2007 06:56:43 PM
From: Pamela Masich <threedogs_4me@yahoo.com>
Subject: wolf program
SendTo: R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
MIME_Version: 1.0
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DeliveredDate: 12/17/2007 06:56:46 PM

I will tell you one thing no matter what is done for the ranchers they will never stop there hatred for wolves! I know for a fact because of there position on the reintroduction program,

I have not had a piece of beef for five years. I talk to everyone I know most did not know the grave situation now they do! I say to the Fish and Game department listen to the people!

Pamela Masich

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Received: from unknown [209.191.125.22] (HELO web38306.mail.mud.yahoo.com) by p01c11m057.mxlogic.net (mxl_mta-5.3.0-1) with SMTP id 5b827674.2484288432.49478.00-056.p01c11m057.mxlogic.net (envelope-from <threedogs_4me@yahoo.com>); Mon, 17 Dec 2007 18:56:05 -0700 (MST)
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Received: from [68.2.214.140] by web38306.mail.mud.yahoo.com via HTTP; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 17:56:04 PST
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Subject: wolf program
SendTo: R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
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I will tell you one thing no matter what is done for the ranchers they will never stop there hatred for wolves! I know for a fact because of there position on the reintroduction program,

I have not had a piece of beef for five years. I talk to everyone I know most did not know the grave situation now they do! I say to the Fish and Game department listen to the people!

Pamela Masich

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Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121718183343-311261 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 18:18:33 -0700
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From: "Charles R. Neal" <ckrneal@bresnan.net>
Subject: Mexican Gray Wolf
PostedDate: 12/17/2007 06:18:29 PM
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Dear Fish and Wildlife Service,
I fully support reworking this terribly flawed plan for restoration of the Mexican Gray Wolf.
Restoration of the gray wolf has worked well here in the US Northern Rockies only because we have what amounts to absolutely secure core areas for the wolves, e.g., Yellowstone NP and the Central Idaho roadless country, both without livestock.
Your first order of business in the US Southwest is to remove all livestock from the Gila and Apache-Sitgraves National Forests. Private livestock must not be permitted to have priority of public wildlife on public lands. The only realistic way to accomplish the return of the wolf is create a secure core area in the US Southwest (this requires removal of livestock).
Take these steps, enforce the law, and stand back--you will soon have a recovered population of Mexican Gray Wolves.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment.

Chuck Neal
1526 Alger Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121717082691-305675 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 17:08:26 -0700
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From: Lynne Langelo <llangelo@yahoo.com>
Subject: Comments on Wolf Program
SendTo: R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
MIME_Version: 1.0
\$MessageID: <887706.35893.qm@web38403.mail.mud.yahoo.com>
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DeliveredDate: 12/17/2007 05:08:28 PM

Wolves are a necessary and natural component of a healthy ecosystem.
Cattle are not.

Thank you,

Lynne Langelo
16002 N. 54th Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

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Subject: Let the wolves prosper!
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The US Fish and Wildlife Service should do everything it can to restore wolves to their habitats in Arizona and New Mexico and should not bow to pressure from ranchers' groups. The wolves are beautiful creatures who deserve to be back on the land they roamed for thousands of years before they were hunted and otherwise mindlessly killed to near extinction, in significant part owing to past federal policies.

It's about wolves, not cows. Sure, wolves will kill a few cows. That is

unfortunate, especially for the cows. But, ranchers are compensated for each cow killed and the cows likely were going to end up on a dinner plate somewhere in any event. And ranchers can do things to help themselves, but don't. To reduce wolves' taste for beef, ranchers should be required to remove dead cows from wolf areas or treat the carcasses with lime to render them inedible. Those are simple steps to help the problem that ranchers by and large do not take. They should be required to do so. The wolves aren't the problem. The ranchers are the problem.

Arizona and New Mexico are no longer the wild west. A few ranchers must not be allowed to dictate sound public and environmental policy. Just say "No" to the ranching lobby.

B. Lee
Phoenix, AZ

See AOL's top rated recipes and easy ways to stay in shape for winter.

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Dear Sir(s) of Madam(s),

As a lifetime resident of Arizona, born and raised into a

ranching/hunting/fishing/outdoor family, I feel compelled to write on the reintroduction program. I love the outdoors, and relish every minute I can be out enjoying all of God's creation. Few city people, as well as "green earth" eccentrics, understand the fragile balance of nature, whether it be plant, precipitation, or animal related.

I grew up hunting rabbits, doves, quail, fowl, mule deer, elk, javelina, coyotes, and enjoy fishing the waters from the Southern part of the Arizonato the North East, (White Mountains.) I grew up on a ranch in Cental/North Arizona, and grew up doing the entire ranching thing as well as running farming equipment for the crops we raised.

I love hunting, and cows and the smell of fresh crops and the smell of a new rain on sagebrush.

At one time as you know, the elk population was threatened, and with the help of programs like this one, they have thrived and are doing well, (perhaps to well in some areas.) Never the less, the program(s) have been successful and as a result, offer a wide number of outdoor enthusiasts, photographers and hunters, countless hours of enjoyment.

While the program has meritous intent, its benefits in light of the perils encountered regularly, (monetary considerations aside,) fall well below the anticipated returns. That is to say, if the program was introduced to bring back the Mexican wolf for sake of the species, I say at what price? What makes it worthwhile at the expense of the other species, at present, primarily the Mule Deer.

Elk are definitely creating an adverse impact on the Mule Deer habitat, and their numbers need to be watched carefully. While some would say, deer are browsers and elk grazers, there's no competition between the two, I say they're wrong.

The amount of problems being created by this program, as well as the exhorbitant amount of money being spent, is of pork barrel proportions,

with a very low impact return.

The money would be better spent reducing coyote populations, improving water holes and drinkers, removing the excessive numbers of wild horses and burros pounding certain areas of the Southwest, and improving habitat for the wildlife aforementioned.

It would be really exciting to see a wolf in the wild,...somewhere in the upper states where they might have a chance at surviving on their own, and I would much rather have you spend our money on the wildlife mentioned, than waste it on this "lost wolf cause."

New Mexico game and fish and their management leave a lot to be desired, they are really in trouble, if you don't think so, just spend a week out in their management areas and you'll see what I mean. Arizona's not far behind, with Utah and Nevada somewhere in the middle.

I wrestled with the idea of even authoring this as I'm really not sure who my audience is. If it gets to the right person, it may make a difference, the wolf program will be considered a bad idea, and plans will be made to look at finding a real purpose with new meaning.

If I had to give the program a parallelism, it would be something like,..feed the hungry here on earth now, and let's put off going to Mars until later..

Thank you for your time.

Vince Fornara

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Sirs:

I am completely opposed to the continued effort to re-introduce wolves to the wild on public lands. I am further opposed to increased attempts to make ranchers with cattle permits bear the brunt of this ill-advised

attempt.

I am not opposed to wolves, but our public lands in the west must also be used for other wildlife and to raise cattle, or the U.S. will continue to see the cattle industry evaporate until the price of beef is prohibitive. This is not just about wolves - it is about people, cattle, deer, and elk as well.

Game and Fish programs designed to protect mountain lions in the west has led us to a serious problem with our mule deer population, and there is no reason to believe that the same or worse will not occur with the reintroduction of wolves.

I oppose a change in the present approach now being touted by misinformed arm-chair liberals who claim that cattle-killing wolves should not be removed from areas where it is proven they have killed cattle. I also oppose the current suggestion that ranchers should be responsible to treat wolf kills "with lime to make them inedible". This is an arrogant and ignorant suggestion, and apparently easily made by someone who does not depend on their cattle herd for their income.

There is NOT a "larger public interest to restore this top predator to the food chain". Instead, there is a high interest by those who know nothing about ranching and hunting, and feel that the louder they yell, the more they can push their will on the outdoorsman, hunter, and rancher.

I appeal to you to listen to the common sense of reasonable people before spending my tax money on further attempts to re-introduce the wolf to the wild in the west. Maybe you could encourage people to let you try such an experiment on their bicycle trails and golf courses!

Thank you,

Robert K. Watkins

2034 North Hillridge Circle

Mesa, AZ 85207

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An article written 12.17.2007 carried by The Arizona Republic prompted a comment from me.

I wholeheartly agree that The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service attitude toward wolf recovery needs to reflect the public's desire to restore these predators to the wild lands.
It was beautifully written by the author when he said "people care about restoring wolves to the wild for scientific, aesthetic, spiritual and

emotional reasons". And, I wholeheartly agree ranchers can choose to be part of that effort or they can get out of the way. The fact that Defenders of Wildlife compensate ranchers for any cows killed by wolves says it all. Ranchers aren't losing money; they are in for the sadistic kill. Wolves are as much a national symbol as the American Eagle. The fact that the wolves are considered to be a "non-essential, experimental" population, so the Fish and Wildlife Service can override the rules is sick! This country stands by and watches the endangered species become extinct like it is nothing. Open up your eyes Fish & Wildlife; animals are here for a reason, they were here long before the human being. When the human population is destroyed because of greed & ignorance, the wolf will still be standing. They will raise their beautiful heads and howl with joy for the freedom they rightfully deserve. Save the wolf. Thank you for a chance to state my comment. Constance Cline-Harden

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Attn: Wolf Program
New Mexico Ecological Service Field Office
Albuquerque, NM 87113

I am emailing you in reference to the effort to re-introduce the Mexican

Grey Wolf into the forests of Eastern Arizona and Western New Mexico..
I
am in complete support of the effort to successfully re-establish a
self-reproducing population of Mexican Gray Wolves in these forests.

I understand that accomplishing this goal will not come without
changes
in the way these National Forests are regulated and managed, and I
would
support limiting or relocating commercial grazing in these forests to
successfully re-establish a self-reproducing population of wolves in
the
forests.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Drozdowicz

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This problem has gone on for so long it is extremely disgusting. Why is this solely a matter determined by cows? It seems to me that you are not

in compliance with the law by catering to ranchers only. You must have known long ago that the majority of the PUBLIC want these wolves to survive in their habitat. They were there long before cows and the killing and removal of the wolves should stop NOW!!!! The cows are extremely destructive and out of place. The ranchers should take care of

the cows and clean up the carrion (sick and starved cows) so the wolves will not be tempted to eat live cows because of the dead ones left lying. Public land ranching is cruelty to animals, among other things, including habitat and riparian destruction. Better yet, the cows should

be killed or removed. The sooner, the better.

G.Vertrees

4195 Hwy 68

Unit A720

Golden Valley, AZ 86413

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Gentlemen,

Please do not give up on the program to save the Mexican gray wolf. I once had some compassion for the ranchers for losing some cattle to the wolves, but when I read in the article that they were reimbursed for the loss, I no longer do. It would be a very sad day if this animal or any animal goes extinct because of humans. It is a loss that always has far reaching consequences. I am all for any thing you can do so save this wonderful and unique species.

The program should be considered "a nature necessity" instead of experimental. All the power to you for your effort to save them.

Roger B. Pewsey
Kingman, AZ

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I, April Clauson, as a resident of Arizona State, wish to state that I feel the US Fish and Wildlife service has not worked in a proper fashion to protect the Gray Wolf Recovery efforts. To kill and re-locate wolves due to the fact the Ranchers in New Mexico will not remove their dead cattle, or bring in cows due to give birth to a protected area instead of letting the cows give birth in open range, which by the way is mostly Public land which my tax dollars help pay for, is just not right. Also

the stories of wolves waiting at bus stops to hunt children is just not true, nor are wolves effecting any hunted game as hunter's state. All you have to do is read scientific articles on the same to know it is the opposite, wolves help keep our environment in balance, as do all large predator species do. Wolves will avoid people at all cost's. Rancher's should be fined for leaving dead carcasses out and hunters should be fined also for leaving gut piles to attract any wildlife that may cause conflict. It is time for our Government and wildlife management to manage and protect our wildlife and forest's not to protect and bend down to what a few Ranchers or misinformed, unknowledgeable people think in regards to the Wolf Management program. I for one want wolves in Arizona and New Mexico, and I want them protected not only from poachers, ranchers, but our Government to. Please, make laws to protect and help our wildlife and it that means fines, jail time etc for those that will not adhere to them than do it. I am at this point ashamed of the way US Fish and Wildlife values have gone down the tubes since the Bush administration took over, all you care about is money, not saving our lands or wildlife!

Sincerely,
April Clauson
1916 N 72nd Plc #1
Scottsdale AZ 85257

[IMAGE]

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Dear sir, I don't understand the program. With the deer population on my ranch down 98% and the wolf population at 5, I don't think the wolf can survive on wild game. They are saying the wolf has to learn to eat cattle. Don't make me laugh, the wolf will eat anything that bleeds. He is a dog just like all others except he is a very efficient killer of other animals capable of killing 2000 lb bulls. They say they will pay the ranchers for livestock they kill, but the wolf specialist for this area says they only find one of seven kills. How can you justify that?
I

think the program should be abandoned and the wolves destroyed. Wayne
Dickerson p.o. box 51 Cliff nm 88028

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We will also send a hard copy of these comments by U.S. mail.

Dear Mr. Slown,

Thank you for providing the public with the important opportunity to submit comments on the Mexican gray wolf reintroduction plan amendments and the proposal to prepare a socio-economic analysis to revise the listing of the wolf under the Endangered Species Act. These comments are submitted on behalf of Western Watersheds Project, a non-profit conservation organization that dedicated to protecting and improving wildlife habitat, riparian areas, water quality and other natural resources and ecological values throughout the West. We have over 1,600 members nationwide and, as an organization and on behalf of our members, are concerned with protecting and improving wildlife habitat and the ecological integrity of watersheds, including the lands of the southwest and within the current Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area ("BRWRA").

We have also endorsed the comments of The Rewilding Institute, and incorporate by reference the thorough comments submitted by that organization. We submit the following comments on the proposal to revise the rule.

We concur that the current reintroduction effort isn't working. The current program is an effort marred by lethal and permanent removals of wolves from the wild, accidental killings during the recapture program, and emotional public debate based on imagined threats these creatures bring to communities. It is time that the agency take an honest look at the cause and effect of the failure to establish a viable Mexican gray wolf population thus far.

REVISE THE RECOVERY PLAN

We believe that the first and foremost concern of the agency should be the revision of the Mexican gray wolf recovery plan, which is

already 25 years old. The recovery team could review the best available science and make recommendations to the FWS as to the recovery requirements of the species, including whether the listing rule revision should occur. It seems a logical first step, and failure to initiate the recovery plan revision would be an undue delay in ensuring the full protection for this keystone species.

That said, the following comments are offered for the rule revision being proposed. [1]

CHANGE DESIGNATION TO "ESSENTIAL, ENDANGERED"

The current priority of wolf recovery could be immediately remedied by listing the Mexican gray wolf as "endangered," instead of "experimental, non-essential," and by designating sufficiently broad critical habitat for the species in order to ensure survival and recovery range-wide. Mexican gray wolf reintroduction is neither experimental nor non-essential; there is sufficient evidence of how to recover wolves in the western United States for the FWS to know how it should be done, and the recovery of the Mexican gray wolf is essential, since the reintroduction efforts are the only hope for the species that has not been reported elsewhere on the continent. It is also essential for the ecological health of our southwestern forests and for the natural heritage of our country. Thus, this 10j rule no longer applies, and the FWS should pair the reintroduction program with full Endangered Species Act protections.

Changing the designation to "essential," would alone have the effect of mandating the delineation of critical habitat, changing land management within the critical habitat boundaries, and providing for the recovery of the species. As such, the new listing rule should entail the prioritized management of public lands within the recovery area for the recovery of the Mexican gray wolf.[2] "Multiple uses," including livestock grazing, should only be allowed insofar as they do not conflict with habitat

management for wolf recovery or the restoration of ecological systems, including the predator/prey balance.

ADDRESS THE CAUSE AND EFFECT OF LIVESTOCK CONFLICTS

We support the reintroduction and full recovery of the Mexican gray wolf, and we urge the agency to look at one of the major causes of the failures of the program: conflicts with the livestock industry. Since the reintroduction of wolves in 1998 through March 2007, 52 wolves have been removed after killing livestock. The "three strikes" rule affecting wolf behavior unfairly penalizes wolves but does not require anything of the livestock operations' standards of animal husbandry. Recapture, relocation, and removal of wolves disrupts packs and the important social structure that they have developed, skewing the pack demography towards younger animals that are more likely to take livestock.

Wolves heal the ecosystem by restoring the top-down food chain and controlling herbivore populations which, in turn, helps to restore vegetation communities and smaller mammal, reptile, and insect populations, putting the rich biological diversity of the land back in balance. In contrast, cattle compete with native wildlife for forage, trample our soils, spread weeds, displace native species and destroy water quality. Livestock production was authorized on our public lands a century ago, but the understanding of the role of predators in maintaining ecological integrity and of the fragility of our arid West has come a long way since then. Cooperation with the land management agencies - namely the USDA Forest Service and the BLM- could include wolf recovery actions that would be applicable for grazing permits administered by those entities.

To date, the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf in the BRWRA has not required any changes in livestock management on public lands within that same area. In fact, many of the wolf management provisions of the current reintroduction plan proscribe elements designed to reduce economic harm to the livestock operators (such as the "three strikes" provision). This is an inappropriate perspective.

The new rule should emphasize that livestock operations on

public lands are a privilege, not a right, and conflicts between the extractive use and the native wildlife should be remedied on the side of wildlife. The new rule should also stipulate specific management and mandatory cooperation from the USFS and BLM, such as the following measures to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts:

- Eliminate open-range calving by livestock. Public lands ranchers should be required to confine pregnant cows and calves until they are of sufficient size and health to fend for themselves in the untended backcountry that is prime wolf habitat. Expecting wolves not to be attracted to young, weak animals is to go against their natural instinct. Ranchers should not expect to defy the laws of nature by tempting wolves with unmonitored livestock births.

- Avoid turn-out of domestic livestock in areas near areas known to be used by wolves. The high number of collared animals and the notification system by the FWS should be improved to help determine livestock turn-out. Livestock should be managed in ways that recognize seasonal changes in the wolves' behavior.

- Remove or render unpalatable livestock carcasses. Preying on livestock is likely a learned behavior. It is obvious from past depredations that scavenging on dead livestock is one of the reasons wolves see cattle as prey. Livestock operators within the recovery area should be required to take responsibility for prompt carcass management and disposal.

These few simple measures should be mandatory terms and conditions added to grazing permits within the recovery area. Incorporating these measures into the new EIS should provide the agency with a reasonable range of alternatives, as required by NEPA.

PROVIDE A FAIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

The socio-economic analysis that will be completed as part of this new EIS should not overly emphasize the "hardships" to livestock operators. Livestock operations on public lands are heavily subsidized by

federal and state money, and the handful of ranchers who are affected by wolf depredations are already compensated fairly for their loss from a private organization. The socio-economic analysis should attempt to quantify the priceless experience of hearing a wolf howl in the wild and the value of reintroduction and recovery on the ecosystem to the broader American public. Restoring predators in the ecosystem may have the effect of eliminating the need for vegetation treatments in the long-term. This type of effect should be included in the calculation; the price of lost heifers should not be the only economic data the FWS considers.

We are concerned that the scoping meeting comment forms included both a photo of cattle and photos of ranchers. The socio-economic analysis should include broader social groups- wolf supporters, wildlife photographers, river guides, campers, hikers, biologists- who also have vested interests in this program. The FWS should undertake appropriate social survey if it expects the socio-economic analysis to be fair and unbiased, and scoping meetings and materials should also strive to limit the emotional pandering to special interest groups.

EARMARK FUNDING FOR BUY-OUT

We recognize that one way to permanently dissolve the livestock-wolf conflict is to remove livestock operations from public lands. Therefore, we support the inclusion of funds in the reintroduction program to buy out voluntarily relinquished grazing permits within the recovery area. Elsewhere, livestock operations are being bought out by federal and private interests for the sake of improving monument values and wilderness conditions. Here, grazing permits could be purchased upon voluntary relinquishment and permanently retired for the sake of recovering the Mexican gray wolf. The reevaluation of the listing rule should incorporate this kind of thoughtful and long-term solution to the livestock-wolf conflict in at least one of the alternatives.

EXPAND RECOVERY AREA

The cessation of confinement of wolves to the BRWRA should be considered in the new EIS. Currently, wolves roaming outside of the BRWRA are threatening by the risk of recapture and relocation. In order for the wolves to successfully re-inhabit in the southwest, the wolves themselves should be permitted to determine what their home range is. The current territory is insufficient to restore a healthy wolf population, and the current recapture and re-release programs are harmful to the recovery of the species. The arbitrary boundary of the BRWRA undermines the Endangered Species Act's purpose of protecting and restoring endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. 16 U.S.C. § 1531(b).

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit these scoping comments. Please keep us apprised of all future opportunities to participate in the Mexican gray wolf planning process.

Sincerely,

[1] U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007. Notice of scoping meetings and intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and socio-economic assessment for the proposed amendment of the rule establishing a non-essential experimental population of the Arizona and New Mexico population of the gray wolf ("Mexican gray wolf").[sic] 72 FR 44065-44069, August 7, 2007.

[2] "Recovery Area" used here refers to the full range of habitat necessary for the full recovery of the species, but not limited to the "Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area," or "BRWRA" referenced elsewhere in the text.

Greta Anderson
Western Watersheds Project
PO Box 2264
Tucson, Arizona 85702
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<http://www.westernwatersheds.org/>

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I read more and more articles about how it is no longer necessary to protect the gray wolf, they are no longer endangered and are a danger to cattle. How any rational person can believe any of this is beyond me. When the catlemen start to own grazing land rather than use public lands for a pittance, they can have a say in the handling of the wolves. As it

stands now, they are paid for any cattle they lose which makes no sense.

Do we pay them when they lose cattle due to snow or flood?

Wolves have been in this country longer than we have, we destroy them while they do nothing to harm us. They are beautiful, spiritual beings and if we just leave them alone they will multiply back to where they should be - without harming another living being.

Evelyn1935@bellsouth.net

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Please let these beautiful endangered Mexican gray wolves live!! Do no make the same mistake which was made, in the past, and destroy these poor animals. Why is "Man" the great destroyer. This country, especially the "West" will be a sad place without the sight and sounds of this majestic

species.

I live in North Scottsdale, AZ, where the homes are beautiful, where nearly everyone drives a very expensive car and the shops are very exclusive. However, to me, this area would have no appeal, if at night I never heard the howl of the Coyote and the sounds and sights of the javelina, running free!

I recall reading an article by a man who I believe was employed by Fish and Game in the 1970's. He wrote that as he shot to death a female wolf and pups, he wept because this family was one of the last families alive. He then never killed another wolf and became a crusader for this species.

.Let's stop destroying the real beauty of this country because of special interest groups.

Thank you.

Dyanna K. Bentley, CPM®
theMullercompany
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Phoenix, AZ 85018
Telephone #602 957 4077
Fax #602 956 0992

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121713271532-282078 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 13:27:15 -0700
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Good article, much appreciated. In the late 1990's Idaho reintroduced timber wolves into the mountains in Central Idaho. In late November of 1998 I was traveling on I-84 westward approaching LaGrande Oregon, when I first noticed a wolf crossing the divider (the hiway was in a restricted canyon) and next spotted it's mate on the right pull off lane of the freeway standing over a fresh roadkill deer, wary of my motorhome's now slowing approach. I was thrilled to see the pair there, having crossed several hundred miles of ground from their introduced area, and having swum the Snake River to reach this point. Wolves had been eradicated in this area when I was a kid, in

the early 1950's.

I noticed in the Oregonian newspaper a couple years later that some cattlemen had been grouching about shooting any wolves they saw, and was incensed at the idea. Wolves are extremely "social" animals, with strict rules to live by. Territorial, as the pups grow up, they must spread out and find new ground to forage for their living. From my experience, State and Federal boundaries have no meaning thus arises the need for federal protection. The land in Oregon is 60% publicly owned, as is likely with most of the western states. I'd certainly support their protection on ALL public land, with penalties stiffened to equal that of killing an "endangered species", rather than the "poaching" type penalties that are more like a slap on the wrist. It will take cooperation at several levels of government as well as broadening the base to include the surrounding states in order to complete the reintroduction successfully. Thank you for your efforts, and YOUR WORK IS APPRECIATED !

Jack R Titus titusduck@rockisland.com
1233 W Calle Trafalgar
Green Valley Az, 85614 520-239-6393

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121713201905-281430 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 13:20:19 -0700
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I wish to let you know that I support the wolf recovery program in the Arizona and New Mexico area. Nobody likes their steak more than I do, but ranchers must begin to be part of the recovery effort, not sabotage it with unrealistic demands.

Please continue to do whatever it takes to help this vital part of our ecosystem recover.

Mary Lou Lyding
2251 East Mountain View Road
Phoenix AZ 85028

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTMP id 2007121712550243-279660 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:55:02 -0700
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Dear sirs,
My comment on the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program is that the program needs to continue and be strengthened. I live in Socorro and work for UNM. Much of my work as an educator is field-based experiential work involving wilderness field trips as well as international field trips. I am, therefore, tricked out with the various appurtenances of the

outfitting trade. I have outfitted and continue to outfit field trips for UNM students into the Gila Wilderness, Apache Kid Wilderness, Mt. Withington Wilderness, Aldo Leopold Wilderness, San Pedro Peaks Wilderness, and Pecos Wilderness. I use Burros in my outfitting. I have not outfitted hunts but have devoted my work to providing opportunities for nature and land use study. I have used connections with rancher permittees to organize discourse with students vis a vis these topics. I also raise cattle myself. I am fond of my cows and have a first-hand acquaintance with their various capacities. It is my view that the communities around the wolf recovery areas simply must abandon the trodglyte resistance to wolf reintroduction and adapt to living with wolves. Part of your mission must be to facilitate that adaptation and provide strong incentives for doing so. Unfortunately, I also think you must also provide equally strong disincentives for stubborn resistance to wolf reintroduction. In my view, wolves and cattle can co-exist only if there is great vigilance on the part of the stewards of cattle. Cows are easy prey for wolves and become an almost irresistible food source if they are allowed to feed on carcasses or afterbirth. A wolf management plan cannot work in cattle country unless there is an equally vigorous cattle management plan. Cattle must be monitored closely. An aphorism of livestock husbandry is that "if you have livestock, then sooner or later you are going to have dead stock." Opportunistic wolves will exploit cow carcasses and a world of trouble will result. Basically there is a choice. For wolf recovery to succeed in the recovery area either all live cattle must be removed, or all dead cattle must be removed or limed (in a very timely way). I would also extend this to afterbirth. Ranchers who run cow/calf operations must confine or closely monitor pregnant cows and dispose of or lime the afterbirth immediately. In my view, the choice is stark - either adopt these wolf-friendly husbandry practices or remove cattle from the recovery area. In my view, there is no question. Wolves belong in the ecosystem and there is no effort too great to make in achieving that result. The ecosystems of our southwest mountains are immeasurably impoverished in the lack of this top predator. The benefits will outweigh almost any cost I can imagine. Ranchers need to be reminded in no uncertain terms that their use of the public lands is contingent on the responsibility of their stewardship. Shifting husbandry to adapt to wolves is very inconvenient to ranchers but this shift has to occur for wolf recovery to succeed. In my view, wolf recovery is a more important use of the public land than

cattle ranching if it came to that.
You need to figure out what you can do to support ranchers in making the inconvenient alterations they must make in their businesses to support wolf recovery. Failure on your part will ultimately doom the cattle business in and around the wolf recovery area. My view is that the public will not tolerate the failure of wolf reintroduction. The first step you must take should be to disabuse critics of wolf reintroduction of the fantasy that US citizens are going to conclude that reintroducing wolves was a bad idea and that the program is going to be scrapped in favor of the wolf-free ecologically degraded southwest mountainscapes of my youth.

Basically the cattle business in the recovery area depends on your agency taking very forceful steps to insure the proper husbandry of cattle. The writing is on the wall. People are much more receptive to the idea of removing cattle than they are to the idea of removing wolves.

The facts, the surveys bear me out. Your agency will either be the savior of the cattle business in the recovery area or that business will not survive. So make the right choice - support ranchers in adapting via wolf-friendly husbandry - and act forcefully against ranchers who do not comply.

Although I have focussed on ranchers and the cattle business, my comments apply equally to outfitters and the outfitting business. Outfitters can and must adapt their activities to the presence of wolves.

This may involve loosing and belling of pack animals(or confining them in electric fenced corrals) and taking measures to make camps unattractive to wolves. These are inconvenient measures, at least in the short term, but doable.

Many thanks for attending to my comments.

Sincerely

Michael Thomas Ph.D.
University Honors Program
MSC06 3890
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-001
505-277-4211 (UNM) 505-573-1656 (cell)
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505-838-0711

"You might have the speed or the right combinations... if you can't take the punches, it don't mean a thing." Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini

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Hey Folks,

Coming from the horse community, my wife and I are with the ranching community on everything but this. Wolf Reintroduction and the resurrection of the balance of nature/food chain in the wildlands of Arizona is more important than the needs of only one community.

Since Defenders of Wildlife will compensate ranchers for proven losses, there is no demonstrable downside for the ranchers and a huge upside for Arizona.

As the reintroduction program moves forward, please give more weight to the needs of the reintroduced wolves than to the ranching community.

Thanks.

Randy and Roberta Perry
Carefree, 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 2007121712303994-277571 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:30:39 -0700
Received: from p01c11m072.mxlogic.net (mx1144v247.mxlogic.net [208.65.144.247]) by smtp1.fws.gov (Postfix) with ESMTTP id 186A319E8151 for <r2fwe_al@fws.gov>; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:01:50 -0700 (MST)
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Received: from ip72-208-55-104.ph.ph.cox.net ([72.208.55.104]) by fedlrmimpo02.cox.net with bizsmtp id RvWg1Y00L2EurB40000000; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 14:30:40 -0500
\$MessageID: <3AFF4484-1F7D-4B45-8D75-2DDEC435AC32@cox.net>
From: Richard Erickson <fizit43@cox.net>
SendTo: R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
Subject: Let wolves prosper!
MIME_Version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v915)
PostedDate: 12/17/2007 12:30:36 PM
CopyTo: opinions@arizonarepublic.com
\$Mailer: Apple Mail (2.915)
X_Spam: [F=0.0018205902; B=0.500(0); S=0.010(2007110801); MH=0.500(2007121719); R=0.152(107111711736); SC=none; SS=0.500]
X_Mail_From: <fizit43@cox.net>
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SMTPOriginator: fizit43@cox.net
RoutingState:
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\$Orig: 141BE9771B3A8882872573B4006B2D7A
Categories:
\$Revisions:
\$MsgTrackFlags: 0
DeliveredDate: 12/17/2007 12:30:42 PM

US Fish & Wildlife Service, Attn. Wolf Program
New Mexico Field Service Office
Albuquerque NM 87113

I write in support of the program to establish a viable population of Mexican gray wolves. As the primary administrator of this program, you have failed to protect this wolf population. In 1998, when this program was initiated, the objective was to build a wolf population of 100 animals by 2006. There were only 59 last year, but you record the

removal of about 70 wolves. Many of these were killed at the behest of ranchers using grazing permits on National Forest Land. It is well known that for more than a century livestock growers, using public land for pastures, have despised all wild predators and done everything possible to eliminate all such wildlife. They have used every technique, guns, bounties, poison, to destroy the natural predators.

That your agency exists, and is supported by the public, is evidence of the will of the US public that wildlife in parks and public lands is to be treated as a national resource. Not simply a resource for the pleasure of people, but a necessary link to a sustainable biodiversity. Public land without diversity is not truly sustainable. So please reevaluate your policies that have resulted in the destruction of so many Mexican gray wolves (more destroyed than now existing!) and make a serious effort to restore the population to the targeted 100 animals. Indeed, LET WOLVES PROSPER!

Richard Erickson
17830 N. Willowbrook Dr.
Sun City AZ 85373

cc. The Arizona Republic

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121712262224-277118 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:26:22 -0700
Received: from p01c11m037.mxlogic.net (mxl144v247.mxlogic.net [208.65.144.247]) by smtp1.fws.gov (Postfix) with ESMTTP id 38BED19E8149 for <r2fwe_al@fws.gov>; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 11:57:32 -0700 (MST)
Received: from unknown [198.133.182.63] (EHLO mg03.cnm.edu) by p01c11m037.mxlogic.net (mxl_mta-5.3.0-1) with ESMTTP id a5dc6674.2598661040.46671.00-082.p01c11m037.mxlogic.net (envelope-from <ssmall@cnm.edu>); Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:26:18 -0700 (MST)
Received: from EXCHANGE.admin.ad.cnm.edu (ex01main.admin.ad.cnm.edu [10.129.2.23]) by mg03.cnm.edu (Postfix) with ESMTTP id AED56881DA; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:26:16 -0700 (MST)
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MIME_Version: 1.0
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PostedDate: 12/17/2007 12:26:15 PM
\$MessageID:
<60DD22EEC446634DB3FE5A9F96B685D71AA2BCFE@EXCHANGE.admin.ad.cnm.edu>
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X_MS_TNEF_Correlator:
Thread_Topic: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping
thread_index: AchA4rEOj1rj3s2tTvWudgeDUZGD9A==
From: "SMALL, SUE" <ssmall@cnm.edu>
SendTo: <R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
X_Processed_By: Rebuild v2.0-0
X_Spam: [F=0.0002401636; B=0.500(0); S=0.010(2007110801); MH=0.500(2007121717); R=0.023(107111711755); SC=none; SS=0.500]
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SMTPOriginator: ssmall@cnm.edu
RoutingState:
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Categories:
\$Revisions:
\$MsgTrackFlags: 0
DeliveredDate: 12/17/2007 12:26:24 PM

I support the continued effort to re-establish the Mexican Gray Wolf in New Mexico. I'm from this state, and I want to have this animal in New Mexico since this is where it belongs. While there are reportings of dog attacks harming humans, especially children, there are no recorded reports of wolf attacks harming humans.

Our public lands are for all people to enjoy and use, so if there are concerns from renters of grazing allotments about the wolf reintroduction program, they must realize that they are just one group among many who wish to use the public lands. I am a member of that group who wishes to have the wolf on our public lands.

Keep the Mexican Gray Wolf in New Mexico.

From:

Sue Small

7 Arnold Court

Los Lunas, NM 87031

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTMP id 2007121712235713-276839 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:23:57 -0700
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Received: from unknown [209.86.89.64] (EHLO elasmtplib-curtail.atl.sa.earthlink.net) by p01c11m002.mxlogic.net (mxl_mta-5.3.0-1) with ESMTMP id cccc6674.2566847408.18911.00-170.p01c11m002.mxlogic.net (envelope-from <voshefski@mindspring.com>); Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:23:56 -0700 (MST)
DomainKey_Signature: a=rsa-sha1; q=dns; c=noaws; s=dk20050327; d=mindspring.com;
b=aOustuY2F4cOkQBjKyltAjGo/DIGia62pSwGkFnunWQ0rkyDYdMxOebrvERLrx1R;
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MIME_Version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v752.3)
\$MessageID: <BEFAAD97-9CA7-459C-9F07-048A772CEC3E@mindspring.com>
SendTo: R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
Subject: Please Support the Mexican Wolf
From: Peter Voshefski <voshefski@mindspring.com>
PostedDate: 12/17/2007 12:20:21 PM
\$Mailer: Apple Mail (2.752.3)
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Categories:
\$Revisions:
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DeliveredDate: 12/17/2007 12:23:58 PM

Dear Fish and Wildlife Service,

I support the Mexican wolf and recovery efforts in New Mexico and Arizona.

As a tax paying citizen and avid New Mexican outdoorsman, I urge you to do the same. I urge you to protect this endangered animal, recovery efforts, and habitat restoration efforts in our great Southwestern Wilderness. Time has come to do what the citizens unanimously want and not to bow to cattle growing monied interests and their indefensible demands to eliminate this vital predator; vital to wilderness and vital to restoring a semblance of balance in our fragile ecology which has been ravaged by the unnatural demands of cattle ranching.

I again urge you to support the Mexican wolf and all recovery programs. This is about wolves, not cows. And it is about doing your job in serving a citizenry that overwhelmingly demands that you support the wolves. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter Voshefski

Peter Voshefski
voshefski@mindspring.com
2213 Raven Lane SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105
505-385-0973

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121711232125-270276 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 11:23:21 -0700
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Received: from fedlrmimpo03.cox.net ([70.169.32.75]) by fedlrmmtaol01.cox.net (InterMail vM.7.08.02.01 201-2186-121-102-20070209) with ESMTTP id <20071217182321.OHET22811.fedlrmmtaol01.cox.net@fedlrmimpo03.cox.net> for <r2fwe_al@fws.gov>; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 13:23:21 -0500
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From: "Patti Perikly" <pperikly@cox.net>
SendTo: <R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: Wolf Program
PostedDate: 12/17/2007 11:37:08 AM
MIME_Version: 1.0
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Categories:
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DeliveredDate: 12/17/2007 11:23:24 AM

My family and I feel that it is very important that the wolf recovery program be continued and bolstered with whatever means it takes to increase their numbers. Predators have a needed and unique position in any ecosystem, and our previous attitude of eliminating them is totally

wrong. They evolved with a purpose. Humans are continually messing up the natural balance. The wolves must stay!

I am not saying this from some distant home that is not affected. I have a home in Pinetop that backs up to the National forest. My husband's business is the Flagg Ranch Resort on the Rockefeller Memorial Parkway between the Tetons and Yellowstone National Park. The wolves are a cornerstone to the balance of a healthy ecosystem. If there are too many elk, there are probably not enough wolves!

Please do consider our request to restore the wolf to our wild lands. We can be their voice. Please listen and take action.

Respectfully,
Patricia D. Perikly, M.Ed.

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTMP id 2007121711150003-269398 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 11:15:00 -0700
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X_Originating_Ip: [75.167.6.118]
X_Originating_Email: [gpaboat@msn.com]
X_Sender: gpaboat@msn.com
From: "DAVID LEHMBERG" <gpaboat@msn.com>
SendTo: <R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
Subject: Wolves
PostedDate: 12/17/2007 11:18:37 AM
MIME_Version: 1.0
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Categories:
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DeliveredDate: 12/17/2007 11:15:02 AM

Dear Sir or Ms,

I am writing in support of the Wolf Reintroduction Plan.

Please do not allow those few ranchers in New Mexico to dictate what public policy re: wolves should be. Those ranchers have been leasing public lands for years. In running cattle there, they have altered the entire ecosystem beyond recovery. Now they want to hijack the plan, approved by the people, to allow wolves on OUR land!

Please don't let them do this! They are not a significant voting block.

The only influence most people can see in this matter is bribery of public officials!

Rachael Lehmborg
17314 N. Thornberry Drive
Surprise, AZ 85374

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTMP id 2007121710562710-267311 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 10:56:27 -0700
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Received: (qmail 47877 invoked by uid 1009); 17 Dec 2007 17:34:20 -0000
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PostedDate: 12/17/2007 10:56:15 AM
\$Mailer: IncrediMail (5312750)
From: "Barbara P. Jackson" <bjackson@azci.net>
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DeliveryPriority: N
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Subject: Wolf Recovery
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X_SOURCE_IP: [(unknown)]
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I encourage you, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wolf Program, to restore wolves to the wild for scientific, aesthetic, spiritual and emotional reasons. Tell ranches they can cooperate or stay out of the process. Don't let them undermine this endeavor which really costs them nothing since they are reimbursed for cattle that wolves may kill.

Sincerely, Barbara P. Jackson, 9564 Swansea Drive, Arizona City, AZ.

85223

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Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121710552067-267174 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 10:55:20 -0700
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I have a home in Greer, Az. and am proud to support the wolf recovery program. I have seen the wolves in the wild and they are truly magnificent creatures. They truly have a place in our world and I encourage all you can do to restore them to the wild.
Thank you, Diane Cowdrey

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121710343203-264057 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 10:34:32 -0700
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PostedDate: 12/17/2007 10:34:29 AM
From: "Mike Sims" <mikesims36@gmail.com>
SendTo: opinions@arizonarepublic.com
Subject: Wolf Warning
CopyTo: R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
MIME_Version: 1.0
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Your editorial Let wolves prosper IS about cows and wolves . I will support the introduction of Mexican Wolves when the following criteria is met.Land is available to raise cattle in humane conditions, chemicals and growth hormones won't be necessary to bring them to market, the cost of beef will remain in reach of the average family , the introduction of wildlife doesn't take precedent over ranching necessary in the production of beef cattle .Your statement that wolves preferred prey is wildlife is not true, their preferred prey now is cattle which are much weaker and therefore easier to catch than elk or deer. However this is subject to change , as the urban dweller decides he wants to get out of our city's he is moving to the rural areas closer to our ranches and land which is also home to Arizona's predators, coyotes and bobcats , small dogs and cats have been killed by these predators , when the cattle are gone and elk and deer eaten are your kids playing at the lake or campground next ? do we need another predator let loose ?,as it is the wolves are being introduced under controlled conditions that are working lets not let a small group of loose cannons rush us into what could be a deadly mistake, whats wrong with slow but sure. it will get the job done the same, just safer.

Mike Sims
PO Box 113
Florence Az 85232 Pho 520-868-4900 cell 520-709-2982

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Be nice
Be safe
MIKE

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121710185127-262907 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 10:18:51 -0700
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Received: from [71.211.96.37] by web52304.mail.re2.yahoo.com via HTTP; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 09:18:49 PST
PostedDate: 12/17/2007 10:18:49 AM
From: Paul Libby <pwlibby@yahoo.com>
Subject: Mexican Wolf Reintroduction in New Mexico and Arizona
SendTo: R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
MIME_Version: 1.0
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Regarding the Wolf recovery program, I would like to go onto record in opposition to spending any further public funds on this failed effort. The Mexican Wolf is not a necessary part of todays ecosystem. For the large part it has been replaced by the coyote and State regulated hunting

of big game. The amount of public money that has been spent on this program is a gross waste. These funds could much better be spent on protecting our borders and on National Defense.

I recommend abandoning the program. Let the wolves that are on the ground stay there to prosper or crash as nature will dictate.

Paul Libby
10145 E. Daybreak Pl.
Gold Canyon, AZ 85218

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Received: from Dbarlow1@aol.com by imo-d23.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v38_r9.3.) id y.d4d.1666528a (32915) for <R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:03:52 -0500 (EST)
From: Dbarlow1@aol.com
\$MessageID: <d4d.1666528a.349805f8@aol.com>
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SendTo: R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
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This is in response to an article which appeared in the Arizona Republic on 12/17/07. The writer stated that the program enjoyed the "larger public interest" while the farmers and ranchers who deal with the wolves on a daily basis are somehow the bad guys.

This program is a waste of tax dollars and one that should never have been initiated. We can never restore the land to its former status, that is, before the white man arrived in the west. Simply put, there are just too many people with more arriving every day.

In some parts of the country hunting of wolves is being considered since the populations have exploded. To think that packs will stay in one area is a foolish notion, and to think that ranchers should welcome these killers on their land is beyond reason.

I would strongly urge this program be discontinued.

Dean Barlow
4140 Bison Blvd
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404

See AOL's top rated recipes and easy ways to stay in shape for winter.

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121709594755-260725 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 09:59:47 -0700
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I would like to take this opportunity to give my opinion on your wolf recovery program.

I DO NOT believe wolves have any place in today's society. While you may not agree, there are numerous documented cases where wolves attack humans. Wolves also kill, without eating, cows, elk and deer, etc. All of this is documented. It is my hope that all wolves be removed and killed as someday a human in this area will be attacked.

Dennis N. Mortensen
HC 30, Box 21C
Concho, Az 85924

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SendTo: <R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
Subject: Mexican Gray Wolf
PostedDate: 12/17/2007 09:55:18 AM
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We need to restore these natural predators without giving in to the special interest groups such as Cattle Ranchers. Not only will people be more physically healthy if they reduce their consumption of beef, but they will be more emotionally and spiritually healthy if they learn to

live in harmony and cooperation with these natural animals. Why do
the
ranchers not voluntarily dust the dead cows with lime? Hopefully we
will
learn "win win win" is the only way!
Tayla Gillelspie
Phoenix, AZ

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To US fish and wildlife,

Hi, I just wanted to give you my 2cents worth about the Mexican Wolf program. The program as it is today is pretty self defeating. You can't set up imaginary boundary lines and recapture any wolves that cross it,

its their nature to disperse so each pack has their own territory and its pretty silly to capture the ones that venture into an "off limits" area that they have no concept of. I sympathize with the ranchers but they do get reimbursed by Defenders and maybe they need to go back to "riding the range" a little more and be more proactive. I understand that they're caught between a rock and a hard place and it really is harder to make a living at ranching now but they have to remember how many calves are taken by coyotes and where there are wolves, the coyotes are under control. If a wolf comes across a rancher on horseback they will leave the area, a coyote watches from a hundred yards away and won't leave. We are supposed to be stewards of the earth and all things living on it and we can't go around trying to destroy animals we don't understand or if they get in our way and cause us grief. We've brought the wolf back from the brink of a manmade extinction, lets not throw them away again.

Kathy Cheatham

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Mexico Ecological Service Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service attitude toward wolf recovery needs to reflect the public's desire to restore these predators to the wild lands and not the rancher's greedy, irresponsible and antiquated demands to eliminate them.

Consider this one person's loud voice shouting to put the life of the wolf before the life of the cow. Wolves are part of the natural eco-system. If ranchers want their cattle to roam on public land they must be required to do their part to maintain the health of the wild range and all that live there.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Tracy Kohlwey
tkohlwey@cox.net

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After reading the article in the AZ Republic today about the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program, I felt compelled to write to you. This animal should not be listed as "non-essential". As one of the large predators in the Southwest, its continued existence is very essential to the balance of nature. This classification is the first item that should be changed. The second is that a large part of the responsibility to ensure that wolves do not become accustomed to eating beef should rest with ranchers. They should be required to remove dead animals or treat them to make them unpalatable. People have a hard time resisting temptation

(especially this time of year) why should these predators be expected to behave any differently? Finally, the wolves should be allowed and expected to expand outside of recovery area boundaries rather than be removed. These are such simple changes. In light of more complicated and severe environmental problems like global warming, let's not lose an opportunity to take some easy steps to make things right in our corner of the world. Thankyou.
Cheryl Fehlner

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If ranchers don't loose money, WHAT IS THE PROBLEM THEN?!!
Take care of the WOLVES and nature will take care of us, unless you want
to have all kinds of roedent infestation etc.,

If a wolve kills a cow, is nothing in comparisson to all the damaged
the
ranchers caused with their cattle towards the enviroment.

STOP THE GREED ISSUE SAVE THE WOLVES. WE ARE SUPPOSE TO BE THE SMART
ONES.

PLEASE ! LET US USE OUR WONDERFUL BRAINS AND COMMON SENSE FOR THIS
ISSUES.

Alba Morillo from TEMPE - ARIZONA

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Let the wolf intro program continue and I believe that their range should be allowed to expand also. Funding should be approved to allow compensation for any losses to ranchers.

Actually wolves in Tempe (my city) might be nice and could be used to curtail the rapid expansion of people moving here from the east!!

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To Whom It May Concern:

Since having the rare opportunity this summer to have a wolf siting in the wilds of Banff National Park in Alberta, CA, I feel that this amazing creature should be allowed to return. It was an experience my family won't soon forget (along with multiple bear, bald eagle, mountain goat sitings)! The wolf we encountered was at a great distance, and we all felt privileged to witness it playfully sauntering in a meadow. We never felt threatened.

As outlined in today's edition of the AZ Republic, the ranchers may argue that cows have been lost to the wolves since their reintroduction. However, there have been efforts made to compensate them by the Defenders of Wildlife.

Thank you,

Denise A. Kalt

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Thank you for this the opportunity to submit scoping comments on the above referenced proposal to revise the Endangered Species Act (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 (BRWRA).

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the BRWRA, fewer than 60 lobos exist in the wild. The Mexican gray wolf is a charismatic and integral part of our ecological heritage, which

deserves our protection. Lobos belong in the American Southwest. We hope that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will utilize this rule-making process to implement the conservation mandate of the ESA, and thus facilitate success for our Mexican gray wolf program.

Sweeping changes will be necessary in order to get our wolf program back on track. First and foremost, the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) should be listed as endangered in its own right, separate and distinct from the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). At the very least, the population of Mexican wolves in the BRWRA should be designated as "experimental, essential" under ESA Section 10(j).

Beyond this initial "uplisting," the Service can and should make many changes to the ways in which wolves are managed in the Southwest. These changes include:

- * promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for maximizing the genetic integrity and viability of the BRWRA population of Mexican wolves;
- * revising the current 10(j) rule to include authority to conduct initial releases of captive wolves anywhere within the BRWRA, as well as in other suitable habitats outside of the BRWRA as allowed in order to further the conservation of the species;
- * eliminating all restrictions to wolf dispersal and movements;
- * requiring livestock operators on public land to remove, bury, or render inedible carcasses of dead livestock to reduce the likelihood that wolves become habituated to feeding on livestock;
- * formally supporting voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion;
- * repealing or at least suspending Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until there are 100 wolves, including 18 breeding pairs, living within the BRWRA; and
- * immediately reinitiating recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

Each of these changes should be represented by a "Conservation Alternative" in the forthcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should ultimately adopt. The ESA requires that our lobos be managed in order to "further the conservation of the species." Our obligation to recover Mexican wolves, however, goes beyond a legal mandate. Returning wolves to their rightful place on the landscape is both a moral and ecological imperative. Thank you for this opportunity to be a voice for wolves.

Sincerely, John Taylor

2330 Kearney St
Denver, CO 80207

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KEEP THE WOLVES IN THERE RECOVERY AREA, AND GIVE THEM A CHANCE.
RANCHERS
DO NOT NEED TO KILL THEM OFF. GOD CREATED ALL AND RANCHERS SHOULD KNOW
THAT,THEY LIVE OFF THE LAND THAT HAS BEEN PUT HERE BY THE ALMIGHTY AND
SO
HAVE THE WOLVES SO LET THEM HAVE A CHANCE TO LIVE AND PROSPER. i LIVE
IN
PAYSON AZ. AND THE ELK COME IN AND EAT ANYTHING GREEN, AND I HAVE TO
LIVE
WITH THAT BECAUSE I WANT TO LIVE IN ELK COUNTRY, RANCHERS SHOULD DO THE
SAME.
LET THE WOLVES PROSPER

THANK YOU
IRV BOSSERT
PAYSON AZ.

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Dear Sirs, I am an avid hiker and have been hiking through out Arizona for over forty years. I love wilderness and all that comes with it including the repatriation of wolves to Arizona's forests. I don't often hike in the eastern mountains but if I get the chance I would love to see the fleeting out line of a wolf or be able to hear its howl. Encounters with wildlife in the wilderness is always a special moment. Let's continue with the wolf restoration project so I or my grand children can once again encounter this wild predator. I think we: hikers, recreationists, campers, and ranchers can learn to live with and enjoy the return of this once eradicated animal to

our natural environment where it once roamed. Thank you for
continued support support of the Wolf Reintroduction Program.
Sincerely, Tom Kreuser, 602-956-6854, 3702 East Elm Street,
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

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I strongly support the reintroduction of wolves (I live in Arizona) and we need to give the program a fighting chance.

It's fair for ranchers to be compensated for cattle loss, but they should cooperate by removing dead cows from their fields to prevent the wolves

from getting a taste of beef.

The recovery area for the wolves may be too limited. Recapture and relocation policies should be examined carefully, and possibly be changed.

Thank you,
Donita Beckham

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We am in favor of restoring the Mexican Gray Wolves to their natural habitat. There is no reason that these creatures cannot live in the wild like they were intended to--

Mike and Lynda Schallmann

13403 S.218th Ave
Buckeye Az 85326

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Attention: John Slown and Brian Millsap

Count us as ones who believe Nature knows more than government, especially as it concerns wild heritage animals like the Mexican Gray Wolf.

In short, we believe we should stop killing them, revise the recovery plan, expand the number of wolves in the wild, keep recovery options open, while finding wise, non-lethal ways to resolve conflicts with livestock.

The Mexican Gray Wolf is "endangered" and should be so classified as they are allowed to expand their territory, including increase into

the State of New Mexico.

We are proud, hard-working organic farmers. We believe in Nature. These wolves are part of that and should be allowed to thrive. This would aid in overall balance, which is missing in so many ways, so many places.

Do the right things.

Steve and Jane Darland
P.O. Box 23
Monticello, NM 87939
darland@riolink.com
575/743-0200

(also faxed 12/17/07)

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Subject: Wolves
PostedDate: 12/17/2007 06:07:51 AM
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DeliveryPriority: N
X_MSMail_Priority: Normal
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X_MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.2900.3198
X_Processed_By: Rebuild v2.0-0
X_Spam: [F=0.0024803666; B=0.500(0); S=0.013(2007110801); MH=0.500(2007121703); R=0.155(107111743655); SC=none; SS=0.500]
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I am thoroughly against the wolf recovery program. I am not a rancher or camper. If I were it would be frightening and dangerous to have these predators roaming loose. The wolf must kill to live. If you like them so well how about introducing them in your neighborhood or public parks.

Fred Dorgin

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121705031273-232661 ; Mon, 17 Dec 2007 05:03:12 -0700
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SendTo: <R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
Subject: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping
PostedDate: 12/17/2007 05:03:22 AM
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Categories:
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DeliveredDate: 12/17/2007 05:03:14 AM

I am writing to urge you to continue this program to re-introduce the wolf population. I am, however, concerned that the ranching community may have the deck stacked against it. The ranchers, for

the most part, are merely "leasing" the land through grazing permits.
That
does not entitle them to all the benefits of land ownership. They must
be
a partner in the program in order for it to succeed.

Sincerely,

Jon Bennett

5362 S. El Camino Dr.

Tempe, Az. 85283

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121620401489-194649 ; Sun, 16 Dec 2007 20:40:14 -0700
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SendTo: R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Thank you for this the opportunity to submit scoping comments on the above referenced proposal to revise the Endangered Species Act (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 (BRWRA).

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the BRWRA, fewer than 60 lobos exist in the wild. The Mexican gray wolf is a charismatic and integral part of our ecological heritage, which

deserves our protection. Lobos belong in the American Southwest. We hope that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will utilize this rule-making process to implement the conservation mandate of the ESA, and thus facilitate success for our Mexican gray wolf program.

Sweeping changes will be necessary in order to get our wolf program back on track. First and foremost, the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) should be listed as endangered in its own right, separate and distinct from the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). At the very least, the population of Mexican wolves in the BRWRA should be designated as "experimental, essential" under ESA Section 10(j).

Beyond this initial "uplisting," the Service can and should make many changes to the ways in which wolves are managed in the Southwest. These changes include:

- * promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for maximizing the genetic integrity and viability of the BRWRA population of Mexican wolves;
- * revising the current 10(j) rule to include authority to conduct initial releases of captive wolves anywhere within the BRWRA, as well as in other suitable habitats outside of the BRWRA as allowed in order to further the conservation of the species;
- * eliminating all restrictions to wolf dispersal and movements;
- * requiring livestock operators on public land to remove, bury, or render inedible carcasses of dead livestock to reduce the likelihood that wolves become habituated to feeding on livestock;
- * formally supporting voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion;
- * repealing or at least suspending Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until there are 100 wolves, including 18 breeding pairs, living within the BRWRA; and
- * immediately reinitiating recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

Each of these changes should be represented by a "Conservation Alternative" in the forthcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should ultimately adopt. The ESA requires that our lobos be managed in order to "further the conservation of the species." Our obligation to recover Mexican wolves, however, goes beyond a legal mandate. Returning wolves to their rightful place on the landscape is both a moral and ecological imperative. Thank you for this opportunity to be a voice for wolves.

Sincerely, Sidney Hirsh

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTMP id 2007121617324260-183107 ; Sun, 16 Dec 2007 17:32:42 -0700
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X_Originating_Email: [lillywag@msn.com]
X_Sender: lillywag@msn.com
From: "JUDITH LILLY" <lillywag@msn.com>
SendTo: <r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
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DeliveredDate: 12/16/2007 05:32:44 PM

Hello,

I have been unable to attend the public scoping open houses but want to send my support in all efforts for wolf recovery. Thank you for your time and attention.

Judy Lilly
4770 Southern Avenue SE
ABQ, NM 87108

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121617284421-182887 ; Sun, 16 Dec 2007 17:28:44 -0700
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Hello,

I have been unable to attend the public scoping open houses but want to send my support in all efforts for wolf recovery. Thank you for your time and attention.

Anne Landy
4770 Southern Avenue SE
ABQ, NM 87108

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Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121614065592-168371 ; Sun, 16 Dec 2007 14:06:55 -0700
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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Dr. Millsap,

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Sincerely, Chad Johnson

2065 S Grant St
#B
Denver, CO 80210

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTMP id 2007121608273423-147223 ; Sun, 16 Dec 2007 08:27:34 -0700
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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Thank you for this the opportunity to submit scoping comments on the above referenced proposal to revise the Endangered Species Act (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 (BRWRA).

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the BRWRA, fewer than 60 lobos exist in the wild. The Mexican gray wolf is a charismatic and integral part of our ecological heritage, which

deserves our protection. Lobos belong in the American Southwest. We hope that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will utilize this rule-making process to implement the conservation mandate of the ESA, and thus facilitate success for our Mexican gray wolf program.

Sweeping changes will be necessary in order to get our wolf program back on track. First and foremost, the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) should be listed as endangered in its own right, separate and distinct from the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). At the very least, the population of Mexican wolves in the BRWRA should be designated as "experimental, essential" under ESA Section 10(j).

Beyond this initial "uplisting," the Service can and should make many changes to the ways in which wolves are managed in the Southwest. These changes include:

- * promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for maximizing the genetic integrity and viability of the BRWRA population of Mexican wolves;
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- * eliminating all restrictions to wolf dispersal and movements;
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- * formally supporting voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion;
- * repealing or at least suspending Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until there are 100 wolves, including 18 breeding pairs, living within the BRWRA; and
- * immediately reinitiating recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

Each of these changes should be represented by a "Conservation Alternative" in the forthcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should ultimately adopt. The ESA requires that our lobos be managed in order to "further the conservation of the species." Our obligation to recover Mexican wolves, however, goes beyond a legal mandate. Returning wolves to their rightful place on the landscape is both a moral and ecological imperative. Thank you for this opportunity to be a voice for wolves.

Sincerely, Lucy Hays

unknown
unknown

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Darryl Cox
821 Congress St. Apt. #2
Emporia, KS 66801-2879

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, rick burns

Unknown
Unknown, NM 00000

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Dear Mr. Millsap,

I am a concerned citizen who is in favor of continuing Mexican Gray Wolf recovery here in Arizona. The opportunity to correct mistakes in the plan for wolf recovery is one that cannot be missed. While Fish & Wildlife Services have done a great job with reintroduction, a few barriers still prevent successful wolf recovery. Please include these key points in the recovery effort:

- 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 expand wolf reintroduction to other appropriate areas in the future.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
Veronica Rangel

Veronica Rangel
2525 N. 8th St
Phoenix, AZ
85006

See AOL's top rated recipes and easy ways to stay in shape for winter.

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your current program is not working. I suggest you incorporate the following procedures into the plan. Do not be so quick to use lethal control on the few remaining Mexican wolves. Whatever genetic diversity that exists is needed to have a viable wild population.

do not try to enforce artificial boundry limits on the wolf population.

Wolves have no way of knowing where boundries are.boundary lines only

creat killing areas for people with guns.

Restrict grazing rights on federal lands that have wolf populations to at least have the permit holders understand there may be wolf depredation and work to establish non leathel methods to control conflict , such as guard dogs.

Richard Shepard
Oshkosh,Wisconsin

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John Slown or to whom it may concern,

It appears that the success of the BRWRA Mexican Wolf reintroduction and indeed the survival of the Mexican Wolf species may depend upon decisions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in revising the recovery plan. In reviewing the chronology of events pertaining to the BRWRA subsequent to the 1998 reintroduction, it is clear that the Mexican Gray Wolf is headed for extinction unless substantive changes, such as those recommended in the 2001 study by independent scientists, are adopted and implemented.

Although I have never met a Mexican Gray Wolf, I fervently believe that they are not only "endangered" but also "essential" to a healthy ecosystem. It is man who hunts the trophy elk and leaves the less strong and healthy of the species. The lobo is our state icon and deserves our most earnest and sincere effort to protect on "level playing field". Lets get serious about reintroducing and protecting a viable population of Mexican Wolves in New Mexico!
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping
Carol Alfs

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Thank you for this the opportunity to submit scoping comments on the above referenced proposal to revise the Endangered Species Act (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 (BRWRA).

I have been lucky enough to see wolves in the wild in Alaska and heard them in Isle Royale. These are wonderful experiences with wonderful animals that really make a wilderness experience complete. Without complete ecosystems there is always something

lacking in the outdoor experience. It is a crime that after all these years, Mexican wolves are still feared and fought and we only have about 50 animals in the wild. Where is the support by the agencies for these animals? They should have an established population by now.

Sweeping changes will be necessary in order to get our wolf program back on track. First and foremost, the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) should be listed as endangered in its own right, separate and distinct from the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). At the very least, the population of Mexican wolves in the BRWRA should be designated as "experimental, essential" under ESA Section 10(j).

Beyond this initial "uplisting," the Service can and should make many changes to the ways in which wolves are managed in the Southwest. These changes include:

- * promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for maximizing the genetic integrity and viability of the BRWRA population of Mexican wolves;
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Each of these changes should be represented by a "Conservation Alternative" in the forthcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should ultimately adopt. The ESA requires that our lobos be managed in order to "further the conservation of the species." Our obligation to recover Mexican wolves, however, goes beyond a legal mandate. Returning wolves to their rightful place on the landscape is both a moral and ecological imperative. Thank you for this opportunity to be a voice for wolves.

Sincerely, Stephen Schmidt

21 Calle Debra
Santa Fe, NM 87507

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Thank you for this the opportunity to submit scoping comments on the above referenced proposal to revise the Endangered Species Act (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 (BRWRA).

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the BRWRA, fewer than 60 lobos exist in the wild. The Mexican gray wolf is a charismatic and integral part of our ecological heritage, which

deserves our protection. Lobos belong in the American Southwest. We hope that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will utilize this rule-making process to implement the conservation mandate of the ESA, and thus facilitate success for our Mexican gray wolf program.

Sweeping changes will be necessary in order to get our wolf program back on track. First and foremost, the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) should be listed as endangered in its own right, separate and distinct from the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). At the very least, the population of Mexican wolves in the BRWRA should be designated as "experimental, essential" under ESA Section 10(j).

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Each of these changes should be represented by a "Conservation Alternative" in the forthcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should ultimately adopt. The ESA requires that our lobos be managed in order to "further the conservation of the species." Our obligation to recover Mexican wolves, however, goes beyond a legal mandate. Returning wolves to their rightful place on the landscape is both a moral and ecological imperative. Thank you for this opportunity to be a voice for wolves.

Sincerely, Nancy OMara

9 Spring Ct
Edgewood, NM 87015

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Dear policy maker,

I am writing to express my outmost support for a viable Mexican Gray Wolf recovery plan that establishes and protects populations of this remarkable indigenous mammal of our southwestern deserts. Lets protect them from extinction and allow our children an opportunity to know them, study them, admire them, and protect them for following generations of Americans.

Respectfully,

-Omid Mahdavi

5257 N. Via La Doncella
Tucson, AZ 85750

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Kate Scott
unknown
unknown

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, jan moore
PO Box 40
Torreon, NM 87061

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The wolf is part of the natural ecosystem and humans need to make their adaptations to them, not the other way around. Livestock on public lands should not take precedence to the natural environment. Livestock owners need to be responsible for the care of their own property, not adversely impact the public environment. The wolf should never have been eliminated

for the benefit of one small segment of the population, livestock owners, and the public and government should do what is necessary so that the wolves are reinstated and repopulated. The public good benefits most by having the natural environment restored to its former natural balance.

R. Ross
90 Grand Canyon Dr
White Rock, NM 87544

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The wolf is part of the natural ecosystem and humans need to make their adaptations to them, not the other way around. Livestock on public lands should not take precedence to the natural environment. Livestock owners need to be responsible for the care of their own property, not adversely impact the public environment. The wolf should never have been eliminated for the benefit of one small segment of the population, livestock owners, and the public and government should do what is necessary so that the wolves are reinstated and repopulated. The public good benefits most by having the natural environment restored to its former natural balance.

Ryan Ross
12 Sombra de Luna
La Puebla, NM 87532

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Dear decision maker,

I support policy changes that will increase the health and well-being of Mexican Wolves. Since their re-introduction into the Apache National Forest, these wolves have proved that they can thrive throughout the Southwest if given the chance. Further, their presence restores balance to ecosystems, providing for conditions where many other species can flourish. Finally, it is clear that the lobo does much for the human soul. Leopold described the "fierce green fire" dying in a wolf he shot, but he might as well have been talking about that flame that wolves nurture in us. For the wolf is the epitome of wildness, and America without a Wild West, substitute Wimpy West, would not be an America I want to live in anymore.

Accordingly, I ask you adopt these changes, changes supported by Defenders of Wildlife, to the Mexican Wolf program:

- 1) Allow wolves to roam beyond the current artificial boundaries to find suitable habitat and prey.
- 2) Resolve livestock-wolf conflicts in ways that keep wolves in the wild and achieve progress toward reintroduction objectives.
- 3) Revise the service's 25-year-old recovery plan.
- And 4) Allow opportunities to expand wolf reintroduction to other areas in the future.

Thanks for considering my comments,
Jesse Feathers

4120 Baker Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107 206-999-2938

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Thank you for this the opportunity to submit scoping comments on the above referenced proposal to revise the Endangered Species Act (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 (BRWRA).

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the BRWRA, fewer than 60 lobos exist in the wild. The Mexican gray wolf is a charismatic and integral part of our ecological heritage, which

deserves our protection. Lobos belong in the American Southwest. We hope that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will utilize this rule-making process to implement the conservation mandate of the ESA, and thus facilitate success for our Mexican gray wolf program.

Sweeping changes will be necessary in order to get our wolf program back on track. First and foremost, the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) should be listed as endangered in its own right, separate and distinct from the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). At the very least, the population of Mexican wolves in the BRWRA should be designated as "experimental, essential" under ESA Section 10(j).

Beyond this initial "uplisting," the Service can and should make many changes to the ways in which wolves are managed in the Southwest. These changes include:

- * promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for maximizing the genetic integrity and viability of the BRWRA population of Mexican wolves;
- * revising the current 10(j) rule to include authority to conduct initial releases of captive wolves anywhere within the BRWRA, as well as in other suitable habitats outside of the BRWRA as allowed in order to further the conservation of the species;
- * eliminating all restrictions to wolf dispersal and movements;
- * requiring livestock operators on public land to remove, bury, or render inedible carcasses of dead livestock to reduce the likelihood that wolves become habituated to feeding on livestock;
- * formally supporting voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion;
- * repealing or at least suspending Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until there are 100 wolves, including 18 breeding pairs, living within the BRWRA; and
- * immediately reinitiating recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

Each of these changes should be represented by a "Conservation Alternative" in the forthcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should ultimately adopt. The ESA requires that our lobos be managed in order to "further the conservation of the species." Our obligation to recover Mexican wolves, however, goes beyond a legal mandate. Returning wolves to their rightful place on the landscape is both a moral and ecological imperative. Thank you for this opportunity to be a voice for wolves.

Sincerely, Paul Paryski

20 Sangre De Cristo Dr
Santa Fe, NM 87506

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Thank you for your time to consider my views on the BRWRA and the revision of the ESA on section 10 j.
The Mexican gray wolf is a natural and important part of our ecology in the southwest. The wolf's progress since it's introduction has been fairly unsuccessful. I believe this is from lack of enforcent to protect the species in the wild from ranchers and others who would like to see it fail.
It would benefit the Mexican gray wolf, and I believe the entire ecology of the southwest, if the wolf were better protected in the Blue Range Mountains. An essential way to

protect the wolf is to list it as endangered, separate from the gray wolf. Another suggestion that would not involve as much reform is to list the Mexican gray wolf in the BRWRA as "experimental, essential" under ESA Section 10 j. Beyond this initial "uplisting," the Service can and should make many changes to the ways in which wolves are managed in the Southwest. These changes include:

- * promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for maximizing the genetic integrity and viability of the BRWRA population of Mexican wolves;
- * revising the current 10(j) rule to include authority to conduct initial releases of captive wolves anywhere within the BRWRA, as well as in other suitable habitats outside of the BRWRA as allowed in order to further the conservation of the species;
- * eliminating all restrictions to wolf dispersal and movements;
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- * immediately reinitiating recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

Each of these changes should be represented by a "Conservation Alternative" in the forthcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should ultimately adopt. The ESA requires that our lobos be managed in order to "further the conservation of the species." Please do help our Mexican gray wolves. Besides the legal aspect, it would benefit the southwest as a whole to have them return to their native land, wild and free. As we are experiencing through so many aspects of nature, when a balance is achieved, health returns to our earth which sustains us.

Sincerely, Sonya Bergschneider Benson
PO Box 1097
Cedar Crest, NM 87008

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Thank you for this the opportunity to submit scoping comments on the above referenced proposal to revise the Endangered Species Act (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 (BRWRA).

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the BRWRA, fewer than 60 lobos exist in the wild. The Mexican gray wolf is a charismatic and integral part of our ecological heritage, which

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Sincerely, Michael Lancaster

98b Gold Mine Rd
Cerrillos, NM 87010

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Dr. Millsap,

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Sincerely, Barbara Harnack

98b Gold Mine Rd
Cerrillos, NM 87010

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121313322445-45712 ; Thu, 13 Dec 2007 13:32:24 -0700
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Sincerely, Trais Kliphuis

2445 Camino Capitan
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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This is my comment for the Mexican Wolf EIS

You must update your management plan to support re-introduction, survival,

and
growth of the Mexican wolf in the southwest.

We need the wolf as part of the whole ecosystem and to serve as an important balance in nature.

You must stop allowing ranchers and hunters who only have interest in their personal gain to dominate the reintroduction and recovery efforts of the wolf.

You must increase the size of the wolf recovery area and get rid of the boundaries that result in the deaths of roaming wolves.

You must stop allowing shooting of wolves for supposed infringements on ranchers and hunters. There must be a penalty and jail time for any killing of the introduced wolves or their offspring.

You must mandate that ranchers spend the money and effort to guard their livestock and not let the livestock roam unsupervised on the land, then expect their animals to be unmolested. It is the rancher responsibility to have a guarding presence on their livestock. And a guarding presence is NOT authority to shoot a wolf that comes near their livestock, they must use non-lethal methods to scare the potential wolves away.

Do the right thing in your job as Fish and Wildlife Service employees and ambassadors for our wildlife treasures and support the wolf and produce a Final EIS that truly reflects the desires of Americans for a thriving Mexican wolf population. Do not produce an EIS that only supports a select few who want the wolf dead for their own personal gain. Otherwise you should call yourself: Rancher and Hunter Service (R&HS). Thank you for asking what America wants for the wolves,

Emma P. Benenati, Ph.D.
Northern Arizona University
Merriam-Powell Center for Environmental Research
Dept. of Biological Sciences - PO BOX 5640
College of Engineering and Natural Sciences
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
EmmaP.Benenati@nau.edu

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Comment:

The successful recovery of the Mexican Gray Wolf is an important step in restoring proper species balance in New Mexico. All of the top predators

are key to the health of herbivores and to the better practices of our ranchers.

Livestock that is properly rotated across grazing land, whether leased from the government or privately owned, is stock that is being properly watched over and land that is being properly conserved. Stock that is turned out and not correctly monitored is both overgrazing and prone to predation.

Returning the wolf is a key element to keeping our environment healthy and our ranching communities responsible in their operations.

Thank you,

Mrs. Teresa Seamster
teacher

Received: from smtp1.fws.gov ([164.159.171.2]) by ifw9bct-smtp1.fws.doi.net (Lotus Domino Release 7.0.3) with ESMTTP id 2007121310372698-35188 ; Thu, 13 Dec 2007 10:37:26 -0700
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Greetings,

I have been, for some years now, a supporter of the Mexican gray wolf

reintroduction and recovery concept. The plan itself--however--has been an impediment to the wolves' success.

Wolves are a free-roaming pack animal, and they need a lot of territory to survive. Placing restrictions (arbitrary boundaries) on where the wolves can roam limits the population's growth. This is especially true if wolves are shot or trapped when they (unknowingly) cross one of these boundaries. There is a group in northern Arizona arguing for wolf reintroduction along the Mogollon Rim and the Grand Canyon bioregion. It would be great if a comprehensive wolf plan might be developed that links these territories to the current recovery area, creating more than ample space to sustain a healthy wolf population. With several large wild areas, along with the ecological corridors necessary for the free-flow of mates (and genes), the prospect for wolf recovery would be good.

As for the livestock predation issue. Ranchers are compensated for any losses accrued by predation, correct? Then why are wolves shot for consuming cattle? If the ranchers are paid for their loss, then the wolves should be free to do what they will. And if ranchers are so keen on keep wolves away from their livestock, they should deal with the cattle that die on the range; this is how wolves get a taste for beef in the first place.

Again, I fully support restoring Mexican gray wolves to the forests of the southwest -- I hope a plan will be developed that allows the wolves to thrive in a large enough space and with ample protection..

Thanks,

Justin Bendell
Tucson, AZ

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Thank you for this the opportunity to submit scoping comments on the above referenced proposal to revise the Endangered Species Act (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 (BRWRA).

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the BRWRA, fewer than 60 lobos exist in the wild. The Mexican gray wolf is a charismatic and integral part of our ecological heritage, which

deserves our protection. Lobos belong in the American Southwest. We hope that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will utilize this rule-making process to implement the conservation mandate of the ESA, and thus facilitate success for our Mexican gray wolf program.

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- * immediately reinitiating recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

Each of these changes should be represented by a "Conservation Alternative" in the forthcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should ultimately adopt. The ESA requires that our lobos be managed in order to "further the conservation of the species." Our obligation to recover Mexican wolves, however, goes beyond a legal mandate. Returning wolves to their rightful place on the landscape is both a moral and ecological imperative.

I imagine that most of us were raised to consider sharing with others to be a value and behavior worth cultivating. To me, sharing does not only apply to other human beings, but to all of

life on this planet. We're all interdependent on each other,
whether or not that is immediately obvious.

Thank you for this opportunity to be a voice for wolves.

Sincerely, Jane Perry
449 Camino Monte Visat
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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Hello,

My name is Timothy R. Blee .My address is:332 N. Loquat Ave.Tucson, Az. 85710.

This letter regards the NEPA Scoping process for the Mexican Grey Wolf and includes my suggstions/comments for the formal record.

*Include a "Conservation Alternative" that will change the classification from "experimental,non-essential" to "experimental,essential" or

"endangered" they are not being recovered under the existing classification.

*Allow wolves to expand their territory. Eliminate restrictions to wolf dispersal and movements.

*Expand the area for initial releases to anywhere within the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area.

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

achieve progress toward reintroduction objectives.

*Stop killing and removing wolves: reduce "take" in order to achieve reintroduction objectives.

*Revise the Recovery Plan to include objectives for full recovery of Mexican Grey Wolves.

*Expand the # of wolves in the wild to achieve a viable, self-sustaining population.

*Do not limit in any way future options for recovery of Mexican grey wolves anywhere outside the current boundaries of the BRWRA.

Thanks,

Tim

Netscape. Just the Net You Need.

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Julia Meeks

1532 Cerrillos Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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My name is Gene Nolan, PO Box 1735, Show Low, AZ 85902. I have read all of the information on the Gray Wolf program and support the continuance of the program completely.
Sincerely,
Gene Nolan

See AOL's top rated recipes and easy ways to stay in shape for winter.

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Corinne Ridders
unknown
unknown

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2105 Osuna NE
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Sincerely, Suzy Preston

3332 EL PASEO
SANTA FE, NM 87501

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Jimmy Tolson

1009 Espanola St NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Robert Johnson

1618 Aliso Dr NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

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808 Allendale St.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Jessica Rath

P.O.Box 1241
Abiquiu, NM 87510

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Sincerely, Nancy Gregory

5717 Wagonwheel Trail
Castle Rock, CO 80104

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U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely,

Rebecca M. Post 2818 Plaza Amarilla Santa Fe, New Mexico
87507-6504

Sincerely, Rebecca Post
2818 Plaza Amarilla
Santa Fe, NM 87507-6504

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Sincerely, Marcia Weese

742 Euclid Ave
Carbondale, CO 81623

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430 E Cheyenne Rd # 21
Colorado Springs, CO 80906