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ritag505@aol.com
11/07/2007 06:53 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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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Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Rita Guidi
44 Dawn Trl
Santa Fe, NM 87508

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grelbik@att.net
11/07/2007 06:57 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
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44065-44069

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Sincerely, David Ther
1517 Stanford Dr NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

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birdthompson@juno.com
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44065-44069

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Sincerely, Bird Thompson
2841 Madison St NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

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skidog2@comcast.net
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Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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Sincerely, philip rickman
57 Posada Dr
Pueblo, CO 81005

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dwyer@aps.edu
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Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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Sincerely, William Dwyer
21 Fleetfoot
Tijeras, NM 87059

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eve29@earthlink.net
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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
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Subject
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Pages
44065-44069

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Sincerely, Eve Bittel
PO Box 5572
Santa Fe, NM 87502

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ggkaras@cox.net
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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
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Subject
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a voice for wolves. This is very important for future generations and to begin to correct past mistakes

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely,

Shirley C. Karas 7008 E. Mighty Saguaro Way Scottsdale, AZ 85266

Sincerely, Shirley Karas
7008 E Mighty Saguaro Way
Scottsdale, AZ 85262

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spondere@aol.com
11/07/2007 08:26 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

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Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, lorna smith
PO BOX 966
PLACITAS, NM 87043

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drdecanto@comcast.net
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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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Albuquerque, NM 87113

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a voice for wolves.

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Sincerely, Alan Rogers
PO Box 803
Tesuque, NM 87574

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angiedykema@hotmail.com
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Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Angie Dykema
1135 Jonada Pl
Reno, NV 89509

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joshualeechapman@yahoo.com
11/07/2007 08:48 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments Mexican Grey Wolf

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

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Please do not make my personal contact information public as a

result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Josh Chapman
7446 S BRANDING IRON RD
SAFFORD, AZ 85546

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malonetravels2@hotmail.com
11/07/2007 09:04 PM

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Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Robert Malone
2600 Zia Road West , Tierra de Zia Condos, L-16
Tierra de Zia, Unit L-16
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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spotts@infowest.com
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Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
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Sincerely, Richard Spotts
1125 W. Emerald Drive
St. George, UT 84770-6026

Principal: CN=R2FWE_AL/OU=R2/OU=FWS/O=DOI
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p_davis@envirologicinc.com
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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
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Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
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Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Paul Davis
PO Box 1736
Tijeras, NM 87059

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hmmnaturalist@comcast.net
11/07/2007 09:32 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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Sincerely, hank mirsky
924 Los Padres Pl SE
Albuquerque, NM 87123

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ericksmith2@yahoo.com
11/07/2007 09:43 PM

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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, eric smith
2317 Chapman Ln NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104

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kuzava5@netscape.net
11/07/2007 10:25 PM

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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
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Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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Sincerely, Jim Kuzava
7 Valencia Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87508

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dweomer@aol.com
11/07/2007 11:05 PM

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Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
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44065-44069

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Sincerely, Katherine Clarke
98 Placita De Oro, Apt H
Santa Fe, NM 87501

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ceh@poost.tele.dk
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Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, connie hansen

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paul@themailpath.com
11/08/2007 05:23 AM

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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
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Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Paul Moss
1849 Whitaker Ave
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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jstew314@swbell.net
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cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

I wish to comment Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

I am writing to express my concern that almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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.

I 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.

The Mexican gray wolf (*canis lupus balieyi*) should be listed as endangered in its own right, separate and distinct from the gray wolf (*canis lupus*) and the population of Mexican wolves in the BRWRA should be designated as "experimental, essential" under ESA Section 10(j).

Changes in wolf management should include: promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for improving or 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; 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 support voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion; repeal, or at least suspend Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until the the species has been restored to all or a significant portion of its former range, as required by the Endangered Species Act; and immediately reinitiate recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

Our obligation to recover Mexican wolves, however, goes beyond a legal mandate to "further the conservation of the species." 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.

Please do not make my personal contact information public.

Sincerely, T A Stewart
unknown
unknown

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siouxzie689@aol.com
11/08/2007 06:15 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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Sweeping changes will be necessary in order to get our wolf program back on track. First and foremost, the Mexican gray wolf (*canis lupus balieyi*) 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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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, susan yodice
1723 Amelia Ave
San Pedro, CA 90731

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ecology1@yahoo.com
11/08/2007 06:48 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

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Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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a voice for wolves.

Top predators are critical to manage wild ungulate populations which in turn allows the regeneration of overgrazed areas and promotes greater diversity of all species in any given area.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Drew Monthie
120 TEE HILL RD
QUEENSBURY, NY 12804

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jj.berman@pcisys.net
11/08/2007 07:17 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Jack Berman
13930 Westchester Dr
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

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cfrank15@aug.edu
11/08/2007 07:27 AM

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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

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44065-44069

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Sincerely, Charles Franklin
unknown
unknown

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cmolland@earthlink.net
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cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
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Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Catherine Molland
601 Salazar St Ste A
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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balance@esedona.net
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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
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44065-44069

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Sincerely, Sarah McLean
PO Box 1178
Sedona, AZ 86339

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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, sue conklin
po.box274
s
socorro, NM 87801

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To
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cc

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Sincerely, Susan peirce
1127 Eagle Way
Lyons, CO 80540

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Sincerely, Maja Silberberg
12749 McCormick
Valley Village, CA 91607-2321

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pauld43828@msn.com
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Sincerely, Paul Dembski
65 Maestas Rd
Ranchos De Taos, NM 87557

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i4metha@msn.com
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Sincerely, Francoise May
2008 Southridge Dr
Palm Springs, CA 92264

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dlrobinson49@netzero.net
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Sincerely, Dave Robinson
PO BOX 151
CURLEW, WA 99118

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talliemooreartist@yahoo.com
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WHEN A SPECIES IS EXTINCT IT'S TOO LATE TO WISH THEY WERE BACK TO DO THE JOB NATURE GAVE THEM. IT MIGHT EVEN BE GOOD FOR CATTLE: THIN THE HERDS OF WEAKLINGS, MOVE THEM AWAY FROM OVERGRAZED AREAS, PROTECT OTHER WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION THAT OVERGRAZING THREATENS.

CATTLEMEN SAY WOLVES ARE CRUEL KILLERS. THIS FROM AN INDUSTRY THAT EQUATES CATTLE WITH BEEF AND MONEY. WHO CAN BE MORE CRUEL THAN A RANCHER WHO TURNS HIS HERD OVER TO A SLAUGHTER-HOUSE?

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Sincerely, Tallie Moore BUSH
507 County Road 32050
Brookston, TX 75421

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wow@womenswaves.org
11/08/2007 12:50 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Norma Tarango
unknown
unknown

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cfox@aviandesign.net
11/08/2007 01:03 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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Albuquerque, NM 87113

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a voice for wolves.

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Sincerely, Charles Fox
unknown
unknown

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butcher4654@bellsouth.net
11/08/2007 02:28 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Tracey Butcher

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lordessofchaos@yahoo.com
11/08/2007 03:23 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Sharalyn Blakemore
1708 Keystone Dr.
Friendswood, TX 77546

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jclairemcqueen@yahoo.com
11/08/2007 04:18 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, Jennifer McQueen
2521 Lower Nettle Knob Road
West Jefferson, NC 28694

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voltairescorvette@hotmail.com
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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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Sincerely, SnowOwl Sor-Lokken
141 2ND AVE APT 804
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84103

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janellehenderson@cox.net
11/08/2007 05:03 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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2105 Osuna NE
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Sincerely, Janelle Henderson
unknown
unknown

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No. 151, Pages 44065-44069
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kfaeastside@yahoo.com
11/08/2007 05:07 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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 balieyi*) 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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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Kyle Haines
1415 Johnson Ave
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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kristanc10@earthlink.net
11/08/2007 06:22 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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Albuquerque, NM 87113

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Kristan Cockerill
207 Cecil Miller Rd Apt 2
Boone, NC 28607

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desertjo2@YAHOO.COM
11/08/2007 07:16 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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a voice for wolves.

Please do all that's necessary for the lobos continued existence! They belong as much as any creature!

Sincerely, Joanne Knagge HC3 Box 1027 Tucson, Az 85739

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Joanne Knagge
unknown
unknown

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dianabryer44@hotmail.com
11/08/2007 08:17 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, diana bryer
PO Box 458
Santa Cruz, NM 87567

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ebrownbear@hotmail.com
11/08/2007 08:37 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Please protect and recover the Mexican Gray Wolf populations in the Southwest to healthy and sustainable levels by using all possible conservation measures, this conservation of wildlands and endangered species is critical to ecological integrity and all our futures. Thank you for this the opportunity to submit scoping comments on Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

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Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Eric Bindseil
Unknown
Unknown, CO 00000

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ksbinteriors@msn.com
11/08/2007 09:33 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
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44065-44069

U.S. F&WS State Administrator Brian Millsap
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Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Kathleen Beres, allied ASID
PO Box 2111
Santa Fe, NM 87504

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Thank you for doing everything you can to keep the Mexican Gray Wolf alive in New Mexico. I support all efforts of wolf recovery in my state.

We must share the earth with these amazing creatures! Thanks for counting my voice.

Heather Bradley

Be a better pen pal. Text or chat with friends inside Yahoo! Mail. See how.

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gbills@unm.edu
11/08/2007 09:37 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

I submit the following scoping comments on Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

I am deeply concerned that that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA), fewer than 60 lobos exist in the wild. The Mexican gray wolf is an integral part of our ecological heritage and 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 include: promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for improving or 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; 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 support voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion; repeal, or at least suspend Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until the the species has been restored to all or a significant portion of its former range, as required by the Endangered Species Act; and immediately reinitiate recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

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.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Garland Bills
9015 Lexington Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

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ptallman@gilanet.com
11/08/2007 11:32 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit scoping comments on Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

The Mexican gray wolf is indispensable in our web of life, deserving our protection, and a tourism asset. I 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.

Please 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 changes to the ways in which wolves are managed in the Southwest. These include: promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for improving or 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; 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; repeal, or at least suspend Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until the species has been restored to all or a significant portion of its former range, as required by the Endangered Species Act; and immediately reinstate recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Peter Tallman
HC 61 Box 435
Glenwood, NM 88039

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cdallen1958@bellsouth.net
11/09/2007 07:50 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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 balieyi*) 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 include: promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for improving or 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; 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 support voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion; repeal, or at least suspend Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until the the species has been restored to all or a significant portion of its former range, as required by the Endangered Species Act; and immediately reinstate recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

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.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, C Allen
2254 Hickory Flat Rapids Rd
Franklin, KY 42134

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clairseach42@yahoo.com
11/09/2007 08:03 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

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Sweeping changes will be necessary in order to get our wolf program back on track. First and foremost, the Mexican gray wolf (*canis lupus balieyi*) 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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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.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Judy Lujan
unknown
unknown

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spas@laplaza.org
11/09/2007 10:15 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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 balieyi*) 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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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.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

I would also like to see large rewards for information leading to the arrest of people killing wolves.

Sincerely, Richard Spas
PO BOX 1408
TAOS, NM 87571

Principal: CN=R2FWE_AL/OU=R2/OU=FWS/O=DOI
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toddjgross@yahoo.com
11/09/2007 10:38 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

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Sweeping changes will be necessary in order to get our wolf program back on track. First and foremost, the Mexican gray wolf (*canis lupus balieyi*) 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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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Todd Gross
2900 Vista Del Rey NE Unit 34D
34D
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Principal: CN=R2FWE_AL/OU=R2/OU=FWS/O=DOI
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EarthSpirit11@msn.com
11/09/2007 12:02 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Thank you for this the opportunity to express my concern that today, fewer than 60 Mexican gray wolf exist 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. At the very least, the population of Mexican wolves in the BRWRA should be designated as "experimental, essential" under ESA Section 10(j). 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. Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Denise Trochei
2125 Avenida De Las Alturas
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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No. 151, Pages 44065-44069
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marlenefoster@netzero.net
11/09/2007 06:56 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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 balieyi*) 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 include: promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for improving or 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; 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 support voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion; repeal, or at least suspend Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until the the species has been restored to all or a significant portion of its former range, as required by the Endangered Species Act; and immediately reinstate recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

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.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Marlene Foster
60 Camino Torcido Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87507

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kurtnolson@yahoo.com
11/09/2007 10:16 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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Sincerely, Kurt Olson
3551 S San Joaquin Rd
Tucson, AZ 85735

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sonja.bonfils@wanadoo.fr
11/10/2007 02:17 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Sonja BONFILS
unknown
unknown

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jnjsaxton@msn.com
11/10/2007 06:30 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

We want the Mexican Gray Wolf protected in its native habitat. For too long those with grazing rights have profitted at the expense of the native species. Why should the rest of us subsidize the ranching interests at the expense of a single species?

Thank you for this the opportunity to submit scoping comments on Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

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Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Jerry and Janice Saxton
123 Juniper Rd
Placitas, NM 87043

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jameswalls@bellsouth.net
11/10/2007 09:03 AM

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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Sincerely, James Walls
1470 College Hill Rd
Waco, KY 40385

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lauxmann@cablespeed.com
11/10/2007 09:03 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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Sincerely, Timothy Lauxmann
214 S. Main St.
Leslie, MI 49251

Principal: CN=R2FWE_AL/OU=R2/OU=FWS/O=DOI
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garywockner@comcast.net
11/10/2007 09:24 AM

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R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Gary Wockner

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grizzwolf@gmail.com
11/10/2007 09:27 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Ginny Jackson
P O Box 9487
Raytown, MO 64133

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kgerst@earthlink.net
11/10/2007 09:42 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Karen Gerst
unknown
unknown

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 11:55 AM

"Wombacher" <wombacher@taosnet.com>
11/10/2007 10:03 AM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Wolves

I recently read in the Taos News an article submitted by Anna Keener. It was a well written and well argued piece. I want to encourage everyone involved in this project to continue the good work. If I remember correctly, Ms. Keener's article was in response to a piece written by a lady who is part of a "Cattle Association" or something like that. Unfortunately there are very few ranchers/cattlemen who understand or want to understand the importance of a sound ecological environment of which the wolves most definitely are a vital part. Education might help, but most probably greed is the overriding factor for most ranchers to fight the reintroduction. Anyway, there are a lot of people who are supporting your efforts, let that encourage you to continue your efforts. Thanks.
Klaus Wombacher, Taos, NM.

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 11:44 AM

mahoffmann85@hotmail.com
11/10/2007 08:16 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, mary hoffmann
525 Cedar St SE Apt A
Albuquerque, NM 87106

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kasnaz@earthlink.net
11/11/2007 07:22 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Kathleen Schroeder
13990 N Dust Devil Dr
Tucson, AZ 85739

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rik3@mindspring.com
11/11/2007 11:17 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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Sincerely, Fredrica Hall
PO Box 702
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

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"GLGA" <Laura@gilaranchers.fatcow.com>
11/11/2007 04:48 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Scoping for EIS - Rule Amendment - Mexican Wolf

Gila Livestock Growers Association
P.O. Box 111
Winston NM 87943

Brian Milsap
State Administrator, US Fish and Wildlife Service
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna, NE
Albuquerque New Mexico 87113
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov

November 11, 2007

Re: 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 Nonessential Experimental Population of the
Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Gray Wolf (''Mexican Gray
Wolf'')

Dear Mr. Milsap,

The Gila Livestock Growers Association appreciates the opportunity to
comment on the Scoping process for the Mexican wolf EIS for the
amendment
of the final rule.

Many of our members have been grievously affected by the current
management of the program and we believe an appropriate 10J rule change
is
necessary to keep our members economically solvent and productive in
their
communities.

Requiring removal of livestock carcasses: We would hope that
scientific
publications covering scavenging of livestock carcasses as the behavior
relates to depredation of livestock, would be used as best available
information rather than the outdated, biased information from the
Mexican
Wolf three Year review. Such documents are widely available and show
the
role of carcass disposal as a possible factor predisposing farms to
wolf
depredations remains unclear despite several studies on the matter. If
carcass removal worked to deter livestock depredation its role would
certainly be clearer. Assessing Factors That May Predispose
Minnesota
Farms to Wolf Depredations on Cattle L. David Mech, Elizabeth K.
Harper,
Thomas J. Meier, William J. Paul Wildlife Society Bulletin, Vol. 28,
No. 3
(Autumn, 2000), pp. 623-629

Use of required carcass disposal will not deter wolf packs from preying on livestock due to the Mexican wolf team's insistence on leaving wolves in proximity to humans and livestock. Requiring ranchers to dispose of carcasses will only serve to further burden them physically and economically. Carcass disposal is not always reasonable or possible. Frozen ground will keep ranchers from burying carcasses possibly for months. Small family ranches with low incomes may not own the equipment necessary to dispose of a carcass. Rugged and remote terrain does not lend to easy location or access to possible carcasses for disposal. There is no science that supports the theory that scavenging leads to depredation. Most studies conclude that proximity leads to depredation and if the agencies do not choose to limit wolves proximity to human habitation and livestock operations, then wolves will prey on livestock. There are many professional wolf managers who do not favor a carcass removal requirement and do not agree that it will do anything positive towards eliminating or minimizing depredation. It will burden livestock producers unnecessarily.

Eliminate translocations of problem wolves: - Translocations of problem and depredating wolves should be ceased as a management tool. These animals should be removed with a preference towards permanent captivity.

Science shows problem or depredating animals are not cured by translocation and often simply go back to the area they were causing the problems. Translocation does little if anything to mitigate the behavior of problem or depredating wolves. Far preferable is permanent removal by lethal or non lethal means with no chance for release. Especially for those wolves that have been associated with human habitation and frequent homes.

Abstract: Evaluating Wolf Translocation as a Nonlethal Method to Reduce Livestock Conflicts in the Northwestern United States ELIZABETH H. BRADLEY*†††*Wildlife Biology Program, Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812-0596, U.S.A.†††Current address: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks 730 N. Montana Street, Dillon, MT 59725, U.S.A., email liz_bradley@7pks.com, DANIEL H. PLETSCHER*†U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 100 N. Park, Suite 320, Helena, MT 59601, U.S.A., EDWARD E. BANGS††U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 100 N. Park, Suite 320, Helena, MT 59601, U.S.A. KYRAN E. KUNKEL††Turner Endangered Species Fund/University of Montana, 1875 Gateway South, Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730, U.S.A., DOUGLAS W. SMITH\$\$National Park

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Park, AK 99755, U.S.A., JOSEPH A. FONTAINE††U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 100 N. Park, Suite 320, Helena, MT 59601, U.S.A., CARTER C. NIEMEYER††††U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 Vinnel Way, Room 368, Boise, ID 83709, U.S.A., AND MICHAEL D. JIMENEZ§§

Successful non-lethal management of livestock predation is important for conserving rare or endangered carnivores. In the northwestern United States, wolves (*Canis lupus*) have been translocated away from livestock to

mitigate conflicts while promoting wolf restoration. We assessed predation

on livestock, pack establishment, survival, and homing behavior of 88 translocated wolves with radiotelemetry to determine the effectiveness of

translocation in our region and consider how it may be improved. More than

one-quarter of translocated wolves preyed on livestock after release. Most

translocated wolves (67%) never established or joined a pack, although eight new packs resulted from translocations. Translocated wolves had lower annual survival (0.60) than other radio-collared wolves (0.73), with

government removal the primary source of mortality. In northwestern Montana, where most wolves have settled in human-populated areas with livestock, survival of translocated wolves was lowest (0.41) and more wolves proportionally failed to establish packs (83%) after release. Annual survival of translocated wolves was highest in central Idaho (0.71)

and more wolves proportionally established packs (44%) there than in the

other two recovery areas. Translocated wolves showed a strong homing tendency; most of those that failed to home still showed directional movement toward capture sites.

The agency must continue reasonable management practices including lethal

control of problem wolves. Wolf Removal by lethal means, although controversial, may enhance long term recovery goals and there is no evidence lethal control contradicts recovery or jeopardizes the species.

At worst, lethal management may possibly lead to a slower but perhaps more

sustainable recovery taking place. Lethal removal as a wolf management tool should be kept regardless of politics for the well being of small family livestock operators who cannot be forced to suffer unmitigated wolf

predations due to proximity of wolves to their herds.

In the prior FWS consultation conducted in 1995, as well as the NEPA

documentation associated with the current Final Rule, the agency reasoned that if the reintroduction program were to succeed and result in a sustainable population of Mexican gray wolves inhabiting the recovery area, then this development would be of great benefit to the conservation of the species, in accordance with the statutory objectives of the ESA. If, on the other hand, the reintroduction program did not succeed and all of the reintroduced wolves had to be killed or otherwise removed from the recovery area due to hybridization or other negative consequences, then the agency concluded that the species would not be jeopardized because of the ongoing existence of the captive-breeding program from which the population of reintroduced wolves was derived. Sources, [Environmental Impact Statement AR 25, 993.] and AZ NM Coalition of Counties V. USFWS Final Ruling

Wolf supporters once agreed with the above statements. See AR Doc. 25 at A-6; 50 C.F.R. § 17.84 (k) (3) (x). The section 7 consultation recognized that a variety of factors, i.e., natural death, accidents, and lethal take of wolves pursuant to Service's Final Rule, would likely contribute to a number of short-term mortalities but, in the end, the reintroduction program would "ultimately result in the reestablishment of wild populations of Mexican wolves (where none currently exist) and, thus, beneficially contribute to the long-term recovery and conservation of [the] endangered species." Source: DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE et al interveners in Arizona New Mexico Coalition of Counties et al V USFWS

All scoping and rule planning should comply with that specific and emphatic statement in the ESA that it will "not be used to engineer social change". Comments that seem to demand that this program is necessary in order to foster changes in the economic and social structure of the region or that fail to acknowledge the need to mitigate social and economic pressure on individuals and communities should not be used in the scoping process. Protocol should be developed to enhance participation of affected individuals and local governments in decision-making and management of Mexican wolves in order to mitigate their impact on communities and individuals and limit those changes contrary to the ESA's requirements that it not be used to engineer social change.

The take of Mexican wolves by livestock guarding dogs and hunting dogs, when used in the historic and traditional manner must be permitted (Section 17.84 Special Rules Vertebrates vii). The current rule has running through it an undercurrent of discrimination against traditional

users of the land --- hunters and trappers as well as livestock operators. Continuing to discriminate against traditional uses of the land violates the multiple use doctrine and creates an unwelcoming atmosphere for wolf recovery among traditional land users.

The current rule states, "Private Citizens also are given broad authority to harass Mexican wolves for purposes of scaring them away from people, buildings, facilities, pets and livestock. They may kill or injure them in defense of human life or when wolves are in the act of attacking their livestock (if certain conditions are met)"

For the sake of human health and safety, new rulemaking must contain these specific changes. "Private citizens also have broad authority to harass Mexican wolves for purposes of scaring them away from people, buildings, facilities, pets and livestock Specific language is needed to state [they may kill or injure them if threatened by them or in defense of another who is threatened], and may, [kill a wolf that is not responding to harassment and is consistently in populated areas frequented by people and showing signs of being desensitized to human encounters.] It has become apparent that these are necessary changes as shown by the increase of human encounters listed in the 5-Year Review and those that have been documented beyond that review. It is also necessary to recognize that the FWS and its cooperators have not been and can not be everywhere at once. Mitigating human encounter problems will require this kind of flexibility if human life and safety are to be protected as a basic civil right. It must also be recognized that human mortality is a very real risk. A mortality incident occurred Nov 8 2005 in Canada and has now been confirmed as wolves displaying predatory behavior on a human victim. The victim, a young man in the prime of life, was not a person likely to become a victim of a predatory attack. According to all data available from the FWS used in the construction of the current rule, this type of attack is not possible and will not occur. However, behavior of the wolves involved in the Canada incident prior to the attack is very similar to behavior displayed by Mexican wolves in the Gila and Apache forests. To continue to attempt to portray Mexican wolves as unable or unwilling to be a danger to humans is irresponsible and historically untrue.

See) IS THE FEAR OF WOLVES JUSTIFIED? A FENNOSCANDIAN PERSPECTIVE John

D.C. LINNELL¹, Erling J. SOLBERG¹, Scott BRAINERD¹, Olof LIBERG², Håkan SAND², Petter WABAKKEN³, Ilpo KOJOLA⁴

See) A Review Of Evidence And Findings Related To The Death Of Kenton Carnegie On November 8, 2005 Near Points North Saskatchewan by Mark E. McNay Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Language in rulemaking should include: Wolves exhibiting fearless behavior or those becoming habituated to humans and posing a non-immediate but demonstrable threat to human safety should be harassed or humanely dispatched by the USFWS, other federal land management agencies, state or tribal conservation agencies, or designated agents of those agencies. This provision should include providing a federal take permit, for local county law enforcement personnel, to allow them to lethally take a wolf for immediate protection of human safety. A similar provision can be found in the Minnesota wolf plan but not in the current Mexican wolf documentation this lack of adequate management of problem and dangerous wolves discriminates against poor rural New Mexicans and Arizonans.

Future rulemaking should implement serious and affective methods that will immediately stop wolf attacks on dogs and stop wolves from coming into private property and areas where people live. This should include public education practices that teach people how to deal with habituated wolves and give them the tools to do it. Also necessary is the need to issue permits to those who are suffering these types of territorial challenges by Mexican wolves at their homes. To ignore this serious problem has and will continue to lead to more wild born wolves becoming habituated to people and will cause more need for wolf removal and control. Currently not enough is being done to develop wild wolves that do not come into homes and private lands. Rural residents are suffering increasingly from wolf attacks on their domestic animals and pets and current methods have done little to stop these behaviors. Rubber bullets paint balls are of no use if the wolf or wolves are not conditioned to avoid human habitation. Appropriate conditioning may require more severe pressure on wolves. In one case, two wolves were hit with rubber bullets multiple times and still came into a camp to kill calves even after being struck by the bullets. More affective methods are needed to stop problem behaviors.

Agencies must use appropriate mapping to display current and potential wolf habitat that also recognizes and displays the human element, income

levels, low income, minority impact and business impacts in low income or minority communities. Such documentation should demonstrate that people already reside in current or potential recovery and reintroduction areas. This is one of the mistakes of the prior rule and EIS, the public was left with the mistaken impression that there would be no impact on human element as it related to the maps used in that plan. Currently, the public appears to believe Mexican wolves are only on landscape that is not occupied by humans or only in wilderness areas. This is not a factual rendering of the area wolves are occupying.

Scoping planning should recognize the need to maintain livestock production and historic pastoral communities as economic and cultural necessities on the landscape. Many people believe that cattle, horses, hunting and other traditional uses are just as integral and valuable to the landscape as wolves. There is a cultural need to keep livestock operations in business for aesthetic, historic and religious purposes. Iconic depictions of livestock and ranching by artist and writers such as Remington, Charles Russell and Will James show that cattle are historically significant to the west and that ranching should not be replaced with other, historically or culturally indistinct jobs and societies that do not encourage maintaining the regions historic pastoral agrarian community. It must be recognized that livestock are as integral to these regions as most wild animals. Apache Indians ran cattle in the area, possibly for centuries followed by Spanish settlers, descendants of whom still have ranches in the area.

Agency personnel must recognize the need to require inventories of all wolves currently on the ground whether they are released captives or wild born animals, and investigate all reported wolves and wolf sign. Currently most wolves are undocumented un-vaccinated and un-counted by agency personnel. New Methods need to be employed to understand the impacts wolves will have on ungulate species both wild and domestic as well as their affect on watersheds, spread of disease and other wildlife populations. Currently people are being impacted by un-collared un-counted animals with no mitigation to these impacts due to lack of documentation. Methods to try could include, scat collection for individual DNA analysis, trail cameras, trapping and current count methodology. Improvement on current limitations should be investigated at length.

Scoping and rulemaking must provide for the protection of private property regardless of its location. The following change to Section 17.84 Special

Rules Vertebrates (vii) is necessary. Removal of Permit requirement for take of depredating wolves. This wording should be added: "On federally administered lands (see definition change) allotted for grazing anywhere within the Mexican wolf Experimental population area, including within the designated 'wolf recovery areas' livestock owners or their agents may take (including kill or injure) any wolf engaged in the act of killing wounding or biting livestock (see definition change). Federally administered grazing allotments hold private rights in the form of water rights, rights of way to access that water and privately owned improvements known as fee interest. Allowing ranchers to protect private property (livestock) on land where they own a fee interest is just as appropriate as allowing them to protect their private property (livestock) on fee simple land. In any future rulemaking and management planning a provision to recognize the private water rights and rights of ways on federally administered grazing allotments should be integrated with wolf management just as private lands provisions are recognized. (Curtin v. Benson; Hage v. United States; US v. New Mexico, Walker v. United States)

Review literature to validate assumptions contained in current rule. The current rule's biological summary contains several inconsistencies and poor information that should not be perpetuated in any future rulemaking. Most notably, the fact that there has never been a scientific study or lacking data availability, a literary study showing evidence that "Mexican wolves numbered in the thousands prior to European settlement", as stated in the final rule. Perpetuating this faulty information may well have a detrimental impact on recovery of this species as it is not known how many wolves can biologically occupy arid desert landscapes. It is necessary that a peer reviewed literary study of the earliest pre European explorations logs, naturalist documents and personal journals written about the Southwest and Mexico, be researched to better determine the logical extent of the range and number of Mexican wolves that historically occupied the region prior to European settlement. This should be done prior to any further rulemaking or the development of a management planning. This should rely on references to wolves and prey species that are thought to be the historic prey biomass of the Mexican gray wolf, [C.

L. Baileyi] that inhabited the region before European (including Spanish) settlement.

For example in Notes of a Military Reconnaissance by Lt. Col. W.H. Emory,

October 1846, "Game in New Mexico is almost extinct, if it ever existed.

Today we saw a few black tailed rabbits and last night Stanley killed a common Virginia deer." The party was located at Emory Pass near modern day Kingston, New Mexico, facing near starvation due to the lack of game.

Any information otherwise obtained and subsequent decisions are based on

subjective information and the narrow view of earlier Mexican wolf recovery teams. In fact, the entire supposedly historic range of C. L. Baileyi was reinterpreted by the team to consist of the possible historic

range of C.L. Mogollonensis as well as the possible range of C.L. Monstrabilis. The team then determined that all three separate species were really C.L. Baileyi. This subjective decision was made despite conflicting scientific viewpoints.

These arbitrary decisions led to arbitrary boundaries drawn on a map to justify a larger and different than historic recovery area, for what is now deemed the Mexican gray wolf. This arbitrary mapping has now resulted

in a lawsuit over the distinct population segment and historic habitat recovery planning based on that habitat and has halted any further recovery planning for the Mexican gray wolf otherwise known as C.L. Baileyi.

The data most used in determining carrying capacity and probable historic

range of the Mexican wolf was taken after European settlement it does not

accurately reflect true historic range. It is well known that although Apache Indians did run and hunt feral cattle in the region historically,

(see Notes of a Military Reconnaissance by Lt. Col. W.H. Emory, October 1846,) the increase of domestic livestock after European and Spanish settlement to the west did result in an alternative prey biomass source that contributed to a better more reliable diet for most native predator

species. This artificially increased the breeding ability and populations

of those predators. For this purpose, it must be considered that after European settlement, Mexican wolf numbers rose sharply due to the entrance

of the pastoral cultures and livestock production that still exists in the southwest.

Scoping documents must consider current rule inaccuracies and inconsistencies

In any future rulemaking and management planning, care should be taken to

coordinate and create consistency within the entire rule and/or plan and SOP's necessary. This includes checking for consistency in special rule sections, definitions sections, and biological sections. Definitions changes are needed in new rule and management plans as well as any SOPs should include:

BREEDING PAIR: an adult male and an adult female that are firmly mated and have the potential to breed and raise a litter of pups in the upcoming breeding season

ACTIVE PACK: two (2) or more wolves that are attached to each other and exhibit pack behavioral characteristics.

DEPREDAATION: the confirmed killing or wounding of a domestic animal by one (1) or more wolves.

INCIDENT: the killing or wounding of a domestic animal by one (1) or more wolves.

ENGAGED IN THE ACT OF KILLING, WOUNDING OR BITING LIVESTOCK: to be engaged in the act of grasping, biting, attacking, wounding, or feeding upon livestock that are alive or were alive within the past 24 hours.

LIVESTOCK: any animal routinely contributing to the ability of a small businessman to earn a livelihood including but not limited to cattle, horses, goats, burros, llamas, chickens, stock dogs, guard dogs, hunting dogs and other domestic animal to which value is attached and the loss of which would prove to be a financial hardship and result in the takings of private property (pursuant to the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution).

PUBLIC LAND: lands available for dispersion into private ownership under general land laws to which no claim or rights of others has attached.

FEDERAL LAND: lands in which the United States retains a proprietary interest and prior claims and rights are attached.

TAKE: to harm, hunt, shoot, wound or kill.

UNAVOIDABLE OR UNINTENTIONAL TAKE: take which occurs despite reasonable care and is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity, and is not done with purpose. Taking a wolf by trapping will be considered unavoidable or unintentional if the wolf is released and the capture is reported within 24 hours. Taking a wolf will be considered unavoidable or unintentional if the wolf is taken during a legal hunting activity, is non-negligent and is reported within 24 hours.

Definitions that do not warrant changes or additions from the current rule

include the following: Occupied Mexican Wolf Range, Opportunistic, Non-injurious harassment, Primary recovery zone, Problem wolves, Rendezvous site, Secondary recovery zone, Wolf recovery area.

Specifically, the definition of problem wolf should not be gerrymandered to move the goalposts associated with management of problem behavior.

Takings implications assessments must be planned for and implemented in scoping rulemaking and management planning in order to determine the scope of compensation necessary to private property owners for depredation and losses caused by the program. This should come in the form of a federally funded pilot program aimed at compensation and interdiction to be run by ranching interests who are the experts in the field of livestock depredation causes and interdictions.

During the past eight (8) years, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), the Arizona Game & Fish Department (AGFD) and/or the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF) have relied upon a non-governmental organization (NGO) to provide compensation for the Mexican Wolf Program. Not only has this program not provided for full compensation for financially impacted entities, but it ignores the responsibility of the federal and state government to compensate their citizens for actions that result in take of private property.

Nor do the payments made by the NGO's take into consideration the value of lost genetics or lost production of livestock. Nor do they take into account the loss of weight gain of livestock that are being harassed by wolves.

Payments by NGOs do not take into consideration the additional management costs associated with the wolf program, such as the extra labor necessary in attempting to limit the number of direct losses to wolves. Finally, there is no guarantee into the future that this NGO, or any others, will be able to continue payments.

Change the current methodology for determining a depredation to the more reasonable Minnesota version which allows missing calves to be confirmed as wolf kills under certain circumstances. Currently New Mexico and Arizona livestock producers have been left without a reasonable definition of depredation associated with missing animals that are obvious wolf depredations. This is nothing short of discrimination against southwest ranchers who run cattle in large landscapes and rely on calf crops for an

annual paycheck. It has proven impossible to confirm all losses associated with the program to the satisfaction of NGO's responsible for compensation and to private property owners largely because of the size of the country the program is taking place in. Ranchers are unable to see their livestock for days or weeks at a time. A pack of wolves can completely consume a newborn calf so that there is no carcass left for confirmation. To ignore this issue is to allow this program a prey biomass of baby calves at the unmitigated expense of rural land users and family's causing them to continually bear a tremendous disproportionate burden for the Mexican wolf program.

Scoping and rulemaking documents should recognize that ranchers have gone out of business due to the impacts of the Mexican wolf program and recognize that as small businessmen, ranchers are well aware of the losses that are part of doing business in rough country, including predator losses. And recognize that ranchers have always been willing to share their environment, an environment they enhance with stewardship practices as well as direct benefits like water and supplemental feed during weather-related disasters. But there is a level of what they can continue to share and remain viable. Any rulemaking should appropriately recognize and mitigate impacts to pastoral communities and individuals affected by this program.

Sincerely
Laura Schneberger
President Gila Livestock Growers Association.

CC: Director, Quemado: Miguel Aragon
Director, Black Range: Jack Diamond
Director, Reserve: Charlie McCarty
Director, Glenwood: Joe Nelson
Director, Silver City: Alex Thal
Director, Wilderness: John Richardson
Director, Luna: Alvin Laney
Director at Large: Kit Laney
Director at Large: Tom Klumker

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Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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 balieyi*) 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 include: promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for improving or 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; 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 support voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion; repeal, or at least suspend Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until the the species has been restored to all or a significant portion of its former range, as required by the Endangered Species Act; and immediately reinstate recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

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.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Darlene Rosmarino
6001 Sweetwater Ct
Frederick, MD 21703

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Albuquerque, NM 87113

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Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Karen Lawrence
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robhnm@comcast.net
11/11/2007 08:54 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Robert Hays
374 W. Meadowlark Ln
Corrales, NM 87048

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firstcat@bellsouth.net
11/12/2007 08:07 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Maria Matuson
unknown
unknown

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sandyn@rockin.tv
11/12/2007 10:08 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Sandy Nervig
15809 Ouray Rd
Pine, CO 80470

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briangaf@aol.com
11/12/2007 11:14 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Brian Gaffney
605 MARKET ST STE 505
Suite 505
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

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JOMAGWIC42@aol.com
11/12/2007 11:58 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

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It is so important to the environment to protect these wonderful and beautiful animals. There is much to learn about them and their environment. We must do what we can to preserve all species before they are lost forever.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Joanne Ferguson
370 Irving Park Blvd.
Sheffield Lake, OH 44054

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billyjacksheffield@yahoo.com
11/12/2007 02:37 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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Sincerely, Billy jack Sheffield III
6887 Bella Vista Dr
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

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athenanm@earthlink.net
11/12/2007 05:43 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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Sincerely, Maggie York-Worth
unknown
unknown

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No. 151, Pages 44065-44069
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captoast@earthlink.net
11/14/2007 04:49 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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 balieyi*) 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 include: promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for improving or 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; 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 support voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion; repeal, or at least suspend Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until the the species has been restored to all or a significant portion of its former range, as required by the Endangered Species Act; and immediately reinstate recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

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.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Joseph Walkos
409 Juanita St
Santa Fe, NM 87501

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party_harder024@aol.com
11/14/2007 03:13 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Maya distasio

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plyler_77@hotmail.com
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cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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

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a voice for wolves.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Anthony Plyler
CMR 467 Box 1676
Box 1676
Apo, AE 09096

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hmkadams@yahoo.com
11/15/2007 01:08 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
PROTECT THE LOBOS NOW

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

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Please do not make my personal contact information public as a

result of participating in this comment process.

PROTECT THE LOBOS - HASN'T ALL THE KILLING GONE FAR ENOUGH ???

Sincerely, Hildegard Adams
7720 Oakland Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122

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"Joseph Sturgeon" <ssturgeon357@earthlink.net>
11/15/2007 06:43 PM

Please respond to
ssturgeon357@earthlink.net

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

To Brian Millsap or who it may concern:

I'm writing in support of the Gray Wolf reintroduction in the southwest and in particular the Grand Canyon area. While I'm not able to attend the

November 26th meeting on this subject at the Radisson in Flagstaff, I agree with and support the efforts of the Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project organization in regards to this subject.

I've been coming to Grand Canyon National Park for the last two summer seasons. All visitors are awed by the preservation of a part of the natural world they see in this special national park.

I believe that restoration of the wolves would enhance the balance of nature. But the rules need to be supportative of a successful reintroduction program such as we've seen in Yellowstone.

Thank you for your service.

Joseph Sturgeon
ssturgeon357@earthlink.net
5114 Balcones Woods Dr. #307
Austin, TX 78759

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"Peggy Alexander" <peggyalexander@qwest.net>
11/16/2007 11:16 AM

Please respond to
<peggyalexander@qwest.net>

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray wolves in the Blue Primitive Area and Gila
Wilderness

Dear Brian,

The objective of the BRWRA reintroduction project was to establish a population of at least 100 Mexican gray wolves, including 18 breeding pairs - intended to be achieved by the end of 2006. However, by the end of last year there were only about 59 wolves with 6 breeding pairs in the wild population.

To date in 2007, 21 Mexican wolves have gone missing, been killed, or been removed from the wild population. Eleven pups have been observed among five packs. When next the official count is made in January 2008, a population decline in both wolf numbers and breeding pairs appears likely.

Under the existing rule, the Fish and Wildlife Service is not fulfilling its mandate under the ESA to "recover" Mexican gray wolves. This rule change is our opportunity to improve the program and shift the Fish and Wildlife Service's focus where it needs to be: from wolf control to wolf survival in the wild.

- Include a "Conservation Alternative" that will change the classification from "experimental, non-essential" to "experimental, essential" or "endangered" to give wolves more protection. They are not being recovered under the existing classification.

The Blue Range population of Mexican gray wolves is essential to long-term recovery of this endangered subspecies; captive populations will not safeguard Mexican wolves from extinction in the long-term. An "essential"

or an "endangered" designation will give these wolves the stronger protections they need to succeed in the wild. Congress provided for "experimental, essential" as a classification, yet it has never been used

by the Fish and Wildlife Service. If ever a case can be made for the first ever designated "essential" experimental population, this is it.

- Eliminate all restrictions to wolf dispersal and movements. Under the current rules, Mexican wolves must stay within the boundaries of

the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA), which comprises the Gila National Forest in New Mexico and the bordering Apache National Forests in

Arizona. But wolves have large area requirements and can't read maps. They need access to good habitat throughout their historic range and often

cross the invisible political lines in search of new homes and prey. Under the existing rule, wolves that leave the BRWRA boundary are captured

and relocated back into the Blue Range, which disrupts packs, thwarts expansion and dispersal of the population, and sometimes causes serious injuries to individual wolves. In the revised rule, there should be no exclusion of geographic areas from potential occupation by wolves.

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

Under the current rules, releases of wolves from the captive population are only allowed in Arizona, a provision that severely limits the agencies' options for meeting the BRWRA objective of a viable, self-sustaining population of at least 100 Mexican wolves. For example,

the portion of the population residing in New Mexico could benefit from genetic augmentation by releasing wolves currently in captivity. A rule

change that allows new releases throughout the BRWRA would give agency managers much needed management tools for assuring the viability and self-sustainability of the BRWRA population of Mexican gray wolves.

- Resolve livestock-wolf conflicts in ways that keep wolves in the

wild and achieve progress towards reintroduction objectives.

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

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

reasons like disease and starvation. Wolves are attracted to and often scavenge on these carcasses, and may begin to prey on live cattle or horses nearby. Wolves that kill three head of livestock in a year are either killed or placed in captivity for the rest of their lives. A revised rule must require owners of livestock using the public land to clean up dead stock before wolves find and scavenge on them.

- Stop killing and removing wolves: reduce "take."

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

ESA) that is precluding achievement of the reintroduction objective of 100+ wolves in the BRWRA population. A revised rule must allow less "take"

of wolves.

- Revise the Recovery Plan.

The Recovery Plan is out of date; it has not been amended for 25 years and

does not include objectives for full recovery of Mexican gray wolves. The

Fish and Wildlife Service is attempting to change the rule before recovery

has even been defined for Mexican gray wolves. The FWS needs to revise the

recovery plan before or concurrent with this rule change so that rule changes do not preclude future recovery actions.

- Place no cap on the number of wolves in the wild population.

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

- Include nothing in the amended rule that would preclude future recovery options.

This rule change should not include any provisions that would limit in any

way future options for recovery of Mexican gray wolves anywhere outside the current boundaries of the BRWRA.

Sincerely,

James and Peggy Alexander
32032 N 69th Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
480-488-3006

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"Timothy Brown" <tgbrown@infionline.net>
11/16/2007 11:49 AM

Please respond to
tgbrown@infionline.net

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Attn:: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

As a retired Attorney for the Federal Land Bank, current volunteer for the Cibola National Forest and Albuquerque Open Space, and member of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains I am writing to urge your support for an expanded wolf recovery program in New Mexico and Arizona. Successful wolf recovery is occurring in Wyoming, Minnesota and their surrounding states, but appears to be less successful here. Why? Are we not smart enough in this region? Do we have to import sufficient brain power from those regions to get the same results? We need stronger provisions to protect wolfs from authorized and unauthorized hunting (the state of NM now bars any cooperative efforts on hunting wolfs for a good reason, anyone can kill an animal, but it takes ingenuity to protect one), less cattle on public land (more people have been injured and habitat damage done through interaction with cattle on public lands than wolfs, yet wolfs are hunted to extinction while cattle roam freely, do you see an incongruity here), expansion of wolf recovery areas beyond current boundaries, continuation of payments to cattlemen who pay next to nothing to graze on public land but blame any dead animal on wolfs (hush money), and expansion of captive breeding and release programs to provide sufficient animals for release, a healthy gene pool and protect animals that cannot be released but can be kept for breeding and study. Timothy G. Brown, 3216 Mountainside Pkwy NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111

Timothy Brown
tgbrown@infionline.net
EarthLink Revolves Around You.

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"Mike Krehbiel" <krebbs@nmia.com>
11/17/2007 01:57 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

I am writing to discuss the Mexican Gray Wolf project. While the controversy of this project rages, I believe it is essential to our

natural history that it not only be continued but also expanded. I understand the concerns and opposition of local ranchers to this project. However, I believe that their use of nationally owned lands for the last century plus has been at a tremendous cost of habitat for indigenous species. I believe that it is time that we rectify some of the policies that have allowed these practices to continue. While I am not opposed to the continuation of some of these practices, I believe that they must go hand in hand with change designed to protect and preserve the native species.

The Mexican Gray Wolf project is one of the ways that we have the opportunity to change some of the mistakes made by us as individuals and as a government over the last century and a half. Each species that we eradicate from their natural habitat in the name of progress for mankind is an unalterable mistake in my opinion. We still have a chance to not make this mistake with the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please put me down as strongly in favor of continuation and actually expansion of the project.

Thank you,

Mike Krehbiel
7020 Veranda Rd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505-830-0838
krebbs@nmia.com

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hanalani@aol.com
11/18/2007 03:01 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolves don't spend FEMA money on bling.

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

Dear Dr. Millsap,

Mexican Gray Wolves should be saved because they are an integral part of the prey/predator relationship. And because they don't go to bars and squander their trust funds.

Sincerely, Hannah Clarke

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Lif Strand <lif.strand@gmail.com>
11/18/2007 05:52 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping Comments

To: Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
From: Lif Strand, HC 32 Box 312, Quemado NM 87829

Subject: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Sir:

Since its inception, the Mexican wolf program has been responsive only to non-local environmental groups and has ignored the damage to local families, businesses and related issues. These groups have used their large financial assets to twist the truth about the program, and have resorted to what amounts to malicious litigation to get their way. I believe it is time for US FWS to become responsive to the needs and issues of those who bear the largest burden of this program - residents who live and work in and near the Mexican wolf program area - and to ignore the unfair pressures from environmental groups, none of the members of which are in the least bit impacted by this program.

The wolf program has a policy of routine handling of wolves. In some cases, "wild" wolves have been handled - trapped, examined, given shots, collared, fed by humans - for more than one third of their lives. Wolf and other canine experts know that this extensive handling causes habituation (loss of fear of humans), and habituated predators (not just wolves but bears, mountain lions, etc) are problem predators. Essentially all the complaints of local citizens come about because the wolves are not wild, but habituated to humans.

Mexican gray wolves are not critical to our local natural environment. These wolves originally came from the Mexican desert - they never were high altitude forest animals. It is true that a healthy wolf population would keep elk and deer herds healthy and balanced, however healthy wolves are never habituated wolves. At this time, the wolves in the Mexican wolf program kill elk calves and domestic animals for the sport of it, not for food; in years to come if this is allowed to continue, there will be no elk or deer herds left.

Mexican wolves are not even endangered. Hundreds of these wolves - all genetically related - live in zoos around the country, where they are part of a breeding program to build the population. And contrary to reports of dwindling wolf populations in the wild, it should be pointed out that the "official" wolf counts omit the dozens of uncollared wolves which are living and breeding in and near the wolf recovery area.

The Mexican wolf program is in drastic need of improvement. Fish and Wildlife Service must shift its focus to where it needs to be: the creation of a truly wild wolf population which is not coddled, fed and protected, but subject to the same laws of survival as any wild animal. Mexican wolves have the right to survive and thrive, but not as anything other than fully wild animals and not at the high cost to humans and wolves, which is due to the way the program is run today.

My recommendations are:

* Do not change the classification from "experimental, non-essential" to "experimental, essential" or "endangered" - there is no reason to give wolves more protection (which causes habituation) but much reason to make wolves stronger by forcing them

to live natural lives. Adding more protection will never make wolves wild.

* Eliminate restrictions to wolf dispersal and movements but provide more rights for human self-protection; reduce or eliminate fines and penalties for doing so. A truly wild animal will not be near enough to humans to be killed by them, and a non-wild wolf should not be part of the program.

* Cease release of any wolves which have ever been handled by humans. Remove all wolves from the wild which have been handled by humans and which exhibit signs of habituation or which engage in livestock depredation.

* Never relocate, translocated or re-release any wolf to the wild which has exhibited any habituation behavior or has killed any domestic animals.

* Resolve livestock-wolf and pet-wolf conflicts in ways that are fair to the humans who bear the economic and emotional costs of domestic animal losses.

* Cease any supplemental feeding of the wolves by the wolf program; such feeding just teaches the wolves to be human-dependant, it causes habituation and since the meat from domestic animals is used for such supplemental feeding, it introduces and familiarizes the taste of domestic animals to wolves.

* Revise the Recovery Plan. Utilize real science and include assessment of the impacts on affected human population as required by law.

* Place no cap on the number of wolves in the wild population, however allow humans to protect themselves, their families, their pets and other domestic animals without penalty. A wolf which habituates human use areas is not a wild wolf, and needs to be removed from the wild population before it teaches pack members and its young this bad behavior.

* Provide no increase in boundaries of the Mexican wolf population until it is proven that all current problems have been resolved.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to submit comments.

L C Strand, Strand Enterprises
Quemado, NM USA

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sherlock sherlock <sherlock1895@hotmail.com>
11/19/2007 01:53 PM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

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

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Mr. Millsap:

Having once lived in Catron County, I can state that when it comes to the idea of wolves, most residents there will stop at nothing to be sure the wolf re-introduction plan does not succeed.

With that in mind, I beg you to increase wolf protection by upgrading them to "essential" or "endangered," eliminate the boundary restrictions of the Blue Range Recovery Area, expand the area for initial release, be mindful that some ranchers in this area will do anything to make it look like wolves have killed livestock and therefore you see that ranchers clean up dead livestock immediately, stop the excessive wolf removal ("take"), update the Recovery Plan to include future recovery action, place no cap on the number of wolves in the wild, and do not place any provisions that will limit future recovery options of the Mexican grey wolf.

Dr Griffon Campbell
1000 College
Silver City, NM 88061

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Sydney Walter <sydmusai@swcp.com>
11/19/2007 01:58 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

to: Brian Millsap, State Administrator

Dear Mr Millsap,

I want you to know that I am strongly in favor of a plan to establish a viable, healthy Mexican Gray Wolf population in NM and AZ. The ecosystem is incomplete and out of balance without the wolf. I appreciate the concerns of ranchers, and feel sure that a plan can be developed that will meet their needs and allow for the presence of the wolf.

sincerely,
Sydney Walter

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"Evalyn Bemis" <evalyn@newmexico.com>
11/19/2007 02:45 PM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
wolves

I value healthy, whole ecosystems above all else, as designed by God
and

nature, not controlled by man. Wolves are one facet of a balanced ecosystem in the Southwest and if we mean for them to survive as a species we must STOP killing them.

The Mexican Gray Wolf must be reclassified to "experimental, essential" or "endangered". They must be allowed to disperse beyond the Blue Water Wolf Recovery area, a man-made zone that cannot ever work if true recovery is intended. There should be no cap on the numbers of wolves - what does wild really mean if you restrict the numbers to some artificial limit?

Buy out grazing leases in the Gila Wilderness and Apache-Sitgreave National Forest. Require livestock operators to attend their animals and to remove or destroy carcasses. Revise the recovery plan - it is completely out-of-date and unworkable.

This is do-able. We can live with wolves but we must not live without them.

Evalyn Bemis
City Different Realty
direct 505-982-4141
office 505-983-1557
www.CityDifferentRealty.com
www.evalynbemis.com

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ANDREA MCENENY <sleepsweet@msn.com>
11/19/2007 10:31 PM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Brian Millsap, State Administrator

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NM Ecological Services Field Office

Dear Mr. Millsap:

I support wolf recovery efforts in New Mexico and Arizona.
I live in Peralta, New Mexico.

Sincerely,
Andrea P. McEneny
29 Mangham Ct.
Peralta, NM 87042

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"shirley cruse" <crusesh@peoplepc.com>
11/20/2007 10:06 AM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
save the wolves

Dear Mr. Millsap,

As a long time resident of New Mexico, I am requesting that the wolf recovery program be supported and continued so that the survival and propagation of the gray wolf throughout the southwest is ensured. The wolf is a vital and valuable species to our environment and should receive the care and respect it deserves.

Sincerely,
Shirley Cruse sbcruse@yahoo.com

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scott hunter <hunt1776@juno.com>
11/20/2007 11:47 AM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject

THE MEXICAN WOLF

We totally support the introduction of the MexicanWolf into the SouthWest

WE ALSO DEMAND THAT THE MEXICAN COYOTES BE SHOT ON SIGHT

AND THEIR LOADS OF ILLEGALALIENS BE PROSECUTED FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY AND RETURNED.

Arizonans For wildlife

Scott A Hunter

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"Bobbie Howard" <howardbc@cox.net>
11/20/2007 05:31 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
I support policies to save the Mexican Gray Wolf

Please don't let another species go extinct. The Mexican Gray Wolf
deserves to be kept in Arizona.

Bobbie Howard
9783 East Hidden Green Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85262-3611

480-342-8562

"The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled
by evil men." - Plato

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"Douglas Van Dorpe" <sin_90@msn.com>
11/20/2007 06:37 PM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

TO: BRIAN MILSAP, State Administrator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

FROM: DOUGLAS A. VAN DORPE & INGRID G. VAN DORPE
3811 N. Camino Blanco
Tucson, AZ 85718-7237

Dear Mr. MILSAP,
We can not be at the public meeting in Tucson on 07 December 2007.

We speak up for the Mexican Wolf -- the Mexican Gray Wolves belong in Arizona. Accordingly, we support 100% the "Wolfrecovery supporters" who want to insure that Mexican Gray Wolves are allowed to live in their natural habitat within the boundaries of the State of Arizona. The wolves should be protected. It should be illegal to hunt and kill them. The wolves were here first and this is their natural home. Human beings, particularly ranchers, farmers, campers, etc., must learn somehow to accommodate the wolves and to take a back seat to the wolves.
Sincerely, DOUGLAS & INGRID VAN DORPE

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"Linda" <ldills@earthlink.net>
11/20/2007 06:48 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

To whom it may concern,
We are in full support of protection for the Mexican Gray Wolf and any

recovery plan. The wolf is a vital part of the entire eco-system. It keeps other species healthy and in balance. It's impact on cattle is minimal if any impact at all. Please do whatever possible to protect the

Mexican gray wolf.

Thank you,

Linda and Walter Dills

6251 E. 33rd Street

Tucson, AZ 85711

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Ron Anderson <ronanderson4@cox.net>
11/20/2007 07:20 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
attn: mexican gray wolf nepa scoping

i strongly support the wolf recovery program. Please support any and
all

measures that ensure a bright future for the wolf in Arizona

WOLVES BELONG HERE!

thank you

ron anderson

16651 w paradise ln.

surprise az 85388

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teetee <teetee5225@yahoo.com>
11/20/2007 09:51 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Wolves Recover

Thank you for reading my e-mail. My views on the lack of recovery for the Lobo wolves is lack of compassion

on behalf of the ranchers and hunters. Lobos should have unrestricted access to BLM land! If a Lobo kills a cow, sheep, or other farm animal on BLM land, then the ranchers must understand the land belongs to all of us, including them. If the ranchers and hunters cannot accept the fact that they will lose some livestock when using public land for grazing purposes, then they should be restricted from using it for that purpose. If livestock is killed on their own property, then corrective actions would be granted to the land owners to control their own land as they please.

William Burgess
Las Cruces

<http://www.FreeCardMatrix.com/referral.aspx?refid=william1943Best>
Regards

Be a better pen pal.
Text or chat with friends inside Yahoo! Mail. See how.
<http://overview.mail.yahoo.com/>

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mkwaodehsonja@execulink.com
11/20/2007 10:49 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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 balieyi*) 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 include: promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for improving or 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; 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 support voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion; repeal, or at least suspend Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until the the species has been restored to all or a significant portion of its former range, as required by the Endangered Species Act; and immediately reinstate recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

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.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, Sonja beirnaert
unknown
unknown

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Elizabeth Garber <alfarera2@yahoo.com>
11/20/2007 01:41 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf

I'm writing to advocate for continuing the Mexican
Gray Wolf protection and re-introduction programs in

Arizona and New Mexico. The Mexican wolf is a genetically distinct subspecies of the gray wolf. Lobos were driven to the very brink of extinction by a federal predator control program in the early 20 th century. Their restoration will benefit ecosystems and undo a great wrong committed in the last century by our own government. With the average wolf weighing about what a German shepard weighs, they do not pose a serious threat to herds, although they may attach individual animals; those against the re-introduction of gray wolves are overly emotional about the threat that they pose.

The reintroduction is about addressing ecological balance. Please count my vote for continuing the Mexican Gray Wolf program.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Garber
Tucson, AZ 85701

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"Tom O'Brien" <spirish@tds.net>
11/21/2007 09:23 AM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexicangraywolf

Hi

Yes I am in favor of the replacement of the wolf in Az. as I am a
hunter
and they are essential to the
population of so many other animals, As our for fathers all but killed
all of them,They have every
right to be in our Forest & help the natural environment >.

Thanks Tom O'Brien
spirish@tds.net
HC 31 Box 1281
Happy Jack Az. 86024

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"Ted Czukor" <info@tedsyoga.com>
11/21/2007 10:23 AM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

November 21, 2007

Brian Millsap, State Administrator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Mr. Millsap:

As a spiritual person, I believe that the way we treat other beings is the way God (or the universe, or karma) is going to treat us. Sometimes we have no choice - but in the case of the Mexican Gray Wolf, we do.

I am also a long-time fan of Jim Dutcher's work, especially his 1993 documentary, "Wolf - Return of a Legend." This video shows first-hand evidence of wolves' intelligence and care for one another. You could even say that they have family values! This scientific research corrects the errors of bigotry under which wolves have suffered for generations. It turns out that most wolf-related killings of domestic animals are the fault of selfish, ignorant humans who don't know what they are doing.

I was sickened to learn that the governor of Dutcher's own state of Idaho is now offering bounties for anybody who shoots a wolf - as though his years of documented research and study had never taken place. I would be embarrassed beyond words if Arizona and New Mexico were to follow in such barbaric footsteps.

Rev. Ted Czukor
12229 N. 36th Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85029-2101

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Bill <Wmcyote@BasicISP.net>
11/21/2007 10:41 AM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Sirs,

I believe that the Wolf Recovery Program in Arizona and New Mexico should be continued. Mistakes from the previous programs should be studied and corrected. I believe it is important to the future of the ecological system in these areas that the Wolf should, once again, become an important part of the environmental system in the areas of New Mexico and Arizona. The wolf has been an important part of our heritage and should continue to live in the wilds for our children and grandchildren to experience.

Thank you.

William A. Verhulst
6311 E. Azura Place
Cave Creek, AZ 85331
wmcyote@basicisp.net

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"Richard Clark" <rclark1@hopitelecom.net>
11/21/2007 10:52 AM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

I believe the effort to restore the wolf to its original habitat is very important work and should receive the utmost federal and state support. Very heavy fines should be imposed on those who maliciously harm or kill reintroduced wolfs and try to thwart this program. Richard G. Clark,
49
honeymoon trail, marble canyon, az. 86036

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"Iala Jaggs" <akialba@msn.com>
11/21/2007 12:18 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn:Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Brian Millsap

We are very concerned about the fate of Mexican Gray Wolves in our state.
We believe that to ensure that they thrive and multiply some of the rules and parameters must change.
There is plenty of land in Arizona that is suitable for their needs. The land the eco structure and we the people of Arizona support their survival and their presence in our state.

Please make the Mexican Gray Wolves welfare and survival a high priority and do what is best for them.

Thank you.
Wendy Wizinowich
David Jaggs
265 Jack Rabbit Ln
Sedona, AZ
86336

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"Mary & Sheryl" <msb1370@cox.net>
11/21/2007 05:55 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

"If all the beasts were gone;

man would die from loneliness of spirit,
for whatever happens to the beast,
happens to the man.

All things are connected.
Whatever befalls the earth,
befalls the sons of earth."

Cheif Seathl

Bring back the wolf!

Sheryl Billeaudeau
1370 W Flintlock Way
Chandler Az 85286

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Jane Burtnett <janeburtnett@yahoo.com>
11/22/2007 08:35 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Please continue the re-introduction of the Mexican
Gray Wolf in the southwest.

I am not a biologist, but trust that what everyone has learned from their mistakes these past ten years can be implemented to bring back this species in the wild.

I was saddened to hear on the news this morning that some of the wolves have disappeared in New Mexico, and that it was probably at the hands of humans. I am sorry for the people who think this act to save the wolf, and indeed the earth, is detrimental to their profits. It's not the wolves' fault that humans have encroached on their land.

There's so much we don't understand about how ecosystems operate. But keeping things natural to the extent we can is always the best bet. Putting the Mexican gray wolf back on the land was one of the best bets our society ever made. It was and is the right thing to do.

Please withhold my personal identifying information from public review

Jane S. Burtnett
6713 E. Granada Rd.
Scottsdale. Arizona 85257

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Xjockntapper@aol.com
11/22/2007 01:05 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolves

Dear Sir/Madam:

We'll be unable to attend the open houses in Arizona about the future of Mexican gray wolves in Arizona and New Mexico. We just want to express our support for any and all efforts to protect Mexican gray wolves in Arizona. This species is a vital and integral part of our ecosystem here, and, as such, deserves all the help it can get. Too many species are being driven to extinction because of loss of habitat and hunting. Wolves have been so misunderstood and persecuted through the years, and don't deserve the disdain that's been put on them. Please do all that you can to protect these wonderful animals.

Thank you.
Phyllis and Harold Chelgren
12258 South Shoshoni Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85044

Check out AOL Money & Finance's list of the hottest products and top money wasters of 2007.

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Jenny Roberts <azjen@hotmail.com>
11/22/2007 05:49 PM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Comment Re Mexican Gray Wolves

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to comment on the draft EIS that is being down on the Mexican Gray Wolf. I feel strongly that these wolves should be supported full protection under ESA and ask that you classify them accordingly under this.

In order for the wolf population to increase I feel it is imperative that wolves be able to establish territories outside the boundaries of the current recovery area including into New Mexico.

It is a sorry state of affairs that livestock interests are taking precedence over insuring protection and freedom for this native animals.

Thank you for allowing me to comment

Jenny Roberts
Carefree
Arizona

You keep typing, we keep giving. Download Messenger and join the i'm Initiative now. Join in!

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"Edna Fink" <eddwaynf@asu.edu>
11/23/2007 05:05 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
AZ/NM Wolve Protection

From Dwayne Fink:
Past President of Maricopa Audubon Society.

One of the founders of the Sonoran Audubon Society
Present member of The Rivers AS
Present member of Sierra Club

I support the Wolf Reintroduction Project. I realize that it is not working very well, in its current management procedures, or the way the way the project is carried out, within or without the official guidelines.

The procedures need to be changes in order that the Wolf Reintroduction program succeed.

- * The wolves must be allowed to expand their range - naturally.
- * Presently, the cattle interests are totally having their way - to kill the project.

- * With some minor changes, the Wolf Project in AZ and NM could be a success. You the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are responsible for the success or failure of this project. You know what has to be done to make it happen. Please do it.

- * I strongly suspect that politics are the prime impediment to the success of the Wolf Project. If it fails under the wishes and whims of the present administration, then Fish and Wildlife will be called to answer for that failure, when the administration changes.

- * I (hopefully) believe that the rank and file of the U.S Fish and Wildlife personal want this project to succeed: so many literally have their dreams and life's work involved in making this happen.

Please do what must be done to make it happen!

dwaynfinke

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Neal Ogden <ogdennr@laplaza.org>
11/23/2007 08:37 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Brian Millsap, State Administrator

Dear Sir;

It is hard not to unload on your organization for its failure to meaningfully enforce the provisions of the ESA with regard to the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Every few months I come across information that documents FWS's lame and tepid efforts on behalf of this animal and the ecosystem it inhabits.

Fear, ignorance, superstition and greed trump science and humanity, now more than ever.

So here we are, as a race overlords of a dying planet, as individuals managers of a small piece of it that has been so far removed from its natural, functioning state that we're talking about a handful of animals, more or less.

I don't need to tell you what to do. You - all of FWS - know what to do.

Listen to your conscience.

Sincerely,
Neal Ogden

PO Box 423
Arroyo Seco NM 87514

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"michele samela" <michelesamela47@hotmail.com>
11/23/2007 11:35 AM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Please, please save & do all you can to save this majestic creatures!!
They are a part of our heritage.

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Christine Wells <cwells@newmex.com>
11/23/2007 12:33 PM

To
Brian Millsap <r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mjexican gray wolf

I'm writing in SUPPORT of the Mexican Grey Wolf in Arizona and New Mexico.

The sooner we return our lands (especially public lands) to a natural state---with those pesky predators--the better.

I urge you to do everything you can to support the reintroduction of the Mexican Gray Wolf to Arizona and New Mexico.

Christine L Wells, Ph.D.
PO Box 730
Arroyo Seco, New Mexico 87514
cwells@newmex.com

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toe <toe@dakotacom.net>
11/23/2007 02:02 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

The Wolf recovery program needs to be strengthened and expanded to allow

more wolves to roam freely and be protected completely. It should keep areas roadless so people are not in the area. Shooting wolves should carry extremely stiff penalties of mandatory fines and jail time.

Cattle

should be removed completely.

thank-you,

--

Mark Noethen

7050 N. Cmo. de Fray Marcos

Tucson, AZ 85718

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"Cheryl Beck" <cheri29@cox.net>
11/23/2007 04:26 PM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Brian Milsap,
State of New Mexico, Administrator, US Fish and Wildlife Service

This letter is to express our support for the well being of gray wolves in Arizona and other areas of the Southwest. We strongly stand by the gray wolf recovery and attempts for past mistakes to be corrected so that these beautiful creatures can continue to be part of our natural heritage. Along with the coyotes, javelinas, and many other animals that make up our natural environment, we wholeheartedly encourage policies that enable the wolves' ability to live and thrive as nature intended, without the interference of man or government regulations. Each time one element of nature is tampered with, it has untold negative effects on others, and ultimately, on man himself. Since we are gifted with the intelligence to understand how this works to begin with, and of course, to prevent it, let's all cooperate to speak for the animals who can't speak for themselves.

Sincerely,
Cheryl and Tom Beck
PO Box 6005
Carefree, AZ 85377

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t.guinn45@comcast.net
11/23/2007 08:48 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray wolf NEPA Scoping

Thora Guinn

1508 Roma NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Attn: Brian Millsap, State Administrator
US Fish and Wildlife Service
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Please continue the protection that the gray wolves require to allow them room to exist in our open country. My sentiments are that we have room enough to share our land with other than the human species. In fact, it is my view that our native animals have a greater claim upon the open country than does the human species. People don't have the right necessarily to claim every part of the land to build upon and to turn into profit for themselves. Regulations should be in effect that make it possible for all kinds of life to find a reasonable place to exist.

Thora Guinn

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"GLGA" <Laura@gilaranchers.fatcow.com>
11/24/2007 04:43 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

We disagree that scoping is about learning about the program, it is about

identifying issues and there is no way to identify issues if you force people at the scoping meetings into quiet little corners to learn about wolves.

This couldn't be further from appropriate NEPA application. The scoping meetings should contain public comment periods anything less is a NEPA violation.

Laura Schneberger
Gila Livestock Growers Association
P.O. Box 111
Winston NM 87943
575-772-5753
575-621-3726

Laura@gilaranchers.fatcow.com
www.gilalivestockgrowers.org
www.wolfcrossing.org

"There is not in all America a more dangerous trait than the deification of mere smartness unaccompanied by any sense of moral responsibility."
Theodore Roosevelt Abilene, KS, May 2, 1903

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"Deborah Dobson" <ddobson@peoplepc.com>
11/25/2007 09:49 AM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
ATTN: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Mr. Millsap,

At the risk of sounding like a tree-hugger, I want to add my pro-wolf comments to the mix.

The more we humans interfere with the balance of nature, the worse it gets. We have our agendas - we need to graze our livestock, we "need" to have animals to hunt, etc.

But the bottom line is that wolves, like every other living creature, are a part of the bigger picture and like it or not, they are a vital part of the ecosystem in which we all need to live.

Why can't we all coexist harmoniously and respectfully share this beautiful space we call home?

Sincerely,

Deborah Dobson
4023 E. Comanche Drive
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

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Joan <joelle9@mac.com>
11/25/2007 11:42 AM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Grey Wolf

Please rethink the extermination or culling of grey wolves.
Nature provides a balance which doesn't include man in

assisting it.
Thank You,
J. Owen
P.O. Box 65301
Pt. Ludlow, WA
98365

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"zamboni999" <zamboni999@netzero.com>
11/25/2007 01:38 PM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Grey Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Mr. Millsap,

I urge you to correct past mistakes in the wolf recovery program, and ensure that the Mexican Grey wolf is properly reintroduced to its native

New Mexico. Our ecosystem is not complete without the wolf. We need wolves - look at the improvement of Yellowstone since wolves were successfully re-introduced there. The same will happen here in New Mexico.

I understand the concerns of the few ranchers involved. Let's help them protect their animals or give them other assistance they need. But the wolf must return for everyone's sake.

Thank you,
Budd Berkman
11 Canoncito Rd.
Placitas, NM 87043
Zamboni999@netzero.com

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"Christine Steiner" <csteiner5@msn.com>
11/25/2007 05:28 PM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn:Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

TO: Brian Millsap, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

I would like to state that I am a supporter of the wolf recovery program in New Mexico, but will not be able to attend the scheduled hearings. Thank you.

Mary Christine Steiner
5 San Felipe Tr. NW
Corrales, NM 87048

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"Donna Steele" <Threshld@mindspring.com>
11/25/2007 06:19 PM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

WOLVES BELONG IN ARIZONA!

As a concerned citizen of Arizona for the past 24 years, I'm writing to urge Fish and Wildlife to correct the mistakes of the past and ensure Mexican gray wolves continue to be protected.

Science has shown FOR YEARS that top predator health in any wildlife eco-system ENSURES the health of that eco-system.

Don't cave to irrational myths and fears or special interest groups that have taken over the government during the Bush administration.

Please do the responsible thing for wildlife. Ensure a bright future for wolf recovery in Arizona.

Respectfully,
Donna L. Steele
1524 N. Sunset Drive
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-1440

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 11:03 AM

"Richard Calabro" <r.a.calabro@att.net>
11/25/2007 08:49 PM

Please respond to
"Richard Calabro" <r.a.calabro@att.net>

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping.

Brian Millsap, State Administrator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Mexican gray wolves are critical to our natural environment. A healthy wolf population will keep our elk and deer herds healthy and bring balance back to our wildlands. Please correct the mistakes of the past and ensure a bright future for wolf recovery.

While reintroduced wolves have thrived in the Northern Rockies - now numbering over 1,500 - the Mexican gray wolf population remains dangerously low, with only about 60 wolves in an area twice the size of Yellowstone. The difference is in the rules governing the program.

Because

of these rules, 11 wolves have been shot by the government, 20 more died

inadvertently because of capture, and at least 24 have been trapped and permanently removed from the wild since the reintroduction began.

Northern Rockies wolves are allowed to expand their territory. Mexican gray wolves are confined to the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area, which includes the Gila National Forest in New Mexico and the bordering Apache

National Forest in Arizona. But with good habitat outside of these areas,

wolves often cross the political lines in search off new homes and prey.

When they choose to live outside the boundaries they are captured and returned to the Blue range. This thwarts expansion of the population, disrupts packs, and sometimes causes serious injury to individual wolves.

Current rules do not require ranchers using public lands to remove or render inedible (as by lime, for example) the carcasses of livestock that

die for a number of non-wolf related reasons like disease and starvation.

Wolves are attracted to and often scavenge on these carcasses, and then begin to prey on live cattle or horses nearby. After three livestock kills

in a year, the wolf is either killed or placed in captivity.

The gray wolf reintroduction rule for the northern Rocky Mountains in Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho required ranchers to remove such attractants and specified that wolves that prey on stock near to where they were drawn by carcasses would not be controlled. But the Mexican wolf never received this protection. Please change the rule to save the wolves.

Richard A. Calabro
3055 S. Placita Del Avestruz
Green Valley, AZ 85614-1000

Tel. 520 648-0624
Fax 520 648-0647
e-mail: r.a.calabro@att.net

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 11:03 AM

<jgaz1@cox.net>
11/25/2007 09:19 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Brian Millsap
State Administrator

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

Dear Mr. Millsap,

I would like to express my thoughts on the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery program. I am a strong advocate for the reintroduction of the Mexican Gray Wolf into its former habitat. The issues I saw on the website seem to revolve around a few main concerns.

1) Range: The wolves seem to do alright when they are not shot by poachers. Therefore, I would like to see them reintroduced in other parts of the Experimental Population Area Boundary, initially near the existing packs. Perhaps reintroductions could be done over time in concentric circles farther and farther from the BRWRA, with the eventual goal of the wolves occupying as much of the Experimental Population Area Boundary as natural prey and available land allows. Based on the historic range, they could either be reintroduced or migrate to other areas north of I-40 and south of I-10 if prey is available-north of Flagstaff and north of Santa Fe, into the mountains of Northern NM.

2) Pet Attacks by Wolves: I don't believe wolves that have attacked pets should be removed. People need to keep their pets close by, not wandering wherever they please.

3) Livestock Attacks by Wolves: These wolves should be removed if they are repeat offenders. Preferably not shot, but captured.

In closing-please greatly increase the allowable range/reintroductions and maintain protection for the Mexican Gray Wolf so that they can reoccupy as much of their former habitat as prey and available land allow.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
-James Graham

James Graham
13433 S. 47th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85044

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 11:03 AM

Faith Walker <Faith.Walker@sci.monash.edu.au>
11/26/2007 12:52 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Mr. Millsap,

Please consider these comments for Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping. I will be attending tonite's meeting in Flagstaff, AZ, but prefer to submit my comments via email.

I am a wildlife biologist with extensive experience working with endangered mammals, and would like to see the following in relation to the Mexican Gray Wolf reintroduction project:

1. An updated recovery plan, with very specific objectives regarding number of wolves defining recovery, and no maximum number.
2. A change in wolf status to "endangered", or "experimental, essential".
3. Expansion of acceptable wolf boundary, as well as increased area for initial releases.
4. Non-lethal resolution of wolf-livestock conflicts, in a way that adequately compensates livestock owners.
5. Decreased "take" of wolves.

and

6. Increased emphasis on genetic diversity of wolf population.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Faith Walker

2700 Woodlands Village Blvd.
Ste 300-407
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

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"Brian L. Cardall" <brian@ecologicalgenetics.com>
11/26/2007 02:21 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
wolf reintroduction

Dear USFWS,

I simply wanted to state my support for wolf reintroduction in Arizona. Apex predators provide an integral component of proper ecosystem function, and their extirpation has had cascading effects throughout multiple trophic levels (the classic example is the Kaibab deer population). In my opinion the return of wolves to Arizona will benefit wildlife and promote ecosystem health. It is something that is long overdue.

Sincerely,
Brian Cardall

Brian L. Cardall, MS
Science Foundation of Arizona Fellow
Department of Biological Sciences
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ, 86011-5640
blc65@nau.edu
brian@ecologicalgenetics.com
(435) 512-1488

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"Carole Piszczek-Sheffield" <cpiszczek@msn.com>
11/26/2007 04:02 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing regarding the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Act (BRWRA) because I am concerned that the number of wolves who are successfully surviving within the designated area appear to be going down rather than stabilizing or growing. I believe that wolves are an integral part of the wildlife chain and wolf populations need not only protection but encouragement to grow. The system as currently designed has several flaws that prevent that from happening:

The classification of BRWRA wolves as "experimental, non-essential" must be amended to "experimental, essential (or endangered)" in order for this program to succeed to its full potential.

Like other valued natural entities -- air, water, bison, bald eagles -- wolves do not understand human created political boundaries. Rather, they follow instinctual beckonings, moving into areas that promise better food resources, habitat, or mating and territorial possibilities. Trying to restrict wolf movement to "approved" areas shows little understanding of how Nature and its denizens function. Wolves require large territories for healthy populations to survive or thrive. Please consider removing restrictions to wolf dispersal and movement.

Healthy wildlife populations seldom occur without access to other populations outside their own range. Releasing Gray Wolves in areas outside the BRWRA will provide opportunities for more robust genetic opportunities for the struggling Gray Wolf populations and decrease the possibility of inbred disease, etc. Please consider releasing Gray Wolves in New Mexico to encourage strengthening of the species.

Killing wolves while promoting their return doesn't make sense. How can wolves hope to thrive if we keep reducing the number of wolves available for breeding? This is senseless and has to stop.

Likewise, putting a cap on the total number of wolves makes no sense for the same reasons.

Make ranchers responsible for cleaning up carcasses of their cattle that have died as the result of disease, starvation, or injury. Leaving dead cattle lie on public land only encourages wolves to "get a taste for" beef and jeopardizes healthy cattle and their young. Opportunistic scavenging wolves eat what's available. Ranchers' practices of leaving dead cattle lie only encourages such scavenging.

Lastly, please consider leaving options open for future recovery strategies. Wolf recovery is like a living document and needs to remain flexible in order to make the best of this rare opportunity to bring a valuable endangered species back to full recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns and opinions.

Sincerely,

Carole Piszczek-Sheffield
PO Box 4388
Sedona, AZ 86340
(928) 204-1517
cpiszczek@msn.com

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 11:01 AM

Stefan Sommer <Stefan.Sommer@nau.edu>
11/26/2007 06:15 PM

Please respond to
Stefan.Sommer@nau.edu

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear USFWS,

I am writing to encourage you to do everything you can to reintroduce Mexican Gray wolves to their natural habitat in Arizona and New Mexico. These top predators are a critical part of proper ecosystem function, and their extirpation has had cascading effects throughout multiple trophic levels. In my opinion the return of wolves to Arizona and New Mexico will benefit wildlife, promote ecosystem health, and provide the human communities with an important part of our lost legacy. It is something that is long overdue.

Sincerely,

Stefan Sommer

Dr. Stefan Sommer
Executive Producer, A River Reborn, www.RiverReborn.org
Director of Education, Merriam-Powell Center, www.mpcer.nau.edu
Vice President, Association of College and University Museums and
Galleries, www.ACUMG.org Faculty, Dept. of Biological Sciences
Northern Arizona University
Campus Box 5640
Flagstaff, AZ 86011

Office: (928) 523-4463
FAX: (928) 523-7500

E-Mail: Stefan.Sommer@NAU.EDU

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kas263 <kas263@nau.edu>
11/26/2007 09:19 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Hello,

I strongly support the reintroduction program. We have already seen the positive affects of wolf reintroduction in the Yellowstone ecosystem and it is reasonable to expect there to be ecological benefits here in the southwest. In a time when so many factors are negatively impacting our wildlands, we really should support programs that make positive contributions to ecosystem health.

Thank you for your efforts!
Ken Sterling
kas263@nau.edu

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aja75 <aja75@nau.edu>
11/26/2007 10:33 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Hello,
I am emailing to express my support for the re-establishment project of

Mexican Gray Wolves to NM and AZ. As apex predators in these ecosystems, the wolves have a profound impact on all other animals in the area. Re-establishing the wolf population will begin to restore some of the profound impacts that humans have made on this landscape. Thank you for your efforts.

Anthony Arena
101 S Agassiz St APT 3
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 11:00 AM

"JAN ROBERTS" <jrob980@msn.com>
11/26/2007 11:12 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Mr. Brian Milsap, tate Administrator
US Fish and Wiidlife Service

Sir:

I am writing to comment on the proposed rule changes that will determine the Mexican gray wolves future--or not. The rule update is long overdue, but should not include "poison-pill" provisions to sabotage their recovery. Scientists have made many recommendations you have failed to act on, starting in 1998. They warned then if recommendations were not followed the wolf population would suffer. The wolves have important and far reaching impacts on the ecosystem in their surroundings. They affect grazing, plant life and other animal life in their area. Rules need updating to protect and help the wolf population thrive. They are at half of what the EIS projected. It's time to step up and do the job right. It is Fish and Wildlife, not Big Business and Ranchers. Ten years is too long to put this off.

Jan Roberts
804 E Clubhouse
Queen Creek, AZ 85242

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 10:58 AM

Stefan Sommer <Stefan.Sommer@nau.edu>
11/26/2007 06:15 PM

Please respond to
Stefan.Sommer@nau.edu

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

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Stefan Sommer

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FAX: (928) 523-7500

E-Mail: Stefan.Sommer@NAU.EDU

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 10:58 AM

kas263 <kas263@nau.edu>
11/26/2007 09:19 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Hello,

I strongly support the reintroduction program. We have already seen the positive affects of wolf reintroduction in the Yellowstone ecosystem and it is reasonable to expect there to be ecological benefits here in the southwest. In a time when so many factors are negatively impacting our wildlands, we really should support programs that make positive contributions to ecosystem health.

Thank you for your efforts!
Ken Sterling
kas263@nau.edu

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 10:58 AM

aja75 <aja75@nau.edu>
11/26/2007 10:33 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Hello,
I am emailing to express my support for the re-establishment project of

Mexican Gray Wolves to NM and AZ. As apex predators in these ecosystems, the wolves have a profound impact on all other animals in the area. Re-establishing the wolf population will begin to restore some of the profound impacts that humans have made on this landscape. Thank you for your efforts.

Anthony Arena
101 S Agassiz St APT 3
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 10:58 AM

"JAN ROBERTS" <jrob980@msn.com>
11/26/2007 11:12 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Mr. Brian Milsap, tate Administrator
US Fish and Wiidlife Service

Sir:

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Jan Roberts
804 E Clubhouse
Queen Creek, AZ 85242

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 10:57 AM

"judy fair" <fairdinkm@cybermesa.com>
11/27/2007 10:08 AM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
written comments submission

Hi

I would like to submit a comment about the mexican wolf program, and understand there are guidelines. What are they? Judy Fair

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 10:56 AM

<asmcran@cox.net>
11/27/2007 04:24 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf Meetings

I will, unfortunately, be unable to attend any of the upcoming public scoping meetings.

I am a strong supporter of this reintroduction program, and have followed it since it started.

I recognize the rough going that the program has had, but have no proposed comments at this time.

Hopefully the wolf population can some day increase enough so that it becomes a "commercial tourist attraction" like the Yellowstone wolves. [I made the long drive there and back some years ago, and hope to go again this coming Summer.]

Alan McCready
P.O. Box 2260
Sierra Vista, Az 85636

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 10:56 AM

Aihugh@aol.com
11/27/2007 04:26 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Speaking up for the Mexican Gray Wolf

To: Brian Millsap, State Administrator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office

Let the wolves stay. Bring them back. They belong there - they were there before us (and before farmers and ranchers). I understand the position of farmers and ranchers, but often they can be reimbursed for any losses due to wolves. Wolves are programmed to hunt animals like deer and elk, and they do a good job of keeping those herds healthy. There are wolves all over the world. Farmers and ranchers in South America or Europe, for example, look after their cattle, goats, and sheep and protect them from predators. Our farmers and ranchers should do the same.

Aileen Hughes

Check out AOL's list of 2007's hottest products.
(<http://money.aol.com/special/hot-products-2007?NCID=aoltop00030000000001>)

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 10:56 AM

"bettyt" <bettyt@wt.net>
11/27/2007 06:55 PM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Brian Millsap, State Administrator

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

Dear Mr. Milsap,

Please support the Mexican Gray Wolf recovery in New Mexico. I believe in helping the wolves survive and thrive to help return the wilderness to a natural balance. I don't think cattle add to the viability of the National Forests and wild places. I hope cattle will be restricted from grazing on public lands and leave the wilderness to the creatures who belong there.

Thank you,

Betty Tichich
6724 Edgewood Dr. NW
Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

bettyt@wt.net

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"LindaInBenson" <lindainbenson@hotmail.com>
11/27/2007 08:43 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear

I live in Benson, Arizona and was reading about the Wolf reintroduction program. Apparently, from what I read, a person cannot kill one of these wolves if it is injuring their pet. I think that is absolutely inhumane and ridiculous. I am disabled and cannot have human children. My dogs are my service animals, and my dogs and cats also are like my children, and if something is injuring them, especially in my own backyard, I should have every legal right to protect my animal, be it from a Wolf, Javalina, or what have you. We are trying to bring nature back in balance by reintroducing wolves. That's fine. However, when Wolves ran freely, so did people who used bows and arrows to protect their own animals and property. That IS part of the balance. I should have every legal right to protect my animals. Hopefully, it wouldn't get to the point of killing anything, as I love animals, but there is a very clear line between freedom and irresponsibility. If you allow Wolves to run around in people's yards killing innocent and smaller animals who are not "wild," then you are being entirely inhumane and unjust to all of the animals involved.

I am all for the Wolf reintroduction program, but not if they are allowed to kill my "children", my animals, and I have to sit back helplessly and watch it happen.

Sincerely,

Linda Culhane
Benson, Arizona

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"JAN ROBERTS" <jrob980@msn.com>
11/27/2007 09:41 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Mr. Brian Millsap
U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service

The Mexican Gray Wolf recovery program definitely needs to be continued and expanded. Keeping the wolves in the designated area and away from livestock seems to be the biggest problems, along with their small litter

size. Could the grazing permits be cut back, reducing the area the cattle

use, especially during the times when calves are small and easy prey? Or

require more supervision in the area to keep wolves away from the livestock? This would not be easy and could lead to more shooting of wolves.

As wolves need large areas to roam, their allowed range needs to be expanded. The Nature Conservancy purchases land the owners keep as a conservation area. This approach could work as a way to expand the wolves allowed areas

Thank you,

Jan Roberts

804 E Clubhouse

Queen Creek, AZ 85242

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kameron1@adelphia.net
11/27/2007 09:58 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Scoping Comments pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 151,
Pages
44065-44069

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement and Socio-Economic Assessment for the Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

Please allow me to express my concern that today, almost a decade after wolves were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (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 balieyi*) 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 include: promulgating formal management procedures or guidelines for improving or 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; 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 support voluntary grazing permit buyout in the Gila bioregion; repeal, or at least suspend Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 13 until the the species has been restored to all or a significant portion of its former range, as required by the Endangered Species Act; and immediately reinstate recovery planning on behalf of the lobos.

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.

Please do not make my personal contact information public as a result of participating in this comment process.

Sincerely, TD Kameron
PO BOX 1132
ASHLAND, NH 03217

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"Donald MacGregor" <amacg52@cybertrails.com>
11/28/2007 09:54 AM

Please respond to
"Donald MacGregor" <amacg52@cybertrails.com>

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Gray wolf Project

I am a full time resident of Alpine, AZ who will not be able to make the meeting tonight as I must be out of town. I strongly support the reintroduction of the wolves. There are people in the area who have strong (i.e. rabid) feelings about the issue and feel that road closure is just a step on the route of the United Nations assuming actual control of our forests and the condemnation of all private property with no compensation. This group, as best I can tell, is the core of the opposition to the wolf program and road closures. I have the greatest respect for ranchers and their traditions, but they are in the same spot as the Pennsylvania steelworkers of the 1960's. (Perhaps not in Catron County, which will probably hold on for another generation or two) The value of land around here signals a shift in the economy of the area, and the future is going to be hunting, tourism, and summer people, not cattle. Wolves belong in this area. Incidentally, the wolf opposition group swears that they have proof that secret plans are underway to reintroduce grizzly bears to the White Mountains. On that cheerful note, I remain

Don MacGregor
P.O. Box 838
Alpine, AZ
#20 County Road 2310

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"N.Lennon Wiggins" <catcarenetwork@msn.com>
11/28/2007 09:37 AM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Wolf Policy Revisions

Attention: Brian Millsap, State Administrator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Date: November 27, 2007

SUBJECT: MEXICAN GRAY WOLF NEPA SCOPING

Cat Care Network of Colorado and New Mexico, a 501[c]3 animal welfare organization, requests U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to include a "Conservation Alternative" that will change the classification of the Mexican Gray Wolf from "experimental, non-essential" to "experimental, essential" or "endangered" to provide wolves more protection. They are not being recovered under the existing classification.

The Blue Range population of Mexican gray wolves is essential to long-term recovery of this endangered subspecies. Captive populations will not safeguard Mexican wolves from extinction in the long-term. An "essential" or an "endangered" designation will give these wolves the stronger protections they need to succeed in the wild.

Congress provided for "experimental, essential" as a classification, yet it has never been used by the Fish and Wildlife Service. If ever a case can be made for the first ever designated "essential" experimental population, this is it.

Please allow wolves to expand their territory. Eliminate restrictions to wolf dispersal and movements.

Under current rules, Mexican wolves must stay within the boundaries of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA), which comprises the Gila National Forest in New Mexico and the bordering Apache National Forests in Arizona. But wolves have large territorial requirements and can't read maps. They need access to good habitat throughout their historic range and often cross the invisible political lines in search of new homes and prey. Under the existing rule, wolves that leave the BRWRA boundary are captured and relocated back into the Blue Range, which disrupts packs, thwarts expansion and dispersal of the population, and sometimes causes serious injuries to individual wolves. In the revised rule, there should be no exclusion of geographic areas from potential occupation by wolves.

Please expand the area for initial releases to anywhere within the Blue

Range Wolf Recovery Area.

Under the current rules, releases of wolves from the captive population are only allowed in Arizona, a provision that severely limits the agencies' options for meeting the BRWRA objective of a viable, self-sustaining population of at least 100 Mexican wolves. For example, the portion of the population residing in New Mexico could benefit from genetic augmentation by releasing wolves currently in captivity. A rule change that allows new releases throughout the BRWRA would give agency managers much needed management tools for assuring the viability and self-sustainability of the BRWRA population of Mexican gray wolves.

Please work to prevent and resolve livestock-wolf conflicts in ways that keep wolves in the wild and achieve progress towards reintroduction objectives. Rules should apply to all players, not just wolves.

Under current rules, ranchers using public lands are not required to remove or render inedible the carcasses of livestock that die for various reasons like disease and starvation. Wolves are attracted to and often scavenge on these carcasses, and may begin to prey on live cattle or horses nearby. Wolves that are alleged to have killed three head of livestock in a year are either killed or placed in captivity for the rest of their lives. A revised rule must require owners of livestock using public land to clean up dead stock before wolves find and scavenge on them.

Please work to stop killing and removing wolves: reduce "take."

The current rule allows excessive wolf removal that is precluding achievement of the reintroduction objective of 100+ wolves in the BRWRA population. A revised rule must reduce unacceptable bias and prejudice, and discourage and outlaw "take" custom and practice.

Please work to revise the Recovery Plan.

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

Please expand the number of wolves in the wild population.

A viable, self-sustaining population of at least 100 wolves is a minimum objective for the BRWRA population of wolves. Recovery has yet to be

defined through revision of the recovery plan. No maximum should be set for the number of wolves in the wild through this rule change.

Please keep future recovery options open.

This rule change should not include any provisions that would limit in any way future options for recovery of Mexican gray wolves anywhere outside the current boundaries of the BRWRA.

Our organization values and respects wolves as an integral part of the balance of nature. We want to see wolves recover and establish themselves once again in New Mexico. Their intelligence and social structure are exemplary, and their role in controlling populations of rodents and deer, for example, is essential when overpopulation is a real problem for farmers, ranchers and communities in many areas across the state.

Sincerely,

Ron and Norma Wiggins
Cat Care Network of Colorado and New Mexico
Coordinator, Low-Cost, Spay-Neuter-Shots Program in Colfax County
FEIN 65-1281472
1400 Scenic Road
Raton, N.M. 87740
E: catcarenetwork@msn.com
PH: 505-445-8756

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"Katherine Elswick" <KElswick@ccusd93.org>
11/28/2007 10:19 AM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Attn:Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Before Dec. 31st, public comment invited? Mine is:

www.MexicanGrayWolf

Before Dec. 31st, public comment being received on reintroduction in AZ, NM of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

My take: If we don't learn to live in some balance with wild things; we are not going to have either: wilderness or balance.

Wolves don't eat THAT often! They predate on the weaker, slower. They control deer and elk herds. Ranchers loose little, and what they do lose can be compensated.

Living things have value in THEMSELVES; and for man, symbolic value as well. It is one of our "gifts" that we throw away when we exterminate other lives.

Read Barry Lopez ON WOLVES and MEN.

Thanks.

Katherine Elswick
P.O. Box 4394
Cave Creek, AZ 85327

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"Sarah Winslow" <pauraque@operamail.com>
11/28/2007 10:46 AM

To
r2we_al@fws.gov, R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Re: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

To: Brian Millsap, State Administrator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
Fax: (505) 346-2542
Email: r2we_al@fws.gov

I am unable to attend the Mexican Gray Wolf meetings as I will be out of the area during this time. I am therefore submitting my comments in writing.

I am writing to ask that you act affirmatively in support of the following points:

- Put an immediate end to removing wolves from the wild (trapping or shooting) until population goals are reached.
- Update the Mexican wolf recovery plan with new science and numerical targets for removing the wolf from the endangered species list.
- Allow direct release of wolves from the captive population into the Gila National Forest.
- Allow wolves to roam beyond the boundaries of recovery area.
- Require livestock operators who lease public lands in the wolf recovery area to practice responsible husbandry practices, such as disposal of carcasses, seasonal (versus year-round) grazing, using penned calving areas, and other protective measures.
- Resolve livestock-wolf conflicts over the long term through a voluntary grazing retirement program that allows ranchers to relocate their livestock operations to wolf-free areas.
- Promote better understanding of wolves through fact-based education programs, especially in communities within the wolf recovery area.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Sarah Winslow

Sarah Winslow
PO Box 22
San Miguel, NM 88058
732/546-8961
pauraque@operamail.com

--

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"dixiedavis46@earthlink.net" <dixiedavis46@earthlink.net>
11/28/2007 02:09 PM

Please respond to
dixiedavis46@earthlink.net

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc
"Glenda Muirhead" <gmuirhead1@msn.com>
Subject
Wolf Recovery Support

Dear Mr. Millsap:

We strongly support the re-establishment of free roaming wild wolves in New Mexico. The current Catron county appeasement policies are another shameful episode in the US Fish and Wildlife Service's administration of the ESA. Real wildlife administrators would form a solid front AGAINST the political meddlers and secure the wild wolf population as most citizens want done as they have stated over and over and over again when queried.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff and Dixie Davis
2 Nizhoni Ct.
Sandia Park, NM 87047
dixiedavis46@earthlink.net

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"Aija Thacher" <aijathacher@comcast.net>
11/28/2007 05:06 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

We are adding our comment to the Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping record.

Wolves are an important part of a healthy ecosystem and their removal in the past has caused imbalance problems. Financial compensation to ranchers has been established for the occasional loss of livestock. Ranchers are already getting low cost grazing on public lands. The public has the right to have some ecological balance restored by the reintroduction of wolves into at least part of their habitat.

Philip and Aija Thacher
524 Camino del Bosque NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114

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"Felicity Broennan" <felicitytoys@hotmail.com>
11/28/2007 06:27 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Wolf Recovery Program

Brian Millsap, State Administrator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

November 28, 2007

Dear Mr. Millsap,

We write to you today regarding our grave concerns about the handling of the Mexican Gray Wolf reintroduction program in New Mexico and Arizona. For several decades now, wildlife managers all agree on the necessity of predators as part of a healthy ecosystem management plan. The dismal failure of the FWS to support the wolves in a manner conducive to their thriving in the Gila and the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area is shameful.

As New Mexico residents following this tragic saga, we kindly request that you begin to follow successful reintroduction models that will protect the wolf, making them less vulnerable to the threats they face.

The random shooting, the separation of healthy packs, and the orphaning of pups only perpetuates the decline of the ecosystems. Why have you conceded valuable land that you know these animals will need to roam into as their numbers increase? Why are you not insisting that ranchers who are using our public lands take full responsibility for their downed cows and carcasses, such that the wolves do not become habituated? The responsibility for cows MUST fall with those who own them, and your agency could enforce this, instead of appearing to be beholden to them.

The health of our ecosystems in these forests must supercede any one private or government interest. With all the parties at the table, you have an opportunity to save the wolf, one of our most vital contributors to the natural world. We urge you to not let this opportunity slip by. Please do everything in your power to follow what we all know is excellent science for the health of New Mexico and Arizona wild lands, and for the wolves.

Sincerely,

Mary Mackintosh
Eliza Kuelthau
Barbara Colman
Craig Hansen
Felicity Broennan

Felicity Broennan

"If you want to build a ship,
don't drum up people together to collect wood
and don't assign them tasks and work,
but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

~Antoine de Saint-Exupery~

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"Phil Latham" <platham@prescott.edu>
11/29/2007 05:47 AM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
I-10

Dear Mr. Milsap,

I am strongly opposed to any project that further compromises the habitat of the Mexican Gray Wolf or any other species. It is time for us to look at our transportation problems from a new perspective, one that takes into account the irreparable damage we're doing to our planet for the sake of growth (read: profits for developers). It's time for the decision makers to put the brakes on the wanton destruction of the desert; Phoenix and Tuscon have grown out of control over the last half-decade, ruining hundreds of thousands of acres of desert habitat and only a few benefit from this while many suffer. The current regime of growth and profit-taking is clearly not sensible nor is it sustainable, so please do what you can to make a case against this short sighted approach and save what little is left.

Sincerely,
Phil Latham
Prescott

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VZ <etheric11@yahoo.com>
11/29/2007 09:33 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Mr. Brian Milsap, State Administrator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Mr. Milsap:

I am emailing to voice my support of changing the Fish and Wildlife Service rules to ensure that the Mexican Wolf is no longer exterminated just for being a carnivore.

Ranchers have a number of options for protecting their livestock that do not involve unnecessarily killing wolves.

The Mexican wolf is a vital part of the natural balance that keeps our Southwestern ecosystems healthy and thriving. I am an avid hiker and have seen for myself how the rodent population explodes when there are not enough natural predators to keep their numbers in check.

Please do all that you can to protect and restore the Mexican Wolves population.

Thank you,

Val Zeff
1208 E. Hubbell St
Phoenix, AZ 85006

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"susan singer" <sue.singer@gmail.com>
11/29/2007 10:01 AM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Restoring the balance: more wolves, better protection

Dear FWS Folk:

Attending a scoping meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona this week only reinforced my own research and opinion. We need to restore the ecological balance, at least in our national forests. The ecology of fear is necessary to a healthy environment. When there are predators, the elk may not be as easy a target for hunters and those who make their living from always guiding hunters to a kill but the rest of the natural system will benefit greatly. Elk behave normally, as prey, and their normal movement allows seedlings to grow restoring healthy growth of cottonwoods, willows, aspen and others in areas where these trees have not thrived. The growth of trees reduces erosion, protects streams and creates habitat for other animals. When wolves are reintroduced into areas in which they had been eradicated, there's a positive ripple effect reversing the trophic cascade that resulted from removing this crucial player from the ecosystem.

There seem to be just two major complaint groups against wolf populations: ranchers and hunters. Ranchers cite wolves killing stock although the number of cases that are known to be wolf kills seem tiny given the numbers. Since groups like Defenders of Wildlife have programs to reimburse ranchers for any verified stock kill, ranchers suffer no actual loss. That ranchers are allowed to graze animals in our National Parks and Forests is something I question as they don't pay much for the privilege. They also do not remove the carcass of their animals who die from disease or other causes, allowing predators to become accustomed to their stock as 'food' and exacerbating the problem. If there is a conflict between a domestic and a wild animal in one of the few areas reserved for wildlife, why are there still cattle and sheep in our parks and forests?

As for the hunters, while there are growing numbers of groups who are now convinced as to the benefits of a healthy ecological balance, others constantly voice their complaints about road closings and predators alike. When natural predators are present, elk and other game would be naturally fearful and less prone to hanging around grazing so hunters might have to actually track and hunt rather than waiting for one to appear at a designated spot. They might then have to field dress and tote their game out rather than being able to drive up, shoot something and drive the carcass to a butcher. Man has gotten accustomed to being the only predator and that must change. The sane upshot is really just that hunters might have to work a bit harder to kill their limit. I favor leveling the hunting playing field. There are plenty of game in areas

where wolf populations have been restored, it ebbs and flows naturally as it should.

We should do whatever is possible to reintroduce wolves to more of their habitat areas. I'd like to see the program expand the borders as wolves do not read maps. Surveys show that more than 80% of Arizonans favor expanding the wolves territory in this state and protecting them from human predators. I support their habitat extending from the Blue range through the Grand Canyon ecoregion in all suitable habitat. Wild wolves belong in the Southwest and should be afforded all possible protection from human predators.

Sue Singer
Flagstaff, Arizona
928 526-9380

--

"The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience."

Harper Lee

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"Michael Harris" <michael@kineticstrategies.com>
11/29/2007 02:16 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Please keep the process of wolf recovery moving forward. Predators are
a

major part of the whole ecosystem. In order to maintain a healthy planet

wolves need to be in it.

Adrienne Waliking
10020 S. 46th Place
Phoenix, AZ 85044

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Charlotte Taft <taftoram@cybermesa.com>
11/29/2007 02:22 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Mr. Millsap,

We are writing in support of efforts to return wolves to the wilds

of Arizona and New Mexico. We realize that balancing wildlife and human society can be difficult, but we believe that it is critical to keep our wild lands as natural as possible. Wolves are an important part of that balance.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Taft and Shelley Oram
Box 428
Glorieta, NM 87535
505-757-2991

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Ronisfree@aol.com
11/29/2007 04:14 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Brian Millsap, State Administrator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

We are sending this email to provide our support for the recovery of the Mexican Wolf in New Mexico and Arizona. We recognize there are other viewpoints on this issue but we firmly believe in the natural diversity our beautiful state can and should preserve. We also believe that all the parties involved can reach a compromise that saves this beautiful animal. Please find a way through the "spin" that results in a rational decision for all.

Ron & Joy Mandelbaum
47 Happy Trails
Santa Fe, NM 87505
505-992-1970

Check out AOL Money & Finance's list of the hottest products and top money wasters of 2007.

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"ziabear@juno.com" <ziabear@juno.com>
11/29/2007 04:25 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
wolf

Please stop the killing of these wild life animals in this state, there
are only a few, keep what we have. Thank you

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"warren harkey" <harkey@zianet.com>
11/29/2007 09:14 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
wolf eradication program

We strongly support our Governor in his efforts to safeguard the last wild wolves in New Mexico. Please listen to the majority in this state!

Warren Harkey
3201 Bowman
Las Cruces, NM
88005

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"Tia Triplett" <tia@anlf.com>
11/30/2007 10:51 AM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
"Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping"

Please save these magnificent animals. Do not hurt or kill them. They deserve to be left alone and live out their life especially the pups with

their Mothers. It would be inhumane/cruel to trap or kill them.

Sincerely,

Tia Triplett

4073 Bledsoe Avenue

Los Angeles, Ca., 90066

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"alan seegert" <alan.se@gmail.com>
11/30/2007 10:53 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Greetings: As a Catron County resident, I want to express my
disappointment with the performance of the reintroduction effort to

date. It seems obvious to me that the program is faltering, and that not enough protection is being afforded the wolves. The recent decision to remove more wolves from the Aspen pack is a good example. The ranchers should be reimbursed for any losses, and the wolves should be left alone. There simply isn't enough genetic diversity in the subspecies to be killing or removing animals just because they preyed on a few cattle. Regards, Alan.

Alan Seegert
Box 44
Glenwood, NM 88039

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"Chip Cunningham | Uncharted Outposts" <Chip@unchartedoutposts.com>
11/30/2007 11:01 AM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
FW: Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Mr. Millsap,

Having been involved in Africa wildlife conservation for many years I have seen the damage done to the habitat by the killing of species like the African wild hunting dog what was systematically destroyed in the same way and for the same reasons the Grey Wolves are being killed here in the US. You need to stop trying hyper-manage this animal and find alternative solutions to the present situation.

Please reconsider your ordered for the immediate removal of two important female wolves and their pups from the wild.

Respectfully,
Charles Cunningham

Charles "Chip" Cunningham
Uncharted Outposts, Inc.
9 Village Lane
Santa Fe, NM 87505
1 (888) 995-0909 or (505) 795-7710
www.UnchartedOutposts.com

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"Lynn Ledgerwood" <lynnledgerwood@nwpavement.com>
11/30/2007 11:29 AM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

November 30, 2007

I was APPALLED to hear that the US Fish and Wildlife Service, while

holding meetings on the future of wolves in New Mexico, have ordered the immediate removal of two important female wolves and their pups from the wild. I was further DISTRESSED to learn that federal officials are already searching the Gila Forest for these wolves and if they cannot be easily trapped, you will likely shoot them! My God, what are you people doing?

I truly expect the destruction of wild places and the wildlife that reside there from the Bush Administration - they have shown nothing but contempt for sound science and the wishes of a MAJORITY of US citizens that our wild places and wildlife be saved. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to be ABOVE political interference.

In closing, I am begging you to save the Lobo. If we allow these magnificent creatures to pass into extinction, then there is little hope for the remaining wild places and creatures that reside there. Please do the right thing and fully protect the Mexican Gray Wolves now. Save the Lobo!

Lynn Ledgerwood
2605 Otis St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-570-3392

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leon fager <desertf@swcp.com>
11/30/2007 12:47 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear US Fish and Wildlife Service:

11/30/2007

I would like to go on record opposing the removal of Mexican Gray Wolves

from public lands in Arizona and New Mexico.

The Mexican Gray Wolf is public property using public lands. Domestic Livestock are private property with the privilege, not a right, to use National Forest lands. Public use of public lands should take precedent over private use. If ranchers lose livestock to wolves they are more than compensated by the ultra-low grazing fees they are charged. Loss of livestock to predators is one of the risks the ranchers take by using public land for their private activities.

I want my public lands used for wildlife, recreation and water quality rather than subsidizing the life style of ranchers. As far as I am concerned all livestock should be removed from public lands and there is no compelling reason that their use is compatible with the other uses of the land. The wolf is part of our national heritage and biodiversity and should be protected and recovered by all possible means. If the livestock industry can't coexist with the wolf and other wildlife species on our public lands the them find another line of work.

I think it's time that when a wolf is trapped or killed because of livestock loss that a cow be trapped or killed and I am ready to take this action.

Sincerely,
Leon Fager
2500 Chip Ct
Rio Rancho, NM
87124
505-891-1906

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Gary Cascio <design@latenitegrafix.com>
11/30/2007 01:36 PM

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senator_domenici@domenici.senate.gov,
scheduling@richardsonforpresident.com, letters@sfnewmexican.com,
kwalz@abqjournal.com, editor@sfreporter.com
Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Brian Millsap, State Administrator
US Fish and Wildlife Service
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Sir:

In case you were not alerted to this, please read the following carefully:

Governor Richardson has instructed the Director of the Department of Game & Fish and members of the State Game Commission to work with the state's partners in the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program to review and revise standard operating procedures related to the control of nuisance (non-depredating) and problem (depredating) Mexican wolves. The Governor has also called for the immediate suspension of the use of Standard Operating Procedure 13 (SOP 13) procedures in New Mexico pending these revisions.

"I strongly support the effective recovery of endangered Mexican wolves in the Southwest, done in a responsible and sensitive way," said Governor Bill Richardson. "Changes must be made to the protocol for the wolf re-introduction program."

From the head of our state government, Bill Richardson, to a vast majority of New Mexico citizens, we all seem to be saying the same thing your government agency's handling of the wolf reintroduction in New Mexico is unacceptable. In polls, time and time again, we New Mexicans have stated we were FOR wolf reintroduction in New Mexico. We don't want to see endangered wolves destroyed for killing a few cattle, who, last time I checked, were no where near being listed on the Endangered Species List.

But, in the case of the Aspen Pack removal, it sounds like the US Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting business as usual. So, my question to you is, exactly whose wishes are you carrying out by proceeding as usual and what are you doing to comply with Governor Richardson's, and a majority of New Mexican's, stated wishes? I await your response.

Sincerely;
Gary Cascio

P.S. And if you haven't figured it out by now, you can add my name to the list of New Mexicans who are against the way you are currently running this program. We demand you run this program FOR WOLF RECOVERY and not kowtow to a minority group of activists ranchers.

Late Nite Grafix, Inc.
3600 Cerrillos Road • Suite 729 A
work (505) 984-0941

fax (505) 471-2861
Santa Fe, NM 87507
www.latenitegrafix.com

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"Cyndy Wicker" <cyndywicker@earthlink.net>
11/30/2007 02:32 PM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
AttN: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Brian Millsap,

I can not attend the meeting in Tucson regarding the Mexican Gray Wolf, but want to forward my comments as I am extremely interested in the future of wolves in Arizona and New Mexico.

This program of reintroduction has struggled for 10 years, and there have been many mistakes made.

The political and artificial boundaries imposed on the wolves is a direct cause of many problems for this species.

The wolf is an important predator for this region and should be allowed to play out its natural role in the environment. Certainly concessions have to be made for the welfare of people and livestock, but the actions of your agency have been too restrictive and therefore the reintroduction has suffered and many wolves have unnecessarily died in the process.

Please remedy those past mistakes and finally, let's get his program going in the right direction. Let's truly give these magnificent animals the right to claim some space without meaningless boundaries being imposed only for the sake of politics. You have the opportunity to preserve an endangered species and restore the ecological balance. Please don't let that slip away.

Thank you for reading this message.

Cynthia Wicker

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"jobe_1" <jobe_1@sbcglobal.net>
11/30/2007 02:39 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
[FR Doc: E7-14626];[Page 44065-44069]; Endangered and threatened species:
Mexican gray wolf

I am writing to comment on the above proposal. It is imperative to protect the Mexican wolf from extinction. Ranchers do not own public land and need to be more responsible ranchers. They need to pick up dead livestock so the wolves will not become acclimated to livestock as well as many other ways of making it hard for wolves to endanger their livestock. Wolves do not know boundaries and ranchers should not be allowed to graze on public land where wolves are located. There is no need to get rid of the wolves - rein in the ranchers. The ranchers seem to think, for some reason, they do not have to obey the law like everyone else does. There needs to be some sanity in this program somewhere. The Mexican wolf should be allowed to live and thrive in its native areas without the interference of man.

It is also well know that wolves are less than 1/2 of 1% of livestock losses but get the credit for everything. This characterization by the ranching community needs to be stopped. If everything that kills livestock was destroyed, there would be very little wildlife in America.

Thank you.

Laura Jobe
Pearland, TX

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Smattison@aol.com
11/30/2007 04:46 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
[FR Doc: E7-14626];[Page 44065-44069]; Endangered and threatened species:
Mexica

ATTN: MEXICAN GRAY WOLF NEPA SCOPING

I am submitting these comments solely as a private individual interested in wildlife and the environment. Please withhold my personal identifying information from public review to the greatest extent possible.

Clearly, the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf is not doing as well as hoped. Therefore, I offer the following comments, using the Federal Register listing as a guideline:

a) Current management stipulations that require wolves that establish home ranges outside the BRWRA to be removed and re-released into the BRWRA or taken into captivity:
These stipulations need to be changed to give the Service the authority to allow wolves to establish territories outside the BRWRA so that the reintroduction project objective can be met and, preferably, exceeded.

b) Current management stipulations allow for initial Mexican gray wolf releases from captivity only into the primary recovery zone of the BRWRA:
Since management experience has shown that this stipulation sets impractical limits on the reintroduction process, it should be limited, allowing wolves from the captive breeding populations to be released into New Mexico.

c) Definition of the White Sands Missile Range as the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area:
Since it is not of sufficient size to function as an independent recovery area, it should not be designated as such.

d) Limited provisions for private individuals to "harass" wolves engaged in nuisance behavior or livestock depredation, or which are attacking domestic pets:
I strongly disfavor permitting any treatment which could potentially injure or kill Mexican gray wolves. The line must remain firm on this point. Livestock and pet wellbeing is not a priority in this situation.
The survival of a wild species is the priority.

e) Current provisions in the 1998 NEP final rule that don't allow for "take" of wolves in the act of attacking domestic dogs on private or Tribal Trust lands:
I do not consider the "taking" of Mexican gray wolves in favor of domestic dogs to be justifiable. Permitting individuals to kill an endangered, nearly extirpated wild animal which is barely functioning in only a

portion of its historic range is highly misguided. Again, the wellbeing of domestic animals is not the priority here; humans will have to adjust to that fact.

f) Livestock carcass management and disposal issue:

At the very least, livestock operators on public land should be exclusively responsible for proper disposal of their livestock carcasses, and the terms "nuisance wolves" and "problem wolves" should be redefined so as to exclude wolves that scavenge on the carcasses of livestock that died of non-wolf carcasses. I do not believe that wolves should be penalized at all for scavenging on the carcasses of livestock. Furthermore, I do not believe that wolves should be penalized for killing livestock. I do not believe that livestock operators should be permitted to operate on public land in the first place. The livestock, not the wolves, are the exotic animals in this area, and their very presence is at best neutral, more likely harmful to the local ecosystem because of overgrazing. Again, in a clash of interests, the wellbeing of the wild animals in their historic range has to be the priority.

I urge the Service to make all necessary changes so that the reintroduction can fully and quickly succeed.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Priscilla J. Mattison
351 Hidden River Road
Narberth PA 19072

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Daisy Kates <daisyklay@yahoo.com>
11/30/2007 05:25 PM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican gray wolf NEPA scoping

Att: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Mr. Milsap,

In the past I never understood why certain environmental groups pushed for the re-introduction of the Mexican gray wolf. I always thought it was a contentious issue that activists should stay away from.

I have come to understand how wolves help to provide a healthy ecosystem. I now realize why certain groups have taken it on as a cause...even though it evokes anger in ranchers and other community members. As I have become educated about the integral part the wolf plays, I think in the end it benefits all members of the community. I understand that ranchers have a history of resentment towards wolves, but I believe they can come to accept their place and beneficial effect.

I hope you will look at the big picture of environmental health when it comes to the rule changes that will provide a place for the Mexican gray wolf in Arizona and New Mexico.

Yours truly,

Daisy Kates
PO Box 661
Placitas, New Mexico 87043

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"Charles Broder" <CBroder1@msn.com>
11/30/2007 06:08 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Sirs:

I am encouraged by the reintroduction of wolves into a small portion of their former range, and especially by the gray wolf back into small portions of Arizona (my home) and New Mexico.

We have seen numerous problems resulting from overpopulation of deer and elk when their natural predators are eliminated. The eastern U.S. is a good example. As a control measure, human hunting of deer and elk tends to focus on the healthy and best specimens, and not the weakest and less able of the prey who are instead more vulnerable to natural predators.

When wolves were introduced to the Yellowstone area, it was also observed that resident elk become more wary and stopped congregating near water, and in large groups, which damaged their environment. Presence of wolves dispersed elk populations. There can be little argument that a healthy predator population is good for the environment.

Of course we also have to contend with the human element and address the concerns of some. One sector sees wolves as competition in killing of prey. I think there is enough for all, and this need to limit wolf populations to make deer and elk more available to human hunters becomes an unfounded, and sometimes irrational argument. Another objection is that wolves cause property losses because they kill livestock. This is a more legitimate concern and not so easily dismissed. Our reintroduction programs should address this by providing compensation and by selecting wolves who don't depend excessively on livestock. Another partial solution to decrease the number of complaints might be to avoid devoting some government-owned land to ranching by leaseholders when the leases are for less than market value. There is no universally acceptable solution, and I think you have to reach a reasonable compromise. That decision should be based first and foremost on good science and promotion of a healthy natural environment. This will not provide an insurmountable impediment towards beneficial reintroduction of the wolf.

Charles Broder
6171 N. Via Acacia
Tucson, AZ 85718

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Brenda Fradin <bfradin@qwest.net>
11/30/2007 09:19 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf

To:
Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Albuquerque, NM 87113

I am concerned about the Mexican Gray Wolf. There has to be a balance of nature. The wolfs keep the rabbit population under control. Without them the rabbits would totally destroy all the cactus plants by eating the roots out. I am sure that the wolfs keep other things in balance as well.

Working together with agencies that care about the desert and it's balance would benefit everyone. We have a responsibility to care for the earth its animals, plants and atmosphere.

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Dear People,

It is so important that the Mexican Grey Wolf be protected, by what ever means we canmuster. This important animal, once held a place in our ecosystem and that system was healthier because of the Mexican Gray Wolf. In trying to keep our special Sky Islands protected and safe, we need to make sure there is a place for all the animals that once knew this habitat as their own. Please do everything you can to make sure the Mexican Gray Wolf has a safe home.

Thank you
Sande Rego-Ross
9208 North Condor Place
Tucson, AZ 85742

Check out AOL Money & Finance's list of the hottest products and top
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wasters of 2007.

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I am writing today to ask that the same protections given to the wolves in the Northern Rockies be given to the Mexican Gray Wolf. The beautiful animals are vital to the balance of the environment and should never have been exterminated. Please make the necessary changes to the rules to ensure the successful recovery of the Mexican Gray Wolf. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carla Morin
9346 W. Clara Ln.
Peoria, AZ 85382

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money
wasters of 2007.

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 09:41 AM

"SweetwaterLLC" <jim@cleanairpurewater.com>
11/30/2007 11:36 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

It is curious to me that the reintroduction of the Mexican Gray Wolf has been so difficult. Certainly, though cantankerous, ranchers in southern Arizona and New Mexico are no worse than ranchers in Idaho where wolves have repopulated quite successfully, much to the dismay of numerous locals.

If one is to believe the rumor mill or word of mouth, the difference is in the tenacity of the USFWS staff in implementing the recovery, often bowing to pressure from locals rather than holding firm on ESA, which is federal law.

Certainly ranchers and other locals who choose to do so can undermine the effectiveness of any restoration effort by willfully killing or poisoning wolves, so perhaps there is some cause to placate them. However, resistance is based on fear - fear of loss, fear of change, fear of not being the top predator. Everyone must simply move past this and grow accustomed to sharing the landscape with predators other than ourselves.

USFWS has picked too small a recovery zone and has too limited a vision for recovery, along with a weak attitude toward success.

Using the 1998 10j rule to limit distribution of wolves is pointless. If successful at breeding in the wild wolves will naturally expand their range and should be allowed to go wherever they wish. Trapping wolves that leave the recovery zone is a waste of taxpayer dollars and an endless effort that serves no purpose.

Left to their own devices wolves will repopulate wherever suitable habitat and food exists. They should be allowed to do so.

Also, it seems to me that the area of the Arizona Strip north of the Grand Canyon, the Navajo and Hopi Reservations, the Kaibab Plateau extending into the Grand Staircase National Monument and Zion National Park offers a second recovery zone within historical habitat where there is currently very little human population. This area would make an excellent choice for a second recovery zone.

Finally, changes must be made to grazing practices on public lands. No doubt promises were made to ranchers that their traditional grazing leases on public lands wouldn't be affected by wolf reintroduction. This is inappropriate and change is overdue. Wolves were present when the

grandfathers of current ranchers first introduced cattle to this landscape. No doubt losses were incurred by wolves and this is in part what prompted their extirpation.

Men have to make room for other species and for a fully functioning landscape. Cattle grazing should be limited or eliminated entirely as necessary to restore landscape function. Men and wolves can co-exist and

it is foolish to think that men aren't going to have to give up something to allow this to happen.

The entire idea of some managed recovery area bounded by a zone where animals will be trapped and relocated wrecks of big government and wasted dollars.

Let's just face the facts here folks and get on with recovery. Let the wolves roam and fine or jail anyone caught shooting or poisoning them.

In summary then, I make the following points:

- 1) Establish a second recovery area in northern Arizona, southern Utah, northwest New Mexico, and southwest Colorado.
- 2) Allow wolves to wander wherever they will and afford them full protection under ESA.
- 3) Change the practice of year round grazing, eliminating grazing entirely in key areas and employing rotational grazing schemes where appropriate in order to benefit habitat on public lands.
- 4) Replace current USFWS staff with program staff that will get the job done in spite of local attitudes or resistance.

James P McMahon
ecologist
375 Cedar Tree Drive
Brookside, UT 84782
435-574-2711

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"Peter Sinclair" <pgsinclair@earthlink.net>
12/01/2007 07:37 AM

Please respond to
"Peter Sinclair" <pgsinclair@earthlink.net>

To
<r2fwe_al@FWS.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf

The wolf is a natural part of the habitat. Without predators the ecosystem is out of balance. Please make a sensible decision.

Peter Sinclair
Phoenix, Arizona

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ellen dewitt <ellenjoyjhai@yahoo.com>
12/01/2007 08:05 AM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
wolves in New Mexico

Dear Bill Millsap,

I am writing to you to please consider my plea to let the wolves stay living in the Gila Wilderness here in New Mexico. Natural predators are an integral part of our ecosystem. Scientists have been studying this and have proof of the great impact of changing ecosystems, can essentially kill life as we know it. And inevitably even killing humans by our own ignorant actions to kill everything that seems a threat. If the climate is screwed up so will our chances of survival in this fast changing world. If the building block diversity of life if knocked down, us as humans at the top of the food chain will have a fast fall. The balance is delicate. Every species that we can save is crucial. I believe that many more people want the wolves here than don't want the wolves here. Eradication is no different than genocide. The American people have done hunted wolves and buffalo to practical extinction for example. We regret this greatly. We don't have to hate and kill because we have choice and solution and tolerance. Please. I hope the wolves can make it with your help!

Ellen DeWitt

509 Valverde dr se

Abq, NM 87108

Be a better pen pal. Text or chat with friends inside Yahoo! Mail. See how.

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"Anne Lewis" <sumac2@cybermesa.com>
12/01/2007 08:15 AM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican wolf comment

Attn:Mexican grey Wolf NEPA Scoping---The removal of the Aspen pack would be a tragedy.

That said, I wonder why 3,000 Minnesota wolves and 300 in N. Carolina are a tourist attraction, but 25 in New Mexico are a crisis?

Is there enough forage for deer and elk here? Are the deer and elk overhunted(or over poached) by man?Have cattle eaten all the grasses?Or are the S.W. wolves just cattle-hungry? I always thought it was a shame to go into some remote supposed wilderness area to find the predominate species is bovine.

Perhaps letting the Mexican wolves out of their artificial boundary might take some pressure off them and off the ranchers in that area.

Maybe people from the International Wolf Center in Minnesota could add their experiences to help.

Anne P. Lewis
P.O. Box 1501
Tijeras, N.M.

87059

sumac2@cybermesa.com

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----- Forwarded by Magdalena Etemadi/R2/FWS/DOI on 12/04/2007 09:39 AM

jane paulls <jpaulls@yahoo.com>
12/01/2007 09:09 AM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Wolf endangered species and re-capturing the Aspen Pack.

Jane Paulls [Mrs] 12609 Colony Place, Albuquerque, NM 87122. I
am

confused by the state and country wide feeling at the grass roots level that endangered animals, and the balance of nature, need preservation, which conflicts with the news that the Aspen pack is being sought and hunted. Will the pack be placed in a Preserve situation to keep the gene pool healthy? Are livestock being lost because the ranchers are exterminating natural prey? What is the plan? What are the contingency plans? I would be interested in hearing more and I could not be at the meeting in Albuquerque at the IPCC last evening. Thank you for being available by e-mail.

Get easy, one-click access to your favorites. Make Yahoo! your homepage.

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Phyl Morello <fastphyl1@hotmail.com>
12/01/2007 10:14 AM

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

Dear Sir

My family & I fully SUPPORT PROTECTION FOR THE MEXICAN GRAY WOLVES.

It is morally wrong to kill them & to kill the 2 main females & their pups.

It is wrong for our woefully inadequate government to order the killings & to have federal officials wasting time hunting them in the Gila Forest when there is much more important work for them to do.

The wolves are misunderstood & feared & hated. The US government promotes this hatred & fear & killing the wolves. Again, it is morally wrong.

Please do not let the federal government continue the rampage of hate against wolves.

Please STOP THE KILLING OF WOLVES.

Phyl Morello
984 Harrison Ferry
White Pine TN 37890

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"Paul Davis" <p_davis@envirologicinc.com>
12/01/2007 11:21 AM

Please respond to
<p_davis@envirologicinc.com>

To
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>
cc
<senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov>,
<ask.heather@mail.house.gov>
Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping - the real issue and the only true
solution

Dear Mr. Sloan,

I attended last evenings on the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf in New Mexico and Arizona. I would appreciate it if you would consider the following comments in your deliberations.

General Comment

My overall feeling at last nights hearing was that our priorities and rational have gotten so turned around that we are debating how and, in some locations, whether or not a native species should be reintroduced to the wild.

This is insane.

Instead of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service standing in front of us and defending the reintroduction of native animals to the wild, we should immediately remove all cattle (and sheep) from all public lands. Then we could have ranchers in front of us defending why they should be allowed to introduce non-native species into the wild. Can you imagine the NEPA process for the introduction of non-native species into the wild? The ranchers would have to defend why a 1,000 pound animal from a humid climate should be introduced into the semi-arid west. They would have to defend the use of the vast majority of our water resources for growing alfalfa and feed corn. They would have to defend why their non-native species should be allowed to pollute our streams and rivers. They would have to defend why they should be allowed to kill any wildlife that interferes with their non-native species. They would have to defend criss-crossing our public lands with barbed wire fences. They would have to defend why adjacent land owners would be required to fence out their non-native species. They would have to defend the myriad of tax write offs and subsidies required for the introduction of their non-native species. They would have to defend the creation local, state, and federal agencies needed to support the introduction their non-native species into the wild. They would have to convince the tax payers why so many millions of their dollars are required to introduce and maintain a non-native species on our public lands. They would have to defend the extinction of wild animals to

support the introduction of their non-native species into the wild. They would have to defend why we should allow increased fire risk due to the introduction of their non-native species into the wild. They would have to defend the encroachment of junipers into historic meadows due to the introduction of their non-native species into the wild. They would have to defend the increased soil erosion due to the introduction of their non-native species into the wild. And the list goes on and on and on.

At least the NEPA process would be direct and short - no one in their right mind would allow the introduction of cows onto our public lands if they had to follow NEPA or any rational decision process.

Now as a native New Mexican whose family roots go back many generations in New Mexico, I understand how we got to this point. I understand that when cows were introduced we did not understand the delicate balance of the semi-arid landscape. My Spanish ancestors saw beautiful pastures and did not realize that these pastures were the result of a balance between the native species and the climate. They couldn't see that the introduction of a very large non-native species from a humid climate would dramatically tip the balance. The survival of this non-native species required water subsidies. That is, we had to divert our surface and groundwaters to alfalfa and corn fields to subsidize the feeding of these non-native species. At the time, the water resources seemed to be limitless. Unfortunately, we are now painfully aware of how wrong that assumption was.

And we all know how hard it is to change direction even in the face of an absolute wrong like cattle grazing. For many, many years America embraced slavery beyond the time where the vast majority of Americans agreed it was dreadfully wrong. They continued slavery because of the vested interests of a few and the ill-defined and indefensible reason called 'tradition.'

Now we have environmental slavery. Cattle grazing enslaves the vast majority of our public lands. I don't make this claim lightly. As a professional earth scientist and as a native New Mexican who is familiar with almost all of this state's public lands, the destruction is beyond obvious. The destruction slaps me in the face every time I drive down our highways and roads or hike in our public lands. I live in a US Forest Service inholding adjacent to one of their (our) grazing allotments. I am continually sickened by what I see.

And the reason this atrocity continues? The vested interests of a few shored up by the elusive concept of tradition.

Well it is time for a new tradition. A tradition of respect for the land and nature, a tradition of fiscal responsibility, and a tradition of sustainability.

With regard to the issue at hand, the new tradition begins with the introduction of wolf to their entire natural range and the elimination of all cattle grazing on our public lands.

Specific Comments

These comments attempt to respond to issues raised in the slide show you presented at last night's hearings.

1. As you can guess from my general comment, I do not think that the wolves that have been introduced should be considered as 'experimental.' They are essential to the ecosystem. The cows are non-essential and the results of a failed experiment - remove them.
2. You are concerned about primary and secondary territories and the associated rules used to manage those areas. In my view, wolves should be introduced to their entire original habitat. There should be no restrictions on their migration and movement.
3. Resolve livestock-wolf conflicts by removing all livestock. Truly if you cared about the "U.S. Fish and Wildlife" this is the first thing you would do. While in the process of doing this, I recommend that no wolves be killed for any purpose (killing livestock, pets, etc.).

Sincerely,

Paul A. Davis
PO Box 1736
Tijeras, New Mexico 87008
Phone: 505-383-5376
Cell Phone: 505-688-6053
Fax: 505-286-8438
Email: p_davis@EnviroLogicInc.com

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Bobbie Fisher <manualoha2002@yahoo.com>
12/01/2007 11:37 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Do not kill wolves.

Please protect this endangered species and halt the killing of the
Aspen

pack. I am shocked that unthinking people cave in to political pressure.

I am calling the governor now to get a stay so as not to kill these creatures.

Barbara Fisher
Santa Clara, New Mexico

Never miss a thing. Make Yahoo your homepage.

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Jess Alford <easyjess@nmia.com>
12/01/2007 12:03 PM

To
<p_davis@envirologicinc.com>
cc
<r2fwe_al@fws.gov>, <senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov>,
<ask.heather@mail.house.gov>
Subject
Re: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping - the real issue and the only true solution

To: U. S. Fish and Wildlife
From: Jess Alford

It's a great puzzlement to me as to why I should need to write U.S.F.W. to justify prioritizing wolf recovery over livestock grazing. After all isn't the Mexican Wolf a native species to the Western United States and isn't the stated mission of U.S.F.W. "Conserving the Nature of America?" And isn't the introduction of domestic animals into western ecosystems in direct opposition to "Conserving the Nature of America?"

Wolves are a distinct part of our western ecosystem and fit into the overall plan of preserving this ecosystem. Domestic livestock destroy riparian areas, which is the habitat of eighty five percent of our wildlife, by totally consuming cottonwood, willow and aspen along stream beds leaving wide, shallow streams void of vegetation unsuitable for either native fish or wildlife. Added to this destruction is the pollution in the form of livestock feces in the streams and methane to add to overall global warming.

Should livestock be allowed to stay, which would still be a detriment in itself, then the addition of wolves would keep these domestic creatures moving giving the riparian vegetation a chance to flourish as has been exemplified by the successful reintroduction of wolves into the Yellowstone area of Wyoming.

Ranching on public lands is not a sustainable venture and would likely soon vanish were it not for a plethora of government subsidies among which is the mass killing of wildlife by Wild Life Services under the guise of protecting livestock. Wildlife Services slaughters not just wolves but mountain lions, coyotes, bears, prairie dogs and other wildlife while trying it best to stay out of the public eye so that we don't know of the havoc they spread.

In addition, the largest nutrition study ever done spelled out in a book titled "The China Study" by Dr. T. Collin Campbell, a team project of Cornell University, Oxford University and the Chinese Sciences Academy, showed the number one cause of cancer to be animal protein.

The worry of diseases among livestock would be calmed with wolf introduction. Deer carrying whirling disease, rabbits carrying tularemia, and other species carrying diseases would be the easiest prey for wolves.

Prioritizing wolf recovery over livestock would not only be a great step toward a healthy western ecosystem but would amount to our coming to terms with our own western land, to bring it toward the beauty it once held, to Conserving the Nature of America and to bring ourselves a step closer to who we really are.

Thank you for lending an ear to all our comments,

Jess Alford

On Dec 1, 2007, at 11:21 AM, Paul Davis wrote:

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Sincerely,

Paul A. Davis
PO Box 1736
Tijeras, New Mexico 87008
Phone: 505-383-5376
Cell Phone: 505-688-6053
Fax: 505-286-8438
Email: p_davis@EnviroLogicInc.com

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mary kotzen <zenpugs@mac.com>
12/01/2007 01:48 PM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

I was at the meeting in Albuquerque last night. I appreciated the opportunity to speak to a representative on the matter. I am in favor

of the program. I just hope that places can be picked that will be as safe as possible for the wolf. Not in areas that will shoot the wolf regardless of the laws that are being broken. Mary Kotzen 7212
Minehead st nw Albq NM 87120 5057921193

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Paul Van Steenberghe <vansteen@math.umaine.edu>
12/01/2007 08:02 PM

To
<R2FWE_AL@fws.gov>
cc

Subject
Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping

To: John Slown
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

From: Paul Van Steenberghe
287 Fourth St.
Old Town, Me 04468
pvansteen@aol.com
vansteen@math.umaine.edu

Re: Mexican Gray Wolf Comments

I am very concerned about the recovery of the Mexican Gray Wolf in the US.

I think that the current regulations are pretty good but that the rule that

allows one to "Kill or injure a wolf in the act of killing your livestock

on

private or tribal lands, and report it within 24 hours." should be moved to

the list of activities one may not do. Also, I don't think animals should

be removed or destroyed if they are a "nuisance". Move them, but don't destroy them. Expand their range with animals that must be moved.

Anyhow, I think it is very important to protect these wolves and to give

them plenty of space to roam. The 50 to 400 sq. mi. mentioned as their present range is really quite small. Other recovery areas would be nice,

even if it is politically difficult to do. We need to act as stewards for

these endangered species and do all we can to get them to prosper again.

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"Gary Collins" <gbcollins@fastmail.fm>
12/02/2007 09:52 AM

To
r2fwe_al@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Mexican Wolf

I am writing this to express my strong support to continue and possibly expand your efforts to reintroduce the Mexican Gray Wolf into the wild

lands of the Southwest. As similar programs in Yellowstone has shown having an ecosystem with a wide range of predators is very beneficial to the health of all plants and animals in the system. I believe you are charged with the responsibility to properly manage public lands to protect the interests of the general public. From every survey I have seen, the public overwhelmingly support this type of program and you should follow their wishes. After all it is public land and it should be managed as the general public directs. The only group I have ever heard against this and I dare say all Forest Service management programs is the ranching industry. For their objections I have the following three comments: 1)they are using public lands, if they don't want to use our land as the public wants then they should get off it and raise their cattle somewhere else; 2)ranchers are compensated for kills that are made by wolfs; 3) while ranchers that graze on public land may be an important economic factor to small communities, they contribute less than one percent of the national meat supply. I am offended that such a small group has so much say over the management of our public land. They have been allowed to use and in many cases abuse our lands in the West for far too long. They should be required to pay a realistic grazing fee and be limited to numbers that can be sustained without negatively impacting the ecosystem. Keep the wolf and hold paramount what is best for our forests and future generations of Americans.

Gary Collins
Santa Fe, NM

--

Gary Collins
gbcollins@fastmail.fm

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CYNNSTAR@aol.com
12/02/2007 10:34 AM

To
R2FWE_AL@fws.gov
cc

Subject
wolf reintroduction program

Hello,

I am strongly in favor of continuing and expanding the wolf

reintroduction program. I do not agree with the policy of killing wolves who feed on livestock. I understand there are programs that compensate ranchers. I think it is unreasonable for ranchers to be able to turn loose their herds on public lands, with no guardians or other supervision, and not expect some losses. It is more than enough to compensate them financially. It is also my understanding that wolves get blamed for killing cattle that may have died from other reasons, and the wolves are just eating them as carrion.

Maybe you should be thinking about reducing human hunting in wolf areas so that more deer and elk are available to the wolves. I am concerned with how heavily weighted USFWS is with hunters. I believe that your employee ratio of hunters to non-hunters is far greater than the proportion of hunters in society at large. How much influence are they having on the decision to track and kill a wolf (quite an opportunity for hunters) rather than find ways to keep the wolves alive in the wild? We cannot hope to preserve our wild lands and ultimately our environment unless we allow normal, healthy predator/prey relationships to resume. The needs of cattle ranchers, who are in reality a small number of very recent, in terms of natural history, interlopers in the southwest, simply do not trump the needs of wildlife and restoring the balance of nature.

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