

12-5-07

DEAR SIRs,

I LIVE IN CATRON  
COUNTY, N. M. I SUPPORT  
THE MEXICAN WOLF PROGRAM.

I SPEND A LOT OF TIME  
IN THE GILAL FOREST &  
GILA WILDERNESS AND HAVE  
NOT HAD ANY PROBLEMS WITH  
WOLVES.

SOME IMPROVEMENTS TO THE  
PROGRAM WOULD HELP SUCH AS:

- 1) ALLOW INITIAL RELEASE INTO GILA.
- 2) UPDATE [1982] RECOVERY PLAN.

- OVER -

3) NON-PROBLEM WOLVES SHOULD NOT BE REMOVED BECAUSE THEY CROSS A INVISSIBLE LINE.

4) STOP KILLING THE WOLVES.

I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THIS PROGRAM FROM THE START & WISH FOR IT TO BE MORE SUCCESSFUL & TO CONTINUE. WOLVES BELONG HERE. WE CAN LIVE WITH THEM.

SINCERELY,

Thomas C. Evans

Thomas C. Evans  
HC 61 Box 586  
Glenwood, NM 88039

Mexican Grey Wolf Recovery Program Hearing, Dec. 5, 2007 at Glenwood, NM

It is appropriate for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to review its' Mexican Grey Wolf program. Any program that has not achieved its stated goals in 10 years needs to be analyzed. Three questions come to the mind:

1. Were the original goals realistic?
2. Are there confounding influences that were not measured or have significantly changed?
3. Are those strongly advocating for the wolves facing reality or using wishful thinking?

It would appear that the original goals for the program were set for too high a number of animals. Advocates have stated in news articles that the lack of numbers is because of wolf elimination because of livestock depredation. Maybe the problem lies with a lack of prey animals in the area. When the wolves cannot find enough elk and deer, they will turn to domestic animals. A recent news article quoted a game commission member as stating that the wolves were not affecting the elk herd in the area. A few days later, a game department official refuted the number of elk cited in the article saying it was only a computer projection. The article in the news stated the primary diet of the wolf in Mexico is Coues deer and here it is elk. What are the numbers of deer, Coues and Mule, in the recovery area? Is the deer herd going up or down? Are the wolves eating more deer than anyone realizes? The necessity of having 'feeding stations' for the wolves would indicate a lack of prey animals.

Maybe the elk numbers in the computer model are accurate. Are the wolves the only influence on the elk herd? What is the influence of increased precipitation and forage growth on the elk?

Some advocates for the wolves are not realistic in their appraisal of the situation here. One such area is the question of cattle carcasses available to eat and thus give the wolves a taste for beef. These advocates blame the ranchers for not disposing of the dead animals. This is entirely unrealistic. In this rugged area which can require over 60 acres per cow unit, it is often impossible to find a missing live animal, let alone a dead one. I would suggest instead of generating press releases, these individuals find a rancher willing to take them, and try to find and dispose of a dead cow.

don dykhouse, page one

Some of these advocates want to compare the success of the wolves in Yellowstone National Park and the Great Lakes area of the United States. These are not valid comparisons. In Yellowstone National Park, 70 grey wolves were captured in Canada and directly transferred to the park. The wolves here were captive bred and pen raised. Also, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks probably have more elk than the whole state of New Mexico providing a large prey supply.

These individuals also like to cite the growing numbers of wolves in the Great Lakes Region. However, this was a natural expansion of the population from Canada, not a human facilitated movement. These animals moved in and reproduced because of a ready presence of large numbers of prey animals. Wisconsin alone has a white-tailed deer population that ranges from one million to one million, eight hundred thousand deer.

Advocates for the wolves like to cite benefits from eco-tourism resulting because of the wolves being present here. One report stated that 50,000 people took wolf related tours in Yellowstone National Park. It sounds like an impressive number until it is realized the park had over two million, eight hundred thousand visitors in 2006. That 50,000 is less than two percent of the people who chose to visit Yellowstone. It must also be considered that Yellowstone has over 1,000 wolves and the original goal here was only 100.

At least one organization has cited the success of the wolf center in Ely, Minnesota. One must realize this center does not limit its activities to the immediate Arrowhead Region of Minnesota. Also, they are dealing with much larger numbers of naturally occurring wild wolves—not captive bred introduced animals.

In conclusion, five suggestions for the Fish and Wildlife Service:

1. Accurately and fully assess the wolf carrying capacity of the region.
2. Remove any animals that are not genetically pure. If necessary, depopulate the whole recovery area and start with true, wild animals from wild to wild.
3. Remove all animals that have been pen raised or even penned for a short period of time—any such feeding will acclimate the wolves to people.
4. Continue the ‘three strikes’ rule. From press releases it appears the governor of New Mexico cares more for wolves than the safety and economic well-being of the people in this area.
5. Fully recompense cattle and horse owners for animals lost to wolf attacks. This needs to include the genetic values of the animals as well as the market price.

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

JANET WALLET ORTIZ  
2009 N Juniper Ave  
Silver City NM 88061  
575-388-2033

Page 1 of 2

12-05-07

Dear Sir,

I appeal to your sense of justice and fairness in making decisions regarding the rule change for the Mexican Gray.

#1 No other endangered species is forced to submit to arbitrary rules made by humans who seem to ignore the facts that wolves cannot read boundary signs and wolves need enough land to roam. Therefore, I insist that all restrictions to wolf dispersal and movements be eliminated. There should be NO exclusion of geographic areas from potential "occupation" by wolves. In addition, wolves are "family-centered," so recapturing + re-releasing wolves is dangerous to their packs. They can be traumatized by such actions. ~~In~~ Also, many wolves have suffered unnecessary physical injuries as a result of trapping + re-capture.

- 2 - Janet Wallat (Ortiz) (ORTIZ)  
2009 N Juniper Ave  
Silver City, NM 88061  
(p 2 of 2)

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

In terms of fairness, (#2) the classification of the NM gray is completely ridiculous, as you must realize. This is clearly an "experimental, ESSENTIAL" - endangered species - that is in NO WAY "non-essential." Congress has already ~~been~~ provided this language as a classification - please act upon it.

Finally, we need wolves in our ecosystem to restore the balance of the food chain. A recent article in the Silver City Press stated the elk population has actually increased - even w/ the wolves who are still in the wild.

Do NOT remove the Aspen pack - we need the genetic diversity of every single Gray that is left. Give the wolves!!!  
Janet Wallat Ortiz

## How to Submit Comments

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- Faxed comments may be sent to (505) 346-2542

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## Comments:

1 live less than 1 mile from the boundary of the Gila National Forest and I am not afraid of wolves.

I welcome their introduction into their historic homeland.

I request that USFWS change the wolves' status from "experimental, non-essential" to "experimental, essential." Only in this way can wolf reintroduction be successful.

Numerous surveys show that the majority of NM citizens are in favor of wolf reintroduction. I feel that USFWS has pandered to the special interests of a small minority: ranchers.

Most of the rancher kids I know are pretty tough, and can easily hold their own against a 55-60 lb.

wolf. If parents are truly concerned about the safety of small children, they should make sure their kids are properly supervised. USFWS should fund an updated recovery plan, since the current one is 25 years old. Ranchers should be made to remove carcasses of vander them unpalatable. No other industry (well, okay, maybe oil) receives so many subsidies as does the ranching industry. There is risk associated with all businesses. It's time that ranchers accept some responsibility.

Name: Donna Stevens

Street: PO Box 2721

City, State, Zip: Silver City, NM

88062

Tape closed with address on outside, and add a stamp.

DO NOT STAPLE

Thank you for your input!

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## Comments:

As a taxpayer,  
educator and rancher,  
I want to say that  
I feel the program  
is a failure: I resent  
having the program  
forced on my family.  
We have had a  
single wolf around  
the elementary school,  
a pair of wolves killing  
our cattle and I  
don't feel that it's  
fair to spend my  
tax dollars on a program  
that is ruining my life.

Name: Terri Tackman

Street: PO Box 116

Glenwood NM 88039

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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add a stamp.

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## Comments:

To Whom it may concern,  
First of all my family  
relies on tourist for our  
economy about 50 to 80%  
are hikers & hunters. My  
fear is that less & less of  
these people will come because  
of the wolf. Second of all  
WHAT ABOUT OUR CHILDREN!!  
There was a wolf spotted  
17 yds away from the childrens'  
school house while I was  
substituting, we couldn't  
even go outside for recess  
& now I hear we're getting  
a fence put around the playground  
& an officer is on watch  
COME ON PEOPLE! WHATS  
WRONG W/ THIS PICTURE  
Your fencing our kids in!  
DO YOU PEOPLE HAVE KIDS  
IF YOU DO THINK ABOUT  
THIS would you like this for  
your kids. Off & one more thing  
my grandmother who is 76 yrs.  
old ~~has~~ has lived here all  
her life told me to tell you  
THIS IS A BUNCH OF  
PULL STITCH!! (AND YOUR  
FAMILY)

Name: Sibyl Alfred

Street: Highway 20 N

~~City~~

City, State, Zip: Glenwood, NM  
88039

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add a stamp.

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## Comments:

*I am against the PROGRAM completely.*

Name: HUGH FAUST

Street: HC 61 Box 160 B

City, State, Zip: GLENWOOD NM

88039

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Thank you for your input!

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## Comments:

- Please consider including a conservation alternative that would change the Mexican Gray wolf's classification to "endangered" or "experimental, essential." Such a change will give them the stronger protections they need to succeed in the wild.
- Please also consider eliminating all of the current restrictions to wolf dispersal and movements.
- Also, please consider expanding the areas for initial releases of wolves to anywhere in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area.
- Consider a rule that would promote the resolution of wolf-livestock conflicts in ways that keep wolves in the wild and achieve progress towards reintroduction objectives. (For instance, under current rules, ranchers are not required to remove carcasses of livestock that die, and these carcasses attract wolves).
- Consider a rule that would prescribe all "take" of wolves (or that would at least significantly reduce take).
- Consider a recovery plan that would place no cap on the number of wolves Name: Alicia Clark Street: 1701 N. Alabama St. City, State, Zip: Silver City, NM 88061 in the wild population.
- Please consider revising ~~the~~ recovery plan before or concurrent with this rule change

Tape closed with address on outside, and add a stamp.

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Thank you for your input!

Thank you.

*Alicia Clark*

Alicia Clark  
Silver City, NM

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## Comments:

There needs to be better management of the Mexican Grey Wolf on 3 platforms:

1) Better compensation for confirmed wolf kills of live stock

2) Confirmed kills should not lead to wolf extermination. Wolf kills can be limited (or eliminated) by herd protection. There are breeds of canines specifically designed to protect herds from predators. These can be given to ~~breeders~~ breeders who use them.

3) GRADUAL extension of wolf-protection boundaries, through either reduction of grazing boundaries or changing grazing boundaries

introduced and compensatio

Name: Kyle von Holtum

Street: 1701 N Alabama

City, State, Zip: Silver City

NM 88061

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Thank you for your input!

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## Comments:

It is my understanding that a provision is in the statute - dectron program in yellow - stone/Cont. Idaho that says ranchers must immediately remove livestock carcasses or render them inedible - If this is not done & wolves feed on carcass & then prey on livestock in the area, they are not shot or removed. In other words, the burden is on the rancher. This protection is not afforded the Mex Grey's. This opens the door for ranchers to bait' wolves with carcass left on the ground intentionally. I feel ranchers need to take responsibility & be required to remove <sup>Street:</sup> or destroy carcasses & not like to see this provision added in this area.  
City, State, Zip:

Sue McDonald  
Silver City

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## Comments:

I was not in favor of the recovery program when it started. I have not changed my mind. I find it unacceptable that our children in Glenwood need to share this play ground with a wolf. Is it going to take a death for you to listen?

Another question I have for you. Why does your map not even indicate any towns inside the secondary zone? It makes it look like there is nothing in the area. I guess it doesn't matter unless you happen to live there

Dam very disgusted with this project. It should be ended in inhabited or populated areas.

Name: LOP, FAUST

Street: HC 61 BOX 160

City, State, Zip: GLENWOOD

NM 88039

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- 1) Comments: Too many comments have been made from the beginning. We need to include an conservation alternative and change "experimental non essential" to "experimental essential".
- 2) Allow direct releases of new wolves into the Gila in New Mexico.
- 3) Demand that ranchers who use public land ~~to~~ watch out for their heads and remove dead cattle carcasses promptly. If they don't they lose their permit.
- 4) Amend the recovery plan to allow a more successful re-introduction

5) Allow wolves to roam freely from the current boundaries without being trapped.

6) far too many wolves are being trapped and killed, to ever achieve recovery.

7) require ranchers to adopt better husbandry practices and purchase insurance to cover their losses.

If should not be up to us to make our public lands safe for ranching cattle.

8) wolves are a very valuable asset to the ecosystem. We need that large predator to

help stabilize ungulate populations & reduce riparian areas from excessive ungulate use.

a) wolves are an economic asset to our economy.

It has proven to be worth millions of dollars to

Minnesota Minnesota's economy

Name: Mike Sauber  
Street: 103 E College St  
Silver City NM  
City, State, Zip: 85306

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## Comments:

Get rid of the  
damned wolves.  
We didn't want  
them here back in  
great grandpa's time,  
and we sure as  
hell don't want  
them here now!

If the darn bleeding  
hearts in the city  
want them, turn  
them loose in  
Central park or  
some place where they  
can get their fill  
of them. Get them  
off our ranches!!!

Name: D Haney

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: Luna, NM  
87824

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If grizzlies, wolves, & remain the had not been extirpated - ranchers would have learned to live with them or move on.

Ranchers today should face of climate change - which could end their dream.

Comments: The Ms. Wolvers need a new paradigm for recovery.

1. NO KILL policy - it is reprehensible to kill a member of an endangered species. Every wolf is needed for genetic strength & vigor. Pups need both parents & a pack to ensure survival.

2. If Duick Pleases had been implemented seven

6-7 yrs. ago, there would be fewer problems with "habitat" wolves.

3. Curly Catron Co. commissioners. They can't legally set policy on wolf recovery; a manager of ESA.

4. Greewood already means: kill people every year - wolves threaten their lives!

Name: Sharon A. Mangos

Street: 4731 Ironwood Ln,

Silver City, NM 88061

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Comments:

#1 comment I do not want the wolf in Catron County for many reasons!

#2. The communication needs to be improved to make sure that the parties that will be effected have an opportunity to speak in (ranchers,)

#3. I understood that the government makes the decisions but I was

taught that the people are the government. The majority of people in the county do not want the wolf. We have spoken.

#4. Where is the logic in the program? You feed an animal and it will associate food w/ humans. These are not wild they

are not in any way as it is portrayed.

#5. Give the facts tell the truth about it! Portray the facts accurately!

→ I worry/fear for my family/children our lively hood.

Name: Amy Robertson

Street: HC 61 Box 158B

City, State, Zip: Glenwood

NM 88039

jajrobertson@gilanet.com

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- Take the brochure with you and return it by mail
- Provide comments via e-mail. For your convenience, you can do that here at the computer station, or visit [www.mexicanwolfcubs.org](http://www.mexicanwolfcubs.org)
- Faxed comments may be sent to (505) 346-2542

Please note: In order to be considered part of the formal record, your comments must include your name and address. Comments may be submitted through December 31, 2007.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment--including your personal information--may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

## Comments:

~~7~~

Since a wolf has been spotted at the Glenwood school it would be nice if the wolf program paid for a chain link fence around the school so the children can play w/o ~~the~~ wildlife dangers in their own school yard.

Name: Carolyn Nelson

Street: HC 61 Box 154

City, State, Zip: Glenwood NM

88039

Tape closed with address on outside, and add a stamp.

DO NOT STAPLE  
Thank you for your input!

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Comments: I want to ask that all charges & claims that wolves are running wild in Reserve, Land, etc. I think in these days of video & cell phones there is no reason the claims of children being stalked by wolves in these towns, or having to wait in cages at school bus stops to avoid being killed by single wolves or packs of wolves. There are hysterical claims & no hysteria really need claim. These claims should either be documented or put to bed.

Also if wolves do kill cows, it should be proven & investigated promptly. There should be no doubt, scientifically if a cow has been killed by wolves.

And, if proven compensation should be paid.

Finally, we should also know each time a cow is killed, we should also know if that cow was diseased or sick. Or that case, why isn't the number REASED. Compensation + diseased cow killed.

Please respond.  
ZERRHEAD@ZERRNET.COM

Name: JERRY EAGAN

Street 509 W. 6TH ST.

City, State, Zip: Silver City

NM-88661-3703

Tape closed with address on outside, and add a stamp.

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Comments: A number of wolves, w/collars, have mysteriously died as been shot, curiously enough, outside of the wilderness area or protected areas (Blue Canyon, etc). I believe it would be a Federal Crime to: A. Track wolves (via radio signal) with the b. intent to kill such wolves or c. they leave the wilderness, to c. submit a Federal Program to reintroduce a federal declared protected & endangered species. Recently the Durango pack "Disappears" - including, no, Caracaras or even signols. I believe therefore that as a citizen who simply wants the wolf reintroduction program to succeed I have the right to ask the Forest Service to request the FBI to investigate whether a group of ranchers, farmers, other militant wolf haters have conspired to fund and support a covert wolf extermination effort. I want the FBI to use whatever investigative resources they can use, to track down any conspirators who want to exterminate the Mexican Gray Wolf in SW NM or SE AZ. Please respond, in writing to me, informing me whether you are investigating has been requested. I plan on asking Senator Bingaman to request an investigation into that matter. Your acknowledgment and the made via internet or mail.

Name: Jerry Egan

Street: 1509 W. 67th St.

City, State, Zip: Silver City, NM

88061-3703

ZENHEADZINET.COM

Tape closed with address on outside, and add a stamp. 505-534-4861

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## Comments:

I, and my family  
are opposed to  
any wolfs in  
our Region.

I have many Rancher  
friends and  
I have 2 grandchildren  
living with us,

Please Reconsider  
This program  
Tom Miller

Name: Tom Miller  
Street: PO Box 232  
Glennwood N.M.  
City, State, Zip: 88039

Tape closed with address on outside, and  
add a stamp.

DO NOT STAPLE  
Thank you for your input!

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- ⑦ The wolf program has caused conflict between various groups, for very little gain
- ⑧ Peace of mind has been lost because wolves have been on my street where pets and the elderly live.

## Comments:

① Scoping meetings should be held mainly in the areas (communities) that are most affected. Only 1 meeting was held in Catron County, the County most affected. Most of the other meetings were held in ~~Urban~~ and considerably "greener" counties.

② There should be a Cap on spending. If \$15,000,000 has not produced the desired results, maybe they are not obtainable.

③ The wolves are moving into populated areas. Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 p.m. I, along with my husband and daughter encountered a wolf coming down the street, right in front of Glenwood Community Center / Public Library.

④ Wolves are coming near schools - see KRAE Channel 13 12-5-07 Evening News for details.

⑤ Because of Contacts w/ humans & wolves are becoming frequent & pets lives being jeopardized Name: JoAnne Blount it should be allowed to severely harass or Street: P.O. 165

kill a wolf if it is a threat, or on private property

⑥ Wolves eat about 20 lbs/week. SD 100 wolves eat a 2000 lbs/week.

Eventually the game numbers will decrease or wolves will starve or hunting programs will have to decline. Therefore wolves should be put in Sanctuaries to prevent any of these occurrences.

Tape closed with address on outside, and add a stamp.

DO NOT STAPLE  
Thank you for your input!

City, State, Zip: Channah, NM  
88039