

How to Submit Comments

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- Fill out the comment portion of this brochure and leave it in the drop box
- 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.mexicanwolfeis.org
- Faxed comments may be sent to (505) 346-2542

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Comments: I only recently moved to NM but have done some research on the Mexican wolf issue. I'm sure that the wolf presents a mild annoyance to ranchers (though, from what I understand, not as much as other predators), but in my opinion we should err on the side of always endangered species. If the Mexican wolf reintroduction program is unsuccessful, the wolf eventually becomes extinct, we would lose an important part of our natural heritage & a crucial link in the ecosystem. It seems to me like this stake is high enough that we should all work to ensure the wolf's survival.

the "pro-wolf" side / the people who want to rewrite the program to expand wolf boundaries, place less restrictions on the wolf, encourage ranchers to practice responsible methods - livestock care methods - is willing to work w/ ranchers & ~~bothered~~ by the wolf's presence, but the "anti-wolf" people (mostly ranchers) don't seem to have suggestions for making working conditions for wolf only suggestions on the recovery restrictions. I don't want the program itself to die out, any Name: Ingrid Bahmerkamp Street: 520 N. Armijo Apt. A City, State, Zip: Las Cruces, NM 88005 power to prevent it. Thanks

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Comments:

- Here are some points of concern, positive and negative about the wolf recovery program:
- * Since most of the land is public involving the release program, the ranchers who graze cattle on these lands ought to be compelled to cooperate, by both carrot and stick, with the program.
 - * Experimental status may be useful, * necessary at this time but essential status is desirable as soon as possible
 - * Retire grazing permits at opportune times (permanently), especially in critical areas
 - * Allow people non-lethal retaliation on private land when pets are threatened or the wolves are within x distance from human habitation.
 - * Launch an aggressive education program to help people in areas with wolves to deal with perceived problems - (Ex: paintball guns, bright lights, etc.)
 - * Work at getting better funding for the program in order to meet everyone's needs - grazers and wildlife proponents.

Name: Dale E. Yeo

Street: 2284 Stone Pine Dr.

Las Cruces NM 88012

City, State, Zip: _____

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Comments:

I have a huge concern about many impacts on our public lands that are a negative impact.

Concern 1- I have many friends and relatives that live in close proximity to wolf habitat. Their lives are on constant watch because of the huge fines associated with wolf program.

Concern 2. Safety for me + hunters that pack into the site wilderness 20 miles from nearest road. What do we do when we encounter these

wolves ????

3. I have a red introct in the number of Elk + Deer wolves are eating, as well as turkeys, other wildlife we hunt.

Name: Joe Paul Lack

Street: P.O. Box 279

City, State, Zip: Antech N.M.

87937

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Comments:

I backpack the trails in New Mexico and support the wolf reintroduction process.

Please Make Ranchers remove dead cows before a wolf finds it.

Please let wolves disperse outside the containment areas.

For Example: The wolf that made it to the San Mateos Mountains!

I dream of the backpacking trip that I hear the wolves howl.

Thanks

Sienna Club Member

Name: Kyla Teglum

Street: 8661 Pilgrimage Cir

City, State, Zip: El Paso, TX

79912

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Comments:

nobody should be allowed to shoot wolves. Cattle should be removed from wilderness areas, and national forests where programs like this are taking place.

Name: Robert E. Bellum

Street: 3600 Camino Arco

City, State, Zip: Sno Wawa

Rm. 88005

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Comments:

The thought of raising these dangerous predators in captivity and then thinking there will be no habituation is ludicrous. And the thought that good Americans have to live in constant fear of animals that once had a bounty on them is even more ludicrous.

The people that live on ranches near the wolves are in constant danger, and their children can not even go outside and play without a body guard or a gun. The killing of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, etc) (horses) is a kind of like "collateral" damage. You seem to think if you pay for the animal, then all will be righted. That is

not the case. What price do you put on a small child's fears and nightmares? If these animals roam 100 miles, then there is no way to stop them from going closer to towns. What is a child's life worth to you?!

I think the whole program should be stopped and the wolves put in zoos if people just have to see them! Don't use my tax dollars.

Name: SARA HOPKINS

Street: PO BOX 247

City, State, Zip: ORGAN,

NM 88052

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Comments:

IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE, ONE OF THESE WOLVES KILLS A HUMAN- RIGHT NOW THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY INCIDENTS THAT INVOLVE LIVESTOCK : PEOPLES PETS BUT THE WOLVES WOULD BE THAT PICKY WHEN THE SITUATION PRISES THAT IT COULD PREY ON A HUMAN-

ALSO - THE WOLVES ARE TAKING PRECEDENCE OVER THE LIVELYHOODS OF THE RANGERS THAT LIVE IN THESE AREAS - THESE CREATURES ARE GOING TO "BY NATURE" LIVE : HUNT WHERE THERE IS ABUNDANT FOOD - AND AN EASY KILL - CATTLE : SHEEP ARE BY FAR EASIER TO PREY UPON AS COMPARED TO A DEER OR AN ELK - THAT IS JUST COMMON SENSE - THE LIVESTOCK ARE AN EASY MEAL - FENCED IN -

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN ACCOUNTS IN THE GILA OF WOLVES ~~STALKING~~ STALKING CHILDREN : THERE PETS - WOLVES COMING INTO PEOPLES YARDS : KILLING DOGS - HOW LONG BEFORE IT IS A CHILD -

I DONT THINK THAT WOLVES NEED TO ~~BE~~ CONTINUE TO BE RELEASED - OR THEIR AREA EXPANDED - WOLVES ARE IN ~~AREAS~~ REMOTE AREAS

OF THE U.S. BECAUSE THEY HAVE MIGRATED THERE : AND HAVE ADAPTED TO THEIR NEW LOCATIONS: THEY NEED TO STAY IN THESE REMOTE LOCATIONS WITH NO HUMAN CONTACT WHERE PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO MAKE A UNING OFF OF THE LAND -

THANK YOU

Name: MEGHAN ALLEN

Street: 4600 BAYLOR CANYON RD.

City, State, Zip : LIPS CRILCES NM

88011

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12-4-01

Comments:

I urge the powers that be to please stop interfering in a detrimental way to the Mexican wolf recovery. It's obvious that the prevailing pressure is to do everything possible to prevent their recovery.

Rules should be altered to allow the wolves to expand their territory naturally instead of politically. Capturing & relocating the wolves thwarts expansion of population, and can cause serious injury.

Almost all of the current recovery area is leased for cattle grazing, often year-round. Ranchers must be required to either remove dead cattle or make the carcass inedible. Wolves that prey on cattle near carcasses should not be killed or removed.

The current recovery plan is out of date - from 1982. Confine the wolves to the current recovery area make no logical, biological sense. Let them expand into the Lake Salt Forest which is mostly well grass. Buy ranchers out who want to retire or move to another area. Permanently retire these grazing permits. Stop the scare tactics & provide actual fact-based education to halt the fear-mongering.

Name: Susie Rossman
Street: 1575 E. GARCES AVE
City, State, Zip: NM 88001

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Comments:

As a 29 year old, transplanted to New Mexico from Ohio, I am excited to be apart of such a dramatic issue. First, let me state that I am wholly in support of Mexican Wolf recovery. I am also in support of collaborative efforts to reduce the potential impacts that "recovery" wolves may pose to the human community. I would like to ask that the status granted to the recovery population be of a greater protection level (ie. exp. essential, if not endangered). I would also ask that the range available to the recovery population be expanded while maintaining the elevated protection status.

Finally, greater efforts must be made in resolving conflicts from both sides. Proactive education, training, and options to reduce conflicts are paramount.

Personally, I enjoy and respect all of the living things we share our place with. And feel stewardship of all and each other is our responsibility.

Name: Martin Moses

Street: 1809 Baldwin Street

City, State, Zip: Las Cruces NM

88001

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Comments:

① Known livestock killers should be never be re-released. We experienced one pair ~~reestablishing~~ establishing territory on our ranch. They started surplus killing - eating only the udders etc. The pair (pack) killed 5 in a 24 hr. period which was considered one incident. They confirmed ¹³ kills. ~~A~~ One head of livestock should = one strike

② Our dogs are our pets but we count on them to work our cattle as well. We definately need to be able to depend them.

Name: Loretta Baberay

Street: P.O. Box 121

City, State, Zip: Winston, NM
87943

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Comments:

Mexican gray wolves are an essential top predator in our ecosystem. It should become a top priority to re-establish the wolves in the south-west, in their native range. The wolves should be classified as either "experimental, essential" or "endangered" rather than "experimental, non-essential" to protect the populations of wolves into the future. The current dispersal movements should also be removed, since wolves should be expected to expand over time and typically pose no to little threat to people or ranchers. The ~~the~~ geographic area where wolves are going to be released should also be expanded to include NM and other areas of the SW - the current area is too limiting.

Their should be very limited "take" of wolves as this hinders the reintroduction process. Finally, I don't think there should be a cap on the max number of wolves allowed in the wild. The population will naturally be limited by prey availability.

Sincerely

Christine Dablin Schuster

Ph.D Student

Department of Biology
NMSU

Name: Christine Dablin Schuster

Street: 602 Texas Ave

City, State, Zip: Las Cruces NM

88001

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Comments:

I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE
RELEASE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE
WOLF IN THE INHABITED U.S.
THE EXPERIMENT HAS COST THE
US TAXPAYER ENOUGH. THE
REMOVAL OF THE PROJECT IS THE
BEST SOLUTION. TO ATTEMPT NOT
'MANAGE' WILD ANIMALS DOES
MAKE ANY COMMON SENSE.
REMOVE AND RETURN THE WOLF
TO THE CONTAINED
AREA THEY STARTED
FROM IN MEXICO.

Name: SALLY BALES
Street: PO BOX 265
✓
City, State, Zip: FAIRACRES NM
88033

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Comments:

- 1) the wolfs should not be re-introduced
- 2) if they are truly endangered, they should be kept in captivity
- 3) the wolf was hunted for a reason in the first place
- 4) You can't manage wolfs any better than any other mammals animal
- 5) why are there wolfs at the bus stops near Reserve?
- 6) why can't you shoot a wolf if it is killing your pet?
- 7) if the wolf is not afraid of being in your yard, its not afraid of your children

Name: Gary Bales

Street: Po Box 265

Fairclides, NM 88033

City, State, Zip: _____

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TO: Wolf Scoping Forum, Las Cruces, December 4, 2007

FROM: Stephen L. Wilmeth

PO Box 579
MGRILLA, NM 88046 —

DATE: December 4, 2007

SUBJECT: Comments for Public Record of meeting of same, December 4, 2007

I am a rancher from Dona Ana/ Luna County and I desire to have this memo recorded for public record for the purposes of any wolf introduction intentions in this area. The points I expect to be recorded are as follows:

1. In the calendar year 2006, I purposely recorded all deer sightings on nearly 350 sections of rangeland that included what is known in BLM records as the Lazy E and the Double Bar V allotments. The Lazy E, known as Butterfield Trail Ranch LLC, is located between Las Cruces and Deming on the north side of I-10 commencing at the 116 interchange, running north to the Las Uvas Mountains and to the west to the Goodnight Mountains. The ranch encompasses some 94 sections of BLM, state and private lands. The Double Bar V is located south of Gage, New Mexico running from the Victorio Mountains to the Cedar Mountains. The ranch encompasses some 250 sections. Sightings were taken from cowboys and recorded as cowboy days. The tally for the year was .12 deer per cowboy day. In other words, it took 8.33 days for every sighting per cowboy. This statistic was noted in several forums including a meeting with the New Mexico Fish and Game Department with Game Commissioner Dutch Salmon present. The purpose of the meeting was to call attention to the meager deer population and for special consideration of implementing a moratorium on hunting for a five year period to support some improvement of that number. No action was taken and hunting has continued albeit a draw system is in effect.
2. My family arrived from Texas in 1884 and settled north of Cliff, New Mexico on Mogollon Creek (15 years before the Gila was even a forest reserve). Other family units arrived over the next 15 -25 years. During those periods there are no known diary entries for wolf sightings outside of the Grant County area north and west of Hurley. There is no mention of wolf activity in the "flats" south of there. That included conversations with a family member who worked for the Diamond A Cattle Company and the Hearst Corporation. That does not imply that wolves were not in the Animas country because the family activities didn't extend that far. The point is if you simply cannot relegate the notion to the public that wolves were common in this lower country. You'd better have better data than hearsay.
3. The fact that USFWS is going to come with wolves into this country regardless of public input is criminal. The long term success of these animals is going to be tied to stakeholder participation and the track record of total disregard from these people is incomprehensible. In our case, the food base will be coyotes, jack rabbits, rattlesnakes and cattle. There simply isn't anything else. What on Earth are you attempting to do?

Cc: Congressman Stevan Pearce
Senators Domenici and Bingaman

1155 N. Miranda St.
Apt. H-2
Las Cruces NM 88005
Dec. 4, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Millsap:

Re: Mexican Wolf NEPA Scoping

Reintroduced wolves have thrived in the Northern Rockies—Why not here? Why can't we apply the model used in the Northern Rockies.

Artificial Boundaries

Allow wolves to expand their territory rather than being restricted to current recovery area which punishes wolves for venturing into good habitat adjacent to the release area. Wolves should be allowed to reoccupy suitable habitat where it exists.

Baiting Wolves

MOST IMPORTANT

Ranchers must be required to remove and make inedible carcasses of livestock that attract wolves and enable scavenging, thus encouraging wolves to prey on live livestock nearby.

Outdated Recovery Plan

Current recovery plan is 25 years old and therefore does not incorporate recent data and advances in conservation methods.

Poor Habitat

Allow wolf release in the Gila Wilderness, a huge, roadless, and mostly cattle-free area. What better place for the wolves to recover?

Proximity to Grazing

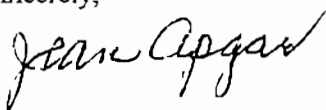
Buy-outs of ranchers willing to sell which would reduce collisions between wolves and livestock are stymied by current Forest Service policy that allows grazing permits for such ranches to be transferred to someone else for livestock grazing. If grazing permits would be permanently retired, ranches could be purchased for wolf protection.

Lack of Understanding

Fear of wolves is similar to fear of snakes and should be addressed.

I urge a change in the regulations to improve the opportunities for wolf recovery.

Sincerely,



B. Jean Apgar

12/4/07
Wolf Comments/Scoping Meeting

Predators and the Dimensions of Fear

Predators stir passions, may compete with us economically, and in some cases cause the human animal in large numbers to take on varying dimensions of fear. Sometimes this fear is well founded; more often it is not. No predator causes more fear, for less reason, than the wolf. Yet there may be occasions where wolves are to be feared. This drama and debate regarding the real and imagined fear of predators is currently being played out in southwest New Mexico as nowhere else in the country.

Small critters (and some of them can scarcely be called predators) are really much more dangerous than big predators. Each year in North America people numbering in the multiplied hundreds are killed by wasps, bees, hornets, fire ants, poisonous snakes, scorpions, spiders, et al. People take this in stride and it scarcely makes the local papers. Yet let one coyote, bear, lion, or wolf so much as attack a human -- a rare occurrence -- and it is news well beyond local boundaries. If it is a wolf, it need not even attack; it need only get close enough that it might be seen as aggressive.

We have a wolf reintroduction program going on today in southwest New Mexico and eastern Arizona with nearly 60 wolves running loose over roughly 5 million acres of forested mountains. The great majority of these 60 wolves are roaming the wilderness and are seldom seen or heard. But a handful are "habituated" to humans, due primarily to their derivation as pen-raised stock, and hang about dwellings, ranches, campsites and act only half wild. These animals scare people. At a recent meeting of the State Game Commission, and at recent anti-wolf rallies and meetings, I noticed that the main objection to wolf reintroduction had changed from previous gatherings, from complaints over cattle and big game (elk and deer) depredations, to fear of attack by habituated wolves, mostly as regards children.

Psychologists and psychiatrists have joined the debate. James Thal, Ph.D., writes, "Many . . . of the individual interviewed described varying degrees of emotional distress resulting from near encounters with wolves in the affected areas. In some cases, the individuals interviewed had been significantly traumatized by what they reported as wolf attacks on their pets and livestock . . . the worst impacts appeared to be in two instances in which family pets or small livestock were killed by wolf attacks."

The result? According to Thal, "Literature strongly suggests that stressors such as those impacting individuals in the wolf reintroduction areas (i.e., economic losses, family disruptions, etc.) are often accompanied by increases in family violence, failing grades in school, drug/alcohol abuse, and suicide attempts/completions."

Julia Martin, MD, suggests children may take on "chronic mental illnesses" due to "repeated exposure to habituated wolves."

Sounds like Little Red Riding Hood may have been right. And yet?

In contrast to bees, wasps, fire ants, snakes, hornets, spiders, or even bears, lions, or livestock (errant cattle, unlike wolves, have killed nine people in New Mexico in the last dozen years), wolf attacks in North America are so rare, there is no "literature" to suggest much of anything. And isn't this all part of rural life?

In August, 2002, my son, then aged 7, lost his companion Jack Russell terrier to coyotes. There was no doubt as to what species of animal was responsible and young Bud found the body, eaten, and brought it to the house.

In 2005, the whole family lost a favored greyhound pup to a large predator, likely a lion, though it could have been a wolf.

We lost the family cat to a great horned owl.

And last year I was going to get rich raising red bourbon turkeys; others had. I acquired four, had big plans, and then watched as, over time, the coyotes carried them off one by one.

Over all of this there were family tears and anger, especially by the child, but perhaps he is made of sterner stuff. He still gets straight "A's," does not suffer from chronic mental illness, does his farm chores without complaint, has not been "traumatized," remains everyone's normal kid.

One word does give me pause, however – "habituated."

From living 10 years in wolf country in northern Minnesota I can say that wild wolves don't hang about people, occupied dwellings, campsites, and while they see dogs as competitors, they don't attack them in the close proximity of humans. Most of our southwest wolves aren't habituated, but for those that are we should not minimize the real fear generated. An actual attack on a human is unlikely but those of us who want a certain number of wolves in the Southwest must realize such an attack, however improbable, would likely end the program.

I'd allow those dealing with habituated wolves, rubber buckshot on a permit basis and with instruction, the idea being a non-lethal aversion technique that will remove most of the fear element from the debate. That would further the program and human safety, real and imagined. It would work with most of the miscreants. For those wolves who still habituate, they must go back to their pens, or go down to real bullets. I'd also say, compensate for all pet and livestock losses, even the questionable incidents, and government, state and/or federal, should help with the funding.

For the pro-wolf side, I'd allow direct release into the Gila Wilderness, expanded boundaries in the two states (really, wolves should have the same boundaries as mountain lions – none), and an end to automatic "three strikes and you're out" (often we should compensate the loss instead, at least until we have at least 100 wild wolves and 10 breeding pairs to sustain their future).

Those of us who have lost pets and/or livestock to large predators understand the feeling. It's no fun, it's costly and may be scary. We live through it and carry on. Regardless of the dangers, real and imagined, of wild critters large and small, we like country living; we don't traumatize our children by admitting a state of trauma into our own personal psychologies. We like country sport and living enough to survive the dimensions of fear. We understand the need for some control but don't seek to exterminate those wildlife with whom we are sometimes in conflict; they deserve their place in the wild.

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