

SPEAK OUT FOR MEXICAN GRAY WOLVES!

WRITE A LETTER TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS), THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY

WRITE TO SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR KEN SALAZAR and tell him:



1. The ongoing decline in the Mexican gray wolf population is unacceptable. We want wolves to survive and thrive in the southwest.

2. The FWS took a step in the right direction in 2009 when they decided to leave wolves charged with livestock depredations in the wild and to reassert agency authority over the Mexican wolf project. The current situation points to a clear and urgent need for additional changes.

3. To immediately and aggressively recover Mexican wolves from the brink of extinction, the Fish and Wildlife Service must:

Expedite a new Recovery Plan: The 1982 recovery plan for the Mexican wolf is out of date and lacks required criteria for recovery and de-listing. The FWS has been promising to get a new plan underway, but has not yet established the Recovery Team which would write the new plan.

Complete the process started in 2007 to amend the Reintroduction Project Rule. Existing rules that govern the Mexican wolf reintroduction project have proven inadequate to recover the Mexican wolf. At least 12,000 people participated in a 2007 National Environmental Policy Act scoping process for proposed rule changes, but the process has been stagnant since then. There is no justification for delaying critical rule changes which must move forward concurrently with the new Recovery Plan.

Release the draft Environmental Assessment to allow direct releases of wolves into New Mexico. Current rules require that Mexican wolves born in captivity can only be released into Arizona. Enabling direct releases into New Mexico is critical to getting more wolves into the wild quickly to boost numbers and genetics in the wild population. The FWS must release the Environmental Assessment to allow this immediately for public review and comments.

Release wolves in captive breeding facilities into the wild. Many wolves in captivity are eligible and ready for release. New releases will increase wolf numbers and strengthen the wild population's genetic viability, and will also send a message to those killing the wolves that their actions will not eliminate wolves from the wild.

Retrieve loaned telemetry receivers and reserve them for use by project personnel and legitimate researchers. In a recent report on causes of the wolves' population decline, the FWS named illegal killings as the leading cause of death. The FWS has distributed telemetry receivers to area residents that are used to track the wolves' locations through their radio collars. Widely dispersed receivers in the hands of non-project personnel make radio collared wolves vulnerable to those who oppose wolves in the wild.

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