

African Wild Dog Conservancy □ **Grand Canyon Wildlands Council** □ **Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project** □ **Great Old Broads for Wilderness – Footsteps of Leopold Broadband** □ **Great Old Broads for Wilderness – Middle Gila Chapter** □
Great Old Broads for Wilderness - Phoenix Broadband □ **Predator Defense** □ **Project Coyote** □ **Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter** □ **Southwest Environmental Center** □ **Western Watersheds Project** □ **White Mountain Conservation League** □ **Wolf Conservation Center**

October 26, 2017

Governor Doug Ducey
1700 West Washington Street, Suite 101
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: “Hope for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission” – Application

Dear Governor Ducey,

We, the undersigned organizations, in light of the current Arizona Game and Fish Commission’s anti-wolf positions – and especially considering the crucial role the state has been given in Mexican wolf recovery under the draft Fish and Wildlife Service plan – urge you to consider the nomination of a Mexican gray wolf from Greenlee County to the Commission’s current vacancy. Esperanza del Arroyo Pantera, the alpha female of the Panther Creek Pack, demonstrates all the qualities that Commission desperately needs: Fair play, moderation and balance, and a commitment to coexistence rather than eradication of Arizona’s top predators. She would also add much-needed diversity to the current Commission.

Rather than add a trophy-hunting advocate or pro-livestock member from historically anti-carnivore organizations to the Commission, you are in a unique position to consider Esperanza’s exemplary ecological ethics. For example, Esperanza has never killed a deer or elk in order to display its remains in her den and she has never advocated for the mass-destruction of other carnivores such as mountain lions or coyotes. She has an innate understanding of ecological health and predator-prey relationships, and she understands the role that carnivores play in maintaining healthy ungulate herds. She’s also “a back-to-roots” traditional hunter, and advocates for low-tech hunting rather than spotlighting, baiting, and snaring one’s prey.

It is true that she might be a little unlikely to stay in her chair during commission meetings, more apt to circle the room and vote on key measures through judicious scent-marking. But rather than having a knee-jerk anti-wolf response that is all too common in Arizona’s leadership, we urge you to consider the depth, diversity, and representation that Esperanza would bring to the commission. We know you’ve been disinclined to affirm human conservation voices, so why not a canid one? Please, Governor, appoint Esperanza del Arroyo Pantera.

Sincerely,

Robert Robbins, Ph.D. & Kim McCreary, Ph.D., Co-Directors
African Wild Dog Conservancy

Kelly Burke, Executive Director
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council

Emily Renn, Executive Director
Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project

Billie Hughes, Broadband Leader,
Great Old Broads for Wilderness – Footsteps of Leopold Broadband

Roz Switzer, Broadband Leader
Great Old Broads For Wilderness – Middle Gila Chapter

Kathy Ann Walsh, Broadband Leader
Great Old Broads for Wilderness - Phoenix Broadband

Brooks Fahy, Executive Director
Predator Defense

David Parsons, Science Advisor
Project Coyote

Sandy Bahr, Chapter Director
Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter

Kevin Bixby, Executive Director
Southwest Environmental Center

Greta Anderson, Deputy Director
Western Watersheds Project

Tom Hollender, President
White Mountain Conservation League

Maggie Howell, Executive Director
Wolf Conservation Center