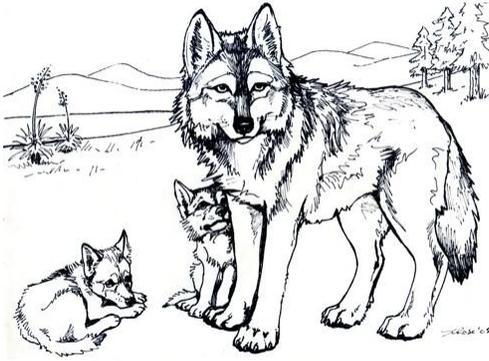


Help Mexican Wolves Live in the Wild Where They Belong



One of the greatest threats to Mexican gray wolves from this summer's massive Wallow fire was not mentioned in the mainstream media.

The fire that threatened several families of wolves in southeast Arizona also derailed plans for introducing a new pack of wolves to the forest. With only around 50 Mexican wolves in the wild, the release of this new pack is critical to increase the wild population's numbers and genetic health.

If it were not prohibited by the reintroduction rules, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could still have moved forward with the release in a suitable site in New Mexico. But the rules governing the Mexican wolf reintroduction say that wolves that have not previously lived in the wild or been introduced in Arizona cannot be released into New Mexico.

While the Wallow Fire makes the need to change this rule painfully obvious, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has for years been sitting on the Environmental Assessment (EA) that would make the change possible.

It's time for the stalling to stop.

For years, scientists have said that new releases are essential to pull the small, struggling wild population of Mexican wolves back from the brink of extinction. These magnificent animals, capable of restoring the balance to our southwestern forests, cannot afford arbitrary rules that hinder their recovery.

Please contact the Secretary of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today and tell them it's time to release the EA so that more wolves can be put into the wilds where they belong more quickly.

Tell them that allowing direct releases in New Mexico will give wildlife managers the flexibility to get more wolves on the ground, regardless of unexpected disasters like the Wallow Fire. It will give them the ability to choose the best places for releases, and to avoid areas already claimed by other packs. And it will give these important animals a much better chance at recovery.

Mexican gray wolves need to live wild, and wild places need them. Please help today.

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