

Act Now to Ensure Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery!

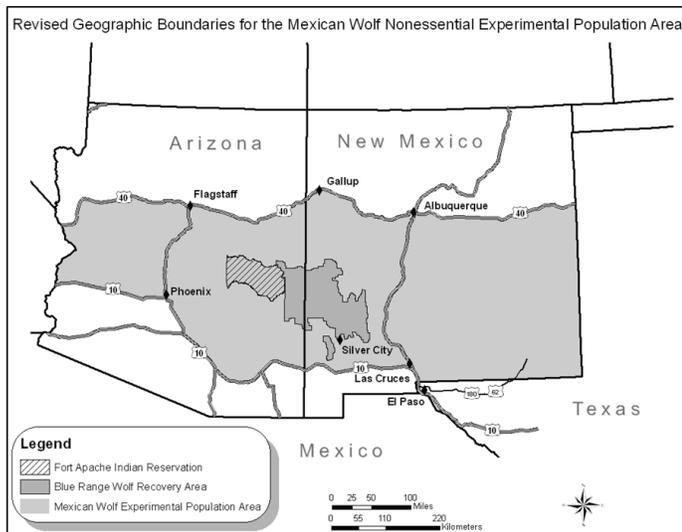
Recently the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed one very good and many very bad changes to the rules governing the Mexican wolf reintroduction. **The proposal is very important to the future of Mexican wolves in the wild.**

Please comment on the proposed changes and include the *following 4 key points:*

1. Allowing *direct releases* of Mexican wolves throughout the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area is a good change. USFWS should put the rest of their proposed rule on hold and speed up approval for more direct releases in expanded areas.



This change has been recommended by experts for over 10 years and *can be made faster and with less bureaucratic delay* than any other part of the proposed rule.



2. The proposed rule effectively prevents wolves returning to the Grand Canyon region, including northern Arizona and southern Utah, or to northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. The USFWS should eliminate boundaries to the wolves' movement.

The best available science confirms that these areas are essential for Mexican wolf recovery, but wolves who set up territories outside the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area are recaptured and moved back.

Under the proposed change, the USFWS will recapture Mexican wolves just for going outside of the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area whether or not they establish territories. Additional populations of Mexican wolves are necessary to their recovery and genetic health, as is the ability for wolves to move between populations.

Capturing and moving wolves is always a risky business that can result in death or trauma to the wolf. And a bigger box is still a box.

3. The USFWS should designate Mexican gray wolves as *essential*. The current labeling all of the wild wolves as “nonessential” *ignores science and the reality of 15 years of experience with reintroducing wolves.*

The USFWS claims that even if all of the 75 wolves in the wild are wiped out this is not “likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood” of recovery of Mexican wolves in the wild. When the current rule declared wolves in the wild “nonessential” there were only 11 wolves, recently released from a captive breeding program, and they made up only 7% of all Mexican wolves in the world.

Now the 75 wolves in the wild have up to four generations of experience in establishing packs and raising pups and are over 22% of all of the Mexican wolves *in the world*. And after four generations of captive breeding with few releases, scientists warn that there may be serious genetic problems making captive wolves less able to thrive in the wild. The fourth generation wild lobos are not expendable and are *essential* to recovering this unique subspecies of wolf.



4. The USFWS needs to quit stalling and complete a comprehensive recovery plan at the same time as or before changing the current rule (except for allowing wolves to be reintroduced into additional suitable places).

USFWS admits that their present, typewritten, 1982 recovery plan is not scientifically sound and does not meet current legal requirements – yet in its proposed rule USFWS continues to emphasize a woefully inadequate population of only 100 wolves in the wild. Instead of following the best available science on recovery, the Service is chasing after what a 31-year-old inadequate plan suggested as a good first step.

USFWS’s decision on the proposed rule can help Mexican wolves finally thrive or can push them closer to extinction. Please comment today, and ask others to do the same.

You can submit your comments by the October 28 deadline online here:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R2-ES-2013-0056>

Or by mail: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R2-ES-2013-0056; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM; Arlington, VA 22203

USFWS will only hold one public hearing on this proposal-in Albuquerque, NM on Oct. 4.

A Save the Lobo event will be held the same day in the same location. Learn more at:

www.mexicanwolves.org

Thank you for giving these special wolves a voice in their future.