

Letters to the Editor: An effective all-in-one tool!

Writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper is an excellent way to raise awareness about the Mexican gray wolf situation and the management of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Surveys of newspaper readers show that the letters page is among the most closely read parts of the paper. It's also the page policy-makers look to as a barometer of public opinion. If you mention an agency or prominent decision-maker in your letter, the agency or individual's media liaison will most likely see that letter during a regular scan of the media.

Letter Writing Tips

This is your letter, so write what you think or feel about wolves and wolf management. However, here are a few suggestions for ensuring your message gets through clearly:

- Stress that you believe Mexican gray wolves are an important part of the Southwest's ecosystem.
- Ask your fellow citizens to speak up in support of Mexican gray wolves.
- Encourage public officials (by name) to support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's actions to keep wolves in the wild and to develop a new Recovery Plan based on the best available science.
- Share the management changes that would aid in recovery (<http://www.mexicanwolves.org/index.php/recovery-solutions>)
- Include your connection with wolves and why the issue is important to you.
- Focus on positive messages about the importance of Mexican wolves and the need for solutions, rather than repeating and addressing a negative message about wolves.
- Make your letter timely. If you are not addressing a specific article, editorial or letter that recently appeared in the paper you are writing to, try to tie the issue you want to write about to a recent event. Look for recent relevant news articles at <http://www.mexicanwolves.org/index.php?page=press>
- Keep your letter under 300 words.
- Provide your name, address and phone number; your address and phone number will not be published with your letter, but they are usually required for confirmation in order to have your letter published.

Editorial Contacts

- Arizona [Republic](http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/sendletter.html): <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/sendletter.html>
- [Albuquerque Journal](mailto:opinion@abqjournal.com): opinion@abqjournal.com
- [Santa Fe New Mexican](http://www.santafenewmexican.com/SendLetter/): <http://www.santafenewmexican.com/SendLetter/>
- Arizona Daily Star: letters@azstarnet.com
- [Arizona Daily Sun](mailto:azdsnews@azdailysun.com): azdsnews@azdailysun.com
- Las Cruces Sun-News: letters@lcsun-news.com
- Silver City Sun News: hwise@scsun-news.com
- Silver City Daily Press: dthompson@cybermesa.com
- LA Times: letters@latimes.com
- [High Country News](http://www.hcn.org/letters): <http://www.hcn.org/letters>