United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Post Office Box 1306
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In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R2/ES-ARD/

August 10, 2012

Memorandum

To: Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator, Ecological Services

Through: Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services Michelle Shaughnessy

From: Acting Regional Director, Region 2 Jay E. Nicholopoulos

Subject: Rescinding Lethal Removal Order for Mexican Wolf Female 1188

On August 8, 2012, I signed a removal order of Mexican Wolf Female 1188 based on four key considerations: (1) chronic depredations, (2) occurrence of the depredations outside of the BRWRA boundary, (3) the low genetic value of AF1188, and (4) the provisions in the Final Rule and the 1998 IMP. Live removal of AF1188 was not considered a viable option, due to the low genetic value of this individual in the captive breeding program, and because of the need to quickly alter the ongoing depredation behavior.

On August 10, the Service received an email that the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center (SWCC) would like to take this wolf into captivity for a research program on conditioned taste aversion. The Conservation Center is a participating member of the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan and currently houses other wolves for the program. The conservation center acknowledges that this wolf will never be released and has volunteered to help with the cost of capture and the long term costs associated with keeping wolves in captivity. In addition, the Conservation Center is in the process of building a facility to house wolves that can no longer persist in the wild.

Given this new information, I am rescinding the memo from August 8, 2012 ordering the lethal removal of female 1188. Instead, I am authorizing the removal of female 1188 to be captured and placed in captivity for the remainder of her life.