

Mexican Wolf Population Statistics

Mexican Wolf Pup Fostering 2016-2022

Summary Table

Data Current as of 1 April 2023

Release Year	Pup Foster Type: Captive-to-Wild	Number of Captive-to-Wild Fostered Pups Surviving to Breeding Age
2016	6	1
2017	4	1
2018	8	4
2019	12	1
2020	20	7
2021	22	1
2022	11	N/A
Total	83	15

Definitions:

Pup Foster: the transfer of offspring from their biological parent(s) and placement with surrogate parents.

Captive-to-Wild Foster: the offspring reside in captivity with their biological parent(s) before transfer to the wild with surrogate parents.

Surviving to Breeding Age: a pup that lives two years to the age of breeding or an adult or subadult that lives for a year following its release.

The [2022 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, Second Revision](#) recognizes the importance of managing gene diversity and specifically identifies delisting criteria based on gene diversity. The criteria read; “Gene diversity available from the captive population has been incorporated into the United States population through scheduled releases of a sufficient number of wolves to result in 22 released Mexican wolves surviving to breeding age in the United States population.”

The 2022 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, Second Revision, establishes an interim release target of approximately 9 captive-born wolves surviving to breeding age based on data through 2022. As of April 1, 2023, the IFT has documented 15 captive-born foster pups surviving to breeding age.

Pup fostering has contributed towards meeting the 2022 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, Second Revision criteria such that:

- (1) Fourteen wolves released from captivity after December 2015 (AM1471, AF1578, F1692, AM1693, M1710, F1712, F1865, F1866, M1888, F1889, F1890, M1953, F2503, M2545, M2597) survived to breeding age (April 2023).