



# Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Quarterly Update

*First Quarter 2025 (January, February, March)*

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Recovery Program activities in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona, including the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), San Carlos Apache Reservation (SCAR), and New Mexico. Additional Program information can be obtained by calling (928) 339-4329 or toll free at (888) 459-9653, or by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department website at [azgfd.gov/wolf](http://azgfd.gov/wolf) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at [fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf](http://fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf). For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit [wmatoutdoor.org](http://wmatoutdoor.org). Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting [azgfd.com](http://azgfd.com) and clicking on the E-news Signup tab on the top left corner of the webpage. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The Mexican Wolf Recovery Program is a multi-agency cooperative effort among the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), USDA Forest Service (USFS), USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (WS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. National Park Service (NPS).

To view semi-monthly wolf location information please visit <https://arcgis.com/bLyPO>

**Please report any wolf sightings or suspected livestock depredations to the Alpine wolf office (928) 339-4329, Pinetop wolf office (928) 532-**

2391 or toll free at (888) 459-9653. For sightings or suspected depredations on the FAIR, please call the WMAT wolf office in Whiteriver at (928) 338-4385 ext. 226. To report incidents of take or harassment of wolves, please call the AZGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

## **Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Quarterly Updates**

Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project (et al.) and Center for Biological Diversity (et al.) challenged the July 1, 2022, Revision to the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act alleging ESA, NEPA, and APA violations. Arizona Game and Fish Department intervened on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and on March 31, 2025, the Court upheld the revised 10(j) rule in its entirety and issued a decision granting summary judgement in favor of the USFWS on all claims.

**Numbering System:** Mexican wolves are given an identification number recorded in an official studbook that tracks their history. Capital letters (M = Male, F = Female) preceding the number indicate adult animals 24 months or older. Lower case letters (m = male, f = female) are used to indicate wolves younger than 24 months. A lowercase letter “p” preceding the number is used to indicate a wolf pup born in the most recent spring. The capital letter “A” preceding the letter and number indicates breeding wolves.

**Definitions:** A “wolf pack” is defined as two or more wolves that maintain an established territory. In the event that one of the two breeding (dominant) wolves dies, the remaining breeding wolf, regardless of pack size, retains the pack status. The packs referenced in this update contain at least one wolf wearing a radio telemetry collar. The Interagency Field Team (IFT) recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

## **CURRENT POPULATION STATUS**

**The end of year count for 2024 generated a minimum abundance of 286 Mexican wolves in the wild (124 in AZ and 162 in NM).** This was a 11% increase in the population from the minimum of 257 wolves counted at the end of 2023. The increase documented from 2023 to 2024 marks the ninth consecutive year of population growth, the longest continuous streak since recovery efforts began. At the end of 2024, there were a minimum of 60 packs documented (23 in AZ and 37 in NM). Annual counts are conducted in the winter as this is when the population experiences the least amount of natural fluctuation (i.e., the population increases dramatically in the spring with the birth of new pups and declines throughout the summer

and fall as pup mortality generally occurs in this period). Thus, the IFT summarizes the total number of counted wolves in winter. Counting the population at the end of each year allows for comparable year-to-year trends at a time of year when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

### **WOLF PACK UPDATES:**

For each documented wolf pack in the table below, wolves fitted with functioning collars at the end of the quarter are listed by studbook number. Studbook numbers of wolves without collars or with non-functioning collars are not listed in the pack updates. Not all wolves in the population are collared or have assigned studbook numbers. Captures, mortalities, removals, and food caching are listed in the corresponding column for the listed period. If a pack was food cached at any time within the quarter, the food cache column will indicate the type of food cache. The primary reason for food caching will be noted with “S” for supplemental and “D” for diversionary; the reason for a food cache may change over time. If a wolf dies, becomes fate unknown, or is removed in the current period, its studbook number will be removed from the pack column in the following quarterly report. After three months of consistent dispersal behavior away from pack territory, a dispersing wolf is no longer considered a member of its originating pack and will be added to a new row as a single wolf or member of a different pack. Packs that have raised pups in the quarter will be listed as “Yes” in the “Raising pups” column. This will remain for the calendar year if the pack was documented rearing pups in the period of April through September. Any fields that require further comment will be annotated with “\*” and further comments are listed in the “Comments” column.

### **ARIZONA:**

<b>Wolf Pack</b> Collared Wolves	<b>Captures</b>	<b>Mortalities</b>	<b>Removals</b>	<b>Food cache</b>	<b>Raising pups</b> (April – Sept)	<b>Foster</b> (April/May)	<b>*Comments</b>
<b>Bear Canyon</b> AM2563, AF1823, M3008*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released M3008.
<b>Castle Rock</b> M1921, F2632*	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March F2632 was found dead in Arizona. The mortality is under investigation
<b>Eagle Creek</b> M1477, F1548	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

<b>Elderberry</b> AF2977, M2766	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Elk Horn</b> AM1838, AF1866, f2865	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Fantasia</b> AM2873*, AF2759	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, recollared, and translocated AM2873 to Gila Flat in New Mexico
<b>Firebox</b> M1881	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Hoodoo</b> AF2752, AM1789*, M1893	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, recollared and released AM1789.
<b>Juniper Bench</b> AF1920*, m2859, m2995	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, recollared and released AF1920.
<b>Manada del Arroyo</b> F1828, M2774	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Pancho Spring</b> AM2770, m3000*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released m3000.
<b>Prime Canyon</b> AM1471, AF1488*, F2849, f2992	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released AF1488.
<b>Rocky Prairie</b> AM1383, AF 1489*, F2769	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released AF1489.
<b>Rose</b> AM1704	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Saffel</b> AM1854, AF1939, M1852, mp2991	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

<b>Sierra Blanca</b> AF1550*, m2988*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, recollared, and released AF1550.  In January, m2988 became a member of the Sierra Blanca pack after traveling with the pack for two months. In March, m2988 slipped its collar.
<b>Snake Creek</b> AM2709	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Warm Springs</b> AF1938, m2796, fp2993	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>New Pack*</b> M2889*, F3001*	2*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured M2889 and captured and collared M2889. Both were translocated off the SCAR per tribal request.
<b>New Pack</b> M2848	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Single f2868</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Single m2883</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, m2883 dispersed to Arizona from the Leopold pack and became a single after traveling alone for three months.
<b>Single AF1686*</b>	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, AF1686 was found dead in Arizona. The mortality is under investigation

#### **FAIR:**

<b>Wolf Pack</b> Collared Wolves	<b>Captures</b>	<b>Mortalities</b>	<b>Removals</b>	<b>Food Cache</b>	<b>Raising pups</b> (April – Sept)	<b>Foster</b> (April/May)	<b>*Comments</b>
<b>Baldy</b> AM1347	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Tsay-O-Ah*</b> AM2698*, AF1283*	0	2*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, AF1283 was found dead in Arizona. In February, AM2698 was found dead in

							Arizona. These mortalities are under investigation. The pack is now defunct.
<b>Tu dil hil</b> AM1382, F2758	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Single M1857</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Single F2767</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

**Total number of wolf packs in Arizona at end of the quarter: 22**

#### **NEW MEXICO:**

<b>Wolf Pack</b> Collared Wolves	<b>Captures</b>	<b>Mortalities</b>	<b>Removals</b>	<b>Food Cache</b>	<b>Raising pups (April – Sept)</b>	<b>Foster (April/May)</b>	<b>*Comments</b>
<b>Agua Frio</b> AM1875, F2997*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released F2997.
<b>Aldo</b> AM2561	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Beaver Point</b> f2884, M2998*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released M2998.
<b>Burnt Peaks*</b> M2557	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	During December, the IFT documented that M2557 was no longer traveling with the Beaver Point pack. M2557 is now considered a member of his previous pack, Burnt Peaks.
<b>Buzzard Peak</b> AM2567, f3004*	1*	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, the IFT captured, collared and released f3004. In February, f3004 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
<b>Canovas Creek</b> AM1584	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

<b>Centerfire</b> AM2697*	1*	0	0	D	N/A	N/A	In March, a private trapper captured AM2697 on private land. The IFT responded to the incident and collared and released the wolf.
<b>Chimney Canyon</b> AM2636*, mp2945, mp2950, fp2952 and fp2953	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, AM2636 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
<b>Cimmaron Mesa</b> AM2702	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Cottonwood Canyon</b> AM1859, F2999*	2*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released F2999 and AM1859.
<b>Dark Canyon</b> AM1354, AF1456	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Dillon Mountain</b> AF1865, m3006*, f3013*	2*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, the IFT captured, collared and released m3006. In March, a private trapper captured f3013 on private land. The IFT responded to the incident and removed the wolf for veterinary care. f3013 was collared and released later in the month.
<b>El Torro</b> AF2861	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Frieborn</b> AF1443, AM2765	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Gallinas Canyon</b> AF2588, AM2700	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Hail Canyon</b> AF2690, AM2764, m2821, m2834, mp2922, fp2929, mp2933	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Holdup Mountain</b> F2743*, M2847	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, recollared and released F2743

<b>Iron Creek</b> M2549	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>La Ventana</b> F3005*, M2834	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, the IFT captured, collared and released F3005.
<b>Leon</b> AM1824, AF1578, f2806	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Leopold</b> AM1855	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Lonesome</b> AF2694, AM2755*	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, AM2755 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
<b>Luna</b> AF1487, m3009*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, the IFT captured, collared and released m3009.
<b>Mariano Mesa</b> M3011*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, the IFT captured, collared and released M3011.
<b>Mangas</b> F2775	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Milligan Gulch</b> AF2688, AM2687	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Neko Canyon</b> AF2742, f3003*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, the IFT captured, collared and released f3003.
<b>New Pair*</b> F2713, M2773	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, M2773 and F2713 were designated as a new pair after being together for over two months.
<b>Noble Mountain</b> AM2886, F3002*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released F3002.



<b>Pitchfork Canyon</b> AF1853*, AM2566	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, the IFT captured, collared and released AF1853.
<b>Point of Rocks</b> AM1717*, AF2515, mp2939, mp2936*	2*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released mp2936 and AM1717.
<b>Saddle Mountain</b> F2540	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Sawtooth</b> AM2704, mp2994*, f2996*	1*	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released f2996.  In March f2996 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
<b>Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP)</b> AF1553, M2719	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Six-Shooter Saddle</b> AM2867	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Snow Lake</b> AF2746, M2772	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Tres Lagunas</b> AF2763 AM3010*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, Wildlife Services captured M3010. The IFT responded and collared and released the wolf.
<b>Wagontongue</b> AM1946*	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, AM1946 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation. AM1946 was the only collared wolf in the Wagontongue pack.
<b>Whiskey Creek</b> AM1842, m3007*, m3012*, fp3014*	3*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, the IFT captured, collared and released m3007 and m3012,  In March, Wildlife Services captured fp3013. The IFT responded and removed the wolf for veterinary care. fp3014 was collared and released later in the month.

<b>Willow Creek</b> AF1890, M2772, AM1555*	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, re-collared and released AM1555
<b>Single AM2873*</b>	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, recollared, and translocated AM2873 from Arizona to Gila Flat in New Mexico.
<b>Single M1888</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Single M2760*</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, M2760 dispersed from the Whiskey Creek pack and became a single after traveling alone for three months.
<b>Single m2809*</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, m2809 dispersed from the Leon pack and became a single after traveling alone for three months.
<b>Single m2978*</b>	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, m2978 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.

**Total number of wolf packs in New Mexico at end of the quarter: 39**

## **MORTALITIES**

Ten Mexican wolf mortalities were documented in the first quarter (4 in AZ and 6 in NM). Due to consistent Mexican wolf population expansion, to ensure accurate inter-annual comparisons in mortality rates, these data are presented as the total number of documented mortalities per 100 Mexican wolves. Using these data for the last five years, the values calculated are: 2024 10 mortalities/100 wolves, 2023 12 mortalities/100 wolves, 2022 5 mortalities/100 wolves, 2021 13 mortalities/100 wolves, and 2020 16 mortalities/100 wolves. Cause of death for each mortality will be reported in the 2024 annual report when all the necropsies are finalized. The impact of these mortalities is uncertain but based on the 2017 Population Viability Assessment (PVA) completed for recovery planning purposes, continued population growth is again expected in 2025.

## GENETIC MANAGEMENT

Captive pups fostered (since 2016)	Captive pups fostered in 2024	<sup>a</sup> Fosters documented alive at the end of the quarter	<sup>a</sup> Documented mortalities of fosters	<sup>a,b</sup> Fosters surviving to breeding age	<sup>a</sup> Fosters documented producing pups	<sup>a</sup> Documented litters produced by fosters
126	27	12	17	20	13	31

<sup>a</sup>These are only **MINIMUM** values that have been documented by the IFT. The IFT does not affix radio collars on pups at the time of the foster, as the pups are too small. Pups are collared opportunistically when fostered wolves are captured later in the year or in subsequent years. Not all fosters that survive are captured and collared.

<sup>b</sup>At the end of the quarter, three more fostered wolves that had been collared by the IFT reached breeding age (considered two years of age or greater).

## INCIDENTS

The following are investigations of livestock depredations conducted by Wildlife Services during the quarter that were determined to be caused by wolves. Investigations of dead and injured livestock conducted by Wildlife Services during this time period that were determined to be from causes other than wolves (i.e., vehicle strike, illness, coyote predation, bear predation, or unknown cause) are not listed in this quarterly update.

## DEPREDATIONS

	Confirmed Wolf (Current Quarter)		Yearly Total Confirmed Wolf Killed or Died from Injuries	Probable Wolf (Current Quarter)		Yearly Total Probable Wolf by State
	Killed or Died from Injuries	Injured		Killed or Died from Injuries	Injured	
Arizona	10	3	10	0	0	0

<b>New Mexico</b>	32	1	32	4	0	4
<b>2024 Total</b>			42			4

*Unshaded cells contain totals for the current quarter, gray cells contain totals for the year.*

*\*There is one investigations in NM from the current quarter that is still pending Wildlife Services Regional Review.*

The yearly total number of confirmed wolf depredation incidents in 2024 (106) was down from the yearly total of confirmed wolf depredation incidents in 2023 (111). The number of depredations per 100 Mexican wolves, using the yearly total confirmed wolf depredations (killed or died from injuries) compared with the final minimum population count for 2024 was 37 depredations / 100 wolves. Depredations/100 wolves for the prior three years is as follows: 63 depredations / 100 wolves in 2021, 56 depredations / 100 wolves in 2022 and 43 depredations / 100 wolves in 2023.

## **PUBLIC INCIDENTS**

On February 13, 2025 in the Boston Hill Area in New Mexico, the IFT received a second-hand report of a single wolf following a walker in an urban environment. The IFT responded only in notifying local NMDGF Conservation Officers. Wolf AM 2873 was in the general area the day of the incident and no additional reports have been received.

## **PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT**

<b>State</b>	<b>Monitoring efforts</b> (monitoring with intent to haze a wolf)	<b>Hazing events</b> (successful hazing of a wolf)	<b>*Diversionary food caches maintained</b>	<b>Carcasses removed</b>	<b>Proactive equipment projects</b> (RAG boxes, fox lights, fladry)
<b>Arizona</b>	115	33	0	4	0
<b>New Mexico</b>	41	17	1	0	0
<b>2024 Totals</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

*Unshaded cells contain totals for the current quarter, gray cells contain totals for the year.*

*\*Includes supplemental food caches, as these also served as diversionary food caches this year.*

### **PROGRAM PERSONNEL**

In January, Jason Capps join the IFT as the Mexican Wolf IFT Lead with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Welcome Jason!

### **REWARDS OFFERED**

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$50,000, the AZGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000, and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged additional funding for a total reward amount of up to \$51,500, depending on the information provided. The total amount is up to \$103,500.

Individuals with information they believe may be helpful are urged to call one of the following agencies: USFWS Special Agents in Pinetop, Arizona, at (346) 254-0515; the WMAT at (928) 338-1023 or (928) 338-4385; AZGFD Operation Game Thief at (800) 352-0700; or NMDGF Operation Game Thief at (800) 432-4263. Killing a Mexican wolf is a violation of state law and the Federal Endangered Species Act and can result in criminal penalties of up to \$50,000, and/or not more than one year in jail, and/or a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.