



# Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Quarterly Update

*Second Quarter 2025 (April, May, June)*

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://arcg.is/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**

10(j) litigation: Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, WildEarth Guardians, and Western Watersheds Project submitted an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**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	0	0	1*	D	No	No	In April, the IFT lethally removed AF1823 from the wild.
<b>Castle Rock</b> M1921	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Crow Poison*</b> AF2849, AM2995	0	0	0	0	Yes	Yes	In April, AF2849 and AM2995 formed a pack after traveling together for two months. They were named the Crow Poison pack. In April, two wild-born pups from the Warm Springs pack were fostered into Crow Poison.

<b>Eagle Creek</b> M1477, F1548	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Elderberry</b> AF2977, AM2766	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Elk Horn</b> AM1838, AF1866	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Fantasia</b> AF2759	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Firebox</b> AM1881	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Hoodoo</b> AF2752, AM1789, M1893	0	0	0	D	No	No	
<b>Juniper Bench</b> AF1920, M2859	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Manada del Arroyo*</b> AF1828*, AM2774*	0	0	2*	0	Yes	No	In May, the IFT captured and removed the Manada del Arroyo pack to captivity.
<b>Timber Island*</b> AF2769	0	0	0	0	No	No	In June, AF2769 formed the Timber Island pack after traveling with an uncollared wolf for two months.
<b>Pancho Spring</b> AM2770	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Prime Canyon</b> AM1471, AF1488	0	0	0	0	No	No	

<b>Pumpkin Spring</b> AM2848	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	In April, AM2848 and his uncollared mate were named the Pumpkin Spring pack.
<b>Pyramids</b> M2889, F3001	0	0	0	0	No	No	In April, M2889 and F3001 were named the Pyramids pack.
<b>Quakie Patch*</b> M3000	0	0	0	0	No	No	In April, M3000 formed the Quakie Patch pack after traveling with an uncollared wolf for two months.
<b>Rocky Prairie</b> AM1383, AF1489, M3070*	1*	0	0	0	Yes	No	In June, the IFT captured, collared and released M3070.
<b>Rose</b> AM1704*	0	0	0	0	N/A	No	In May, AM1704 became Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months. This was the only remaining collar in the Rose pack.
<b>Saffel</b> AM1854, AF1939, AM1852, m2991	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Sierra Blanca</b> AF1550, M2988*	0	0	0	0	No	No	In June, M2988 became Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months.
<b>Snake Creek</b> AM2709	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Warm Springs</b> AF1938, AM2796, f2993	0	0	0	S	Yes	Yes	In April, the IFT fostered six captive born pups into the Warm Springs pack.
<b>Single F2868</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Single M2883</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

<b>Single m2990</b>	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In May, the IFT captured, collared and released m2990 who was previously Fate Unknown.
<b>Single F2992</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In April, F2992 from the Prime Canyon pack became a Single after displaying dispersal behavior for three months. In May, F2992 was documented traveling with M3008 from the Bear Canyon pack.
<b>Single M2556</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	M2556, previously fate unknown, was documented alive and traveling alone in June.

**FAIR:**

<b>Wolf Pack Collared Wolves</b>	<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>Baldy AM1347*</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In May, AM1347 became Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months.
<b>Pacheta Creek M3059*</b>	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In May, the IFT captured, collared, and released M3059. M3059 was documented traveling with other uncollared wolves and formed the Pacheta Creek pack.
<b>Tu dil hil F2758</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Single M1382</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, M1382 dispersed from the Tu dil hil pack and became a single after traveling alone for three months.
<b>Single M1857</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

Single F2767	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
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**Total number of wolf packs in Arizona at end of the quarter: 26**

**NEW MEXICO:**

Wolf Pack	Captures	Mortalities	Removals	Food Cache	Raising pups (April – Sept)	Foster (April/May)	*Comments
Collared Wolves							
<b>Agua Frio</b> AM1875, F2997	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Aldo</b> AM2561	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Beaver Point</b> AF2884, AM2998	0	0	0	S	Yes	Yes	In May, the IFT fostered four captive born pups into the Beaver Point pack.
<b>Burnt Peaks</b> M2557	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Buzzard Peak</b> AM2567	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Canovas Creek</b> AM1584*	0	0	0	0	No	No	In May, AM1584 became Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months. This was the only remaining collar in the Canovas Creek pack.
<b>Cassidera Canyon</b> AF2806*	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	In May, AF2806 formerly of the Leon Pack, dispersed and formed the Cassidera Canyon pack.
<b>Centerfire</b> AM2697	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	

<b>Chimney Canyon</b> m2945, f2953*	0	1*	0	0	No	No	In April, f2953 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
<b>Cimmaron Mesa</b> AM2702	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Cottonwood Canyon</b> AM1859, AF2999*	0	1*	0	0	Yes	No	In June, AF2999 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
<b>Dark Canyon</b> AM1354, AF1456*	0	0	0	0	No	No	In April, AF1456 became Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months.
<b>Dillon Mountain</b> AF1865, m3006*, f3013	0	0	0	D	Yes	No	In June, m3006 slipped its collar. The wolf has been documented via trail camera after the incident.
<b>El Torro</b> AF2861	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Frieborn</b> AF1443, AM2765	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Gallinas Canyon</b> AF2588, AM2700	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Hardcastle Canyon*</b> AM2814	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	In April, AM2814 formed the Hardcastle Canyon pack after being documented raising pups with an uncollared wolf in New Mexico.
<b>Hail Canyon</b> AF2690, AM2764*, m2922, f2929	0	0	1*	D	Yes	No	In April, the IFT lethally removed AM2764 from the wild.
<b>Holdup Mountain</b> AF2743, AM2847	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	

<b>Iron Creek</b> M2549*	0	0	0	0	No	No	In May, M2549 became Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months.
<b>La Ventana</b> AF3005, AM2834*	0	1*	0	D	Yes	No	In April a member of the public notified the IFT that AM2834 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
<b>Leon</b> AM1824, AF1578	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Leopold</b> AM1855	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Lonesome</b> AF2694	0	0	0	D	Yes	No	
<b>Luna</b> AF1487, AM3009*	0	0	0	S	Yes	Yes	In May the IFT fostered four captive born pups into the Luna Pack.
<b>Mariano Mesa</b> AM3011*	0	1*	0	0	Yes	No	In May, the Catron County Sheriff's office notified Federal Law Enforcement that AM3011 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
<b>Mangas</b> AF2775	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Milligan Gulch</b> AF2688*, AM2687	0	0	0	0	No	No	In April, AF2688 became Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months.
<b>Neko Canyon</b> AM2873*, AF2742*, f3003*	0	2*	0	S	Yes	No	In April, AM2873 was documented raising pups with the Neko Canyon pack.  In June, AF2742 was found dead in New Mexico. In June, f3003 was also found dead in New Mexico. The mortalities are under investigation.

<b>New Pack*</b> AF2865	0	0	0	D	Yes	No	In April, AF2865 dispersed from the Elk Horn pack in Arizona. AF2865 was documented raising pups in New Mexico and has been designated as a New Pack.
<b>New Pack*</b> AF3069	1*	0	0	0	Yes	No	In June, Catron County trapper captured AF3069 on private land. The IFT was notified and collared and released the wolf nearby on public land. AF3069 was documented raising pups and has been designated as a New Pack.
<b>Noble Mountain</b> AM2886, F3002	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Piney Park</b> AM2760	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	In April, AM2760 formed the Piney Park pack after being documented raising pups with an uncollared wolf in New Mexico
<b>Pinon Knob</b> AF2713, AM2773	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Pitchfork Canyon</b> AF1853, AM2566	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Point of Rocks</b> AM1717, AF2515, mp2939, mp2936	0	0	0	S	Yes	Yes	In May, the IFT fostered three captive born pups into the Point of Rocks pack.
<b>Saddle Mountain</b> F2540	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Sawtooth</b> AM2704*, m2994*	0	2*	0	0	No	No	In June, AM2704 was found dead in New Mexico. In June, m2994 was also found dead in New Mexico. The mortalities are under investigation. There are no longer any collared members of the Sawtooth pack and the pack is now considered defunct.

<b>Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP)</b> AF1553, AM2719	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Six-Shooter Saddle</b> AM2867	0	0	0	0	No	No	
<b>Snow Lake</b> AF2746, M2772	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Tres Lagunas</b> AF2763 AM3010	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Wagontongue</b> M3071*	1*	0	0	0	Yes	No	In June, the IFT captured, collared and released M3071.
<b>Whiskey Creek</b> AM1842, m3007, M3012, f3014	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Willow Creek</b> AF1890, AM1555	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
<b>Single M1888</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Single M2821</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In April, M2821 dispersed from the Hail Canyon pack and became a Single after traveling alone for three months.
<b>Single m2952</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In May, m2952 dispersed from the Chimney Canyon pack and became a Single after traveling along for three months.
<b>Single f2950</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In May, f2950 dispersed from the Chimney Canyon pack and became a Single after traveling alone for three months.

<b>Single m2933</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
<b>Single M3065</b>	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In May, the IFT captured M3065 north of Interstate 40 in New Mexico and removed the wolf for veterinary care. M3065 was later recollared and released south of Interstate 40 in New Mexico.
<b>Single m2809</b>	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

**Total number of wolf packs in New Mexico at end of the quarter: 45**

### **MORTALITIES**

Eight Mexican wolf mortalities were documented in the second quarter (0 in AZ and 8 in NM). The total number of documented mortalities from January 1 through June 30, 2025 is 18 (4 in AZ and 14 in NM). Cause of death for each mortality is under investigation by USFWS Law Enforcement. Due to 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 2025	<sup>a</sup> Fosters documented alive at the end of the quarter	<sup>a</sup> Documented foster mortality	<sup>a,b</sup> Fosters surviving to breeding age	<sup>a</sup> Fosters documented producing pups	<sup>a</sup> Documented litters produced by fosters
143	17	11	20	21	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 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	8	10	18	0	0	0
New Mexico	46	5	82	13	1	17

<b>2025 Total</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>17</b>
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*Unshaded cells contain totals for the current quarter, gray cells contain totals for the year.*

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**

### **PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT**

<b>State</b>	<b>Monitoring efforts (monitoring with intent to haze a wolf)</b>	<b>Hazing events (successful hazing of a wolf)</b>	<b>*Diversiory food caches maintained</b>	<b>Carcasses removed</b>	<b>Proactive equipment projects (RAG boxes, fox lights, fladry)</b>
<b>Arizona</b>	121	85	3	10	1
<b>New Mexico</b>	29	9	11	0	1
<b>2025 Totals</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</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 diversory food caches this year.*

### **PROGRAM PERSONNEL**

In May, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Field Team Leader Don Young retired after five years of service.

## **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.