

Mexican Wolf Population Statistics

Initial releases of Mexican wolves 1998-2025

Data Current as of 31 December 2025

Year	Number of wolves initially released	Number of initial release events
1998	13	5
1999	21	4
2000	16	5
2001	15	2
2002	9	1
2003	8	2
2004	5	1
2005	0	0
2006	4	1
2007	0	0
2008	1	1
2009	0	0
2010	0	0
2011	0	0
2012	0	0
2013	1	1
2014	2	2
2015	1	1
2016	6	3
2017	4	2
2018	8	4
2019	12	5
2020	20	8
2021	22	8
2022	11	5
2023	16	6
2024	27	8
2025	23	5
Total	245	80

Notes: The **1998 Final Rule** restricted “initial releases” to the Primary Recovery Zone in Arizona. Please see the 1998 Final Rule for additional details (located on ECOS website). **With the implementation of the 2015 Final Rule**, Mexican wolves may be initially released into an expanded area in the MWEPA. Please see the [2015 Final Rule for additional details](#).

An initial release is defined as a wolf with no previous free-ranging experience that is released directly from captivity into the wild. Translocations are not included in this table.

A release event is defined as a Project activity occurring on the same day and location where one or more wolves are initially released.

Initial releases were entirely composed of cross foster wolf pups in the years 2016-2024.