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We have received the genetic results from the February 3, 2015 incident in Catron County, New Mexico, in which a rancher and several of his dogs had an altercation with a group of 7-8 canids of unknown origin at a depredation site (none of which had radio collars and thus were not known packs of wolves). The Preto pack (5 animals: 4 collars and 1 uncollared) and the Luna Pack (5 animals, 3 collars and 2 uncollared) have been documented in the area.



The lab was unable to obtain genetics from swabs of the knife or jacket of the man. The knife was cleaned following the incident with the unknown canids. Similarly, the scats collected on scene did not produce genetic results. The canine hair that was collected in the area of the incident was coyote hair.

While these results do help the investigation, they are not conclusive towards what the animals were that interacted with the rancher and his dogs. We have continued to intensively monitor the area with camera traps, but they have not revealed a group of canines that are consistent with the description of the incident. The cameras have documented components of the Preto pack and the Luna pack in the area consistent with locational information from the collars. The cameras also continue to document the presence of coyotes (26 times). But neither the wolves nor the coyotes have been documented in packs of 7 to 8 animals.

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