

From: [Oakleaf, John](#)
To: [Baldridge, Aaron C -FS](#)
Cc: [Ordonez, Vicente -FS](#); [Vartanian, Janess](#); [Pierson, John -FS](#); [Gehrt, Amanda -FS](#); [Marta, Sara K -FS](#); [Monzingo, Jerry A -FS](#); [Smergut, Teresa A -FS](#); [Justin Martens](#); [Allison Greenleaf](#)
Subject: Re: Impacted permittee correspondence
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2015 4:24:40 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

All,

I talked with Mark yesterday evening. I put Mark in contact with Craig Miller (Defenders). Craig is supposed to call Mark today. Craig has \$4600 for hay. I discussed this with Vicente today. Our plan is to utilize this money as a way to bridge the gap between the 2 weeks of hay being provided from current FS hay and allowing FS to get through purchasing other hay. Then we can evaluate the need through time. The \$4600 is now a conversation between Craig and Mark. I am completely out of that end of things. I am unsure how much hay that will buy, but I doubt that it is a semi load, although they do have a line on some cheaper hay.

I would suggest that Vicente be the point of contact relative to the FS hay from here on forward. I will get out of the way. I think that they will need more hay however, but Defenders money can bridge the gap between now and when FS hay arrives.

I called Paul about the DNA results last night and asked him to call me. I have not heard back from him. I emailed the results to Jess Carey. I also emailed the results to the MMT and the IFT, so I believe it is generally public information. I would like to talk to Paul directly about the results however. I will try again tonight.

John

On Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 2:53 PM, Baldridge, Aaron C -FS <abaldridge@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Hey Vicente, as discussed yesterday, Sara and I have exhausted the noxious weed free alfalfa certified list for Arizona and New Mexico. We did find the following vendors below that currently have some hay. This time of year is tough. If possible, I would recommend considering a mix of non-certified hay if private land owners are agreeable. I do not know of any producers that currently feed certified hay on their private land. I cannot think of anytime thus far that the program has provided a producer hay to feed on the forest. In those situations, certified hay would be needed. I also would recommend looking at large bales as part of your order, these will be bigger than the typical three string 120 lbs bales we have. If the hay is stored for a length of time, the larger bales like a 3'x4'x3' bale will weather better and will be easier to load/stack on a truck/trailer for delivery with our USFS Bobcat machine. Most alfalfa farmers bale both three string and the larger 3x4x3 bales so ordering a mix shouldn't be an issue. Below are the vendors from the noxious weed free list that currently have hay for sale.

Ely Farms: (b) (6); They have approximately 5 tons of 3 string 120 lbs. certified hay available. They do have other non-certified alfalfa available (including 3x4x3 bales) and have enough to deliver a semi load now.

Rocking 7 Farms: (b) (6); They have two semi loads of certified alfalfa on site, however, the hay may be going to Grand Canyon NPS but vendor will let us know asap.

Depending on your needs, these vendors could likely split the order and deliver ½ in one location and ½ in another. I have ordered USFS horse hay from both vendors in the past and both have excellent hay. I am not sure if Rocking 7 will bring their squeeze machine from the phoenix valley to unload the hay but I know that Ely's brought theirs last time we ordered. This was a HUGE help by not having to unload an entire semi by hand. I would highly recommend adding in the quote that the vendor provides unloading.

Additional thoughts:

1. I talked with (b) (6) this afternoon, he was very appreciative of the hay delivered yesterday. It seems he is talking with John Oakleaf about hay to be purchased for the Deadman Allotment by Defenders of Wildlife or also some discussion about reimbursing Mark for a load of hay? Just want to make sure everyone is on the same page so Mark doesn't buy a load of hay thinking he is getting reimbursed while Vicente is ordering one. Vicente/John you may want to call Mark. Mark is going to be at the ranch with Paul by this evening.
2. Lastly, has Mark and Paul been informed on the DNA results? How about Catron County? Is this internal info or is it public?



Aaron C. Baldridge
Range & Recreation Staff
Forest Service

Gila National Forest, Reserve Ranger District

p: 575-533-6231
abaldridge@fs.fed.us

P.O. Box 170

Reserve, NM 87830

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Oakleaf, John [mailto:john_oakleaf@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 4:11 PM

To: Baldrige, Aaron C -FS

Cc: Ordonez, Vicente -FS; Vartanian, Janess; Pierson, John -FS; Gehrt, Amanda -FS; Marta, Sara K -FS; Monzingo, Jerry A -FS; Smergut, Teresa A -FS; Justin Martens; Allison Greenleaf

Subject: Re: Impacted permittee correspondence

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 seats 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.

On Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 5:43 PM, Oakleaf, John <john_oakleaf@fws.gov> wrote:

Sorry, that went out before I was finished.

I indicated that I thought the hay would be ok for cows and that I saw cows eating that hay previously, but that they should know the condition and avoid horses eating it.

I indicated that I could work with Defenders relative to the PARTIAL funding of the hay, but that I could not talk to the person who had control of the funds until next week (because he is out this week).

So, I reiterated that the only hay that we had to offer was the hay that was currently at the FS. I have no other hay to commit at this time.

Mark was very interested in a realistic time frame for a delivery. I said I personally have no time frame because I do not have funding lined up, nor is there enough funding for an entire load, nor have I been able to talk to the people who control the funding, nor do I have a line on weed-free hay availability. Aaron, do you?

My approach is to tie into whatever funding is available from FS and to add money to fill a semi-load just as we discussed on the phone. I am unsure of the timeline that we can make that happen because I am dependent on a wide variety of other people.

Not to state the obvious, but I think that in the future, prior to making adjustments to grazing that is dependent on hay, we should have calculations of how much hay is needed for the time and if it is available prior to making adjustments. When I had originally proposed the idea, it was to look into moving the cattle but not dependent on hay.

I am committed to finding some level of funding though to assist in this however. And I am pretty confident that we can find some level of funding. I am just unsure of when we can get together enough money/hay to deliver up there

John

On Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Oakleaf, John <john_oakleaf@fws.gov> wrote:

I talked with Mark Steig today as well. I reiterated that the only hay that was available at this time was the moldy hay present at the FS. That the only commitment for hay at this time was for that hay which was around 100 bails based on my rough calculation.

On Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 10:54 AM, Oakleaf, John <john_oakleaf@fws.gov> wrote:

I talked we Paul last night. He indicated that the FS was working on hay per his conversation with Aaron. I indicated that I may be able to get \$2,000 kicked into money that was available to the hay IF the FS was able to get some hay.

I did discuss that the hay that was coming was poor quality and had a good deal of mold on it. Which is accurate from what I saw of it at the Spur Lake allotment.

At any rate, Paul also requested that we get him a range rider. I said that we had been working with Defenders to arrange for a combo range-rider between their allotment and the Cox Canyon allotment. He said that he was interested in the range rider for his allotment alone. I indicated that we could either get ~6,000 for a range rider for his allotment alone, contribute ~2,000 towards hay and ~4,000 towards the Deadman/Cox Canyon combo rider, or possibly contribute ~6,000 towards hay alone.

He indicated that he would talk to his boss and then decide what the priority was and get back to me this morning. As of yet he has not called me back.

We also discussed the possibility of an uncollared pair of wolves forming in that country. I am not sure this could be the case but we agreed to look for sign not associated with either the Luna or Prieto packs.

The investigators were planning on going to the scene today, but I am unsure if they were going. In a moment, I will forward the information from Justin (on scene of the investigation on the dog to this group). Paul did not relay particular concern about the incident to me, other to say that it was part of being in the woods. I asked if we should do something different, and outside of the cattle stuff and looking for trapping opportunities (uncollared pair) that we discussed he did not have suggestions.

John

On Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 10:02 AM, Baldridge, Aaron C -FS <abaldridge@fs.fed.us> wrote:

3/19 1400: Paul Decker from the Deadman Allotment called regarding a dog/wolf incident that had just occurred on the Deadman Allotment. His employee, Joe Biess was on the UTV with his dogs following behind when two of the dogs became engaged in an altercation with an uncollared

K9 that was described as a wolf. Joe was able to get the dogs away and left the scene. The location was near a dead cow carcass (not a depredation) that Paul assumed the wolf was feeding on. This seemed a bit out of the ordinary to Paul since the wolf incident occurred adjacent to the moving UTV. Paul called Jess Carey and Wildlife Services and they were going to meet yesterday evening to inspect the dogs. Apparently, one dog had blood on its coat that was presumed to be from the wolf and there was discussion on swabbing it.

Paul was again inquiring about hay to feed cattle on the private land. Paul was going to call Vicente and the wolf office after our discussion. I also immediately contacted Vicente/Justin at the wolf office. We made plans to load hay on 3/20.

3/19 1730: I met with Paul Decker and Joe Biess. They had just met with Jess Carey and Wildlife Services to have the two dogs inspected. One dog had been shaved where injuries occurred. According to Paul, the bite marks were consistent with a wolf. Relayed to Paul that Vicente and Justin would be at our office in the morning and we were going to load trucks and trailer to deliver hay tomorrow.

3/20 0830: Paul Decker called this morning. Road conditions at the Deadman are poor for any hay delivery. Paul had talked with John Oakleaf and per their conversation, Paul decided he did not want the hay that is stored at the RRD due to the quality/age of the weathered hay. Paul was afraid that the cattle would not eat it and it would be a waste of time to haul to the Deadman. Therefore, Paul wanted to call me and cancel the load planned for this morning. Paul said that per his conversation with John Oakleaf, John was working on a full semi delivery for the Deadman and Paul was going to wait for that since it sounds like it will be coming soon. John – if this is not the case, you may need to reiterate the realistic timeframe to Paul since our AOI livestock rotation amendment was dependent on the feeding of some stock on the private land and he is about out of his own hay.

Deadman AOI amendment: Remove all livestock from the Eagle Peak Pasture to mitigate wolf/livestock conflict. Place approximately 25-30 head of cows ready to calve or with new born calves on the private land and feed them. During the day, these cattle would be allowed to graze within the Holding Pasture and would be closely monitored. The cattle will then be brought back in the private land overnight. The remainder of the herd would be placed in Collins Park Pasture where they also can be closely monitored. We are also exploring other options such as areas on the Y Canyon Allotment with both permittees but will have to be smart about placement of livestock with upcoming denning period.

Other Allotments: As discussed on our recent conference call, we need to be prepared for

upcoming cattle moves to the general area that could increase potential for wolf/livestock conflict.

Cox Canyon Allotment stocks on/around May 1st with up to 147 head of cow/calf

Y Canyon Allotment will likely stock April/May with up to 1,133 yearlings or possibly less heifers
(Have not finalized AOI yet)

T Bar Allotment will stock on/around May 15 with up to 3000 yearlings (also have not finalized AOI yet)

Negrito Yeguas Allotment will be moving livestock into the Olla Pasture and adjacent area this April/May with approx. 320 cow/calf



Aaron C. Baldridge
Range & Recreation Staff
Forest Service

Gila National Forest, Reserve Ranger District

p: 575-533-6231
abaldridge@fs.fed.us

P.O. Box 170
Reserve, NM 87830
www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Ordonez, Vicente -FS
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 7:38 PM
To: Oakleaf, John; Vartanian, Janess
Cc: Pierson, John -FS; Gehrt, Amanda -FS; Baldridge, Aaron C -FS; Marta, Sara K -FS; Monzingo, Jerry A -FS; Smergut, Teresa A -FS
Subject: RE: Impacted permittee correspondence

Paul call me this afternoon to get updated GPS wolf points. I was away from the office, called Janess at the office and she said she would get right back to Paul with the info.

From: Oakleaf, John [mailto:john_oakleaf@fws.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:28 PM

To: Vartanian, Janess

Cc: Pierson, John -FS; Ordonez, Vicente -FS; Gehrt, Amanda -FS; Baldridge, Aaron C -FS; Marta, Sara K -FS; Monzingo, Jerry A -FS; Smergut, Teresa A -FS

Subject: Re: Impacted permittee correspondence

Janess,

Thank you for that initiation of the conversation and the information. Paul Decker called me this morning and indicated that he was working on moving cattle and gathering up the injured cattle.

Of importance, Paul indicated that he would likely need a Semi Truck full of hay to get through the calving time and he indicated that the current amount of hay may not help for him to change things.

Paul was indicating that the ranch owner just didn't understand the situation and needed to be there. *(note: I think this relates to continued thought/conversation about selling the ranch).*

Paul indicated that he would likely call me tonight for a longer conversation.

John

On Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 4:58 PM, Vartanian, Janess <janess_vartanian@fws.gov> wrote:

Per our conversation today (3-17-15), a start to our cooperative dialogue pertaining to impacted permittees.

On 3-15-15, I met with Paul Decker, checked cameras relating to the 2-4-15 incident and checked on come cattle/put out blocks. We reviewed photos as per the norm and manipulated camera placement per his request. Paul expressed satisfaction with the USFWS team, stating that he believes it is a strong team and that he hopes everyone stays. He

informed me of his plan to move cattle (starting 3-16-15) to the Collins Park pasture on the Deadman allotment in order to keep better track of them and that if the need arose it was easier to camp out there to keep an eye on them than in the Eagle pasture. He also stated that he would be keeping recently calved pairs and soon to calve cows on the private property, rotation them to the Collins Park pasture as appropriate. Paul did express the desire to move cameras to the Collins Park pasture with the cows on the next camera check.

During this visit, he again declined to accept a camera card for his camera stating that he was going to get Mark to bring a bunch down.

On 3-17-15, I spoke with Paul regarding wolf locations; during this conversation he let me know that two of the four cows looked at today by Wildlife Services and the Catron County wolf investigator had marks consistent with wolf, two they did not know what had made the marks on the animals, but no bite marks were present.

Janess

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Janess Vartanian

Wildlife Biologist, USFWS

Mexican Wolf Recovery Program

PO Box 856 Alpine, AZ 85920

Office: 928-339-4329

Cell: 928-255-8366

Fax: 928-339-4218

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John Oakleaf

Field Projects Coordinator

USFWS, Mexican Wolf Program

(505) 761-4782 (work)

(928) 245-1910 (cell)

--

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(505) 761-4782 (work)

(928) 245-1910 (cell)

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