

**From:** [McGee, Brady](#)  
**To:** [Mike Phillips \(TESF-Bozeman\)](#)  
**Subject:** Seco Creek Pack History  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 11:13:40 AM  
**Attachments:** [Response to Jim Paxon's Comments on Ladder Ranch Release.docx](#)

---

Hi Mike,

Here is some history on M1693 and F1728:

On March 3, 2021, I authorized the translocation of the Negrito pack (M1693 and F1728), which has high genetic value in the wild population, as a management action to minimize livestock conflicts and maximize the opportunity for this pack to remain in the wild and have their genetics contribute to the wild population. After assessing the current situation and based on the history of conflicts in the Rainy Mesa area from other wolves (Prieto Pack), the likelihood of additional depredations to occur is high even with additional management actions. Mitigating and minimizing livestock depredations by Mexican wolves, as well as increasing genetic diversity of the wild population of Mexican wolves in, are both high priorities of the USFWS, and the cooperating agencies of the Mexican wolf project in the Southwest Region.

M1693 was born at the Endangered Wolf Center in 2018 and was placed in a wild den as a cross-foster pup (< 15 days old) to increase the genetic diversity of the wild Mexican wolf population. M1693's genetic MK ranks him as one of the most valuable male wolves in the wild population. His inbreeding coefficient is .1302 which compares favorably to the average inbreeding coefficient of the wild population of .2020. While F1728 was born in the wild population and her genetic contribution reflects the MK and inbreeding of the average wild wolf, when paired with M1693, they provide pups that favorably impact the inbreeding level of the wild population. Both M1693 and F1728 were born in 2018 and have likely been together since the winter of 2020.

In April 2019, we had a removal order for a different wolf and M1693 was inadvertently caught in three leg-hold traps by Wildlife Services as a non-targeted animal and injured in the process. M1693 was temporarily held to receive veterinary care prior to being moved to a different location in New Mexico at the request of the rancher and Catron County Sheriff's Department.

M1693 is responsible for 7 confirmed depredations over a 2-year period and is accused of one human interaction as documented by Catron County Wolf Investigator Jess Carey (M1693 was documented being at the location by GPS collar transmission and charged ranch hand Josh Powell on Feb. 13, 2021. Two positive kills were discovered a short distance away at that time, a cow and calf). Please note that at no time have we received a complaint or a report that these wolves showed aggression towards people. After hearing about the accusation, we

spoke with the rancher Audrey McQueen for whom Josh Powell worked, and the incident was described as: "Mr. Powell rode up to a dead cow that M1693 was feeding on, and the wolf ran off as Mr. Powell fired several gunshots in its direction." We interpret this to be appropriate fear/flight response and consider it opportunistic harassment by Mr. Powell as authorized in our 10(j) Rule. During our conversation, the rancher did not claim the wolf showed aggression towards the ranch hand.

Female wolf F1728 is a wild-born wolf from the Dark Canyon Pack and was involved in 3 confirmed depredations (3 of the 7 noted above associated with M1693) in February 2021 while travelling with M1693.

There is no evidence that either of these wolves are habituated to humans as some people have claimed.

Attached is additional information I gave to Jim Paxson just for FYI.

Thanks,

Brady

Brady McGee, Ph.D.  
Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2105 Osuna Road NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113  
office 505-761-4748  
cell 505-908-8491