

## **Mexican Wolf 90-Day Finding Questions and Answers**

**Q: What action has the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) taken?**

**A:** The Service, following a 90-day review of two petitions received, has determined the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) may warrant reclassification as an endangered subspecies.

**Q: Why is the Service taking this action?**

**A:** On Aug. 11, 2009, the Service received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity requesting the Mexican wolf be reclassified as an endangered subspecies or DPS and critical habitat be designated under the Act. On Aug. 12, 2009, the Service received a petition from WildEarth Guardians and The Rewilding Institute requesting that the Mexican wolf be reclassified as an endangered subspecies and critical habitat be designated under the Act. This 90-day finding is in response to those two petitions.

**Q: What would reclassifying the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies mean?**

**A:** Currently, the Mexican wolf is listed as endangered within a broader species-level listing of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*). If the Mexican wolf is reclassified as an endangered subspecies it would remain protected under the Endangered Species Act regardless of any changes to the listing status of the other gray wolves in the rest of the U.S. The same result would occur if the Mexican wolf was determined to be a Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and the DPS is listed as endangered.

**Q: Would listing the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies or DPS change its current 10(j) experimental, non-essential status to endangered species status?**

**A:** No. The current 10(j) population of the Mexican wolf will remain listed as experimental, nonessential, regardless of the outcome of this reclassification decision.

**Q: What is the next step for the Service?**

**A:** The Service is initiating a review of the status of the Mexican wolf to determine if listing the Mexican wolf as a subspecies or DPS is warranted. Based on the status review, the Service will issue a 12-month finding on the petitions.

**Q: Will the public be able to provide information or comments for this status review?**

**A:** Yes. To ensure that this status review is comprehensive, the Service is requesting all existing scientific and commercial data and other information regarding the Mexican wolf be sent to the contact address mentioned in the Federal Register notice. To allow adequate time to conduct this review, the Service requests that information be received on or before October 4, 2010.

One may submit information by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search for docket FWS-R2-ES-2010-0045 and then follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- U.S. mail or hand-delivery: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R2-ES-2010-0045; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222; Arlington, VA 22203.
- E-mails or faxes will not be accepted. All comments will be posted on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that any personal information provided will be posted.