



News Release

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Recently Released Mexican Wolf Recaptured

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, through the Mexican wolf Interagency Field Team (IFT), have recaptured the male Mexican wolf, M1049, that was translocated and released into the Hawk's Nest Pack territory on January 28, 2011.

Local citizens reported to the Interagency Field Team that M1049 was repeatedly seen in and around the small Arizona community of Nutrioso, which is located within the recovery zone and surrounded by forested land. The IFT investigated and the Service determined that, because the wolf was in an area close to human habitation and not responding to hazing efforts by the IFT, a temporary removal from the wild was necessary.

“Recapturing this wolf demonstrates our commitment to acting quickly when a management situation arises,” said Benjamin Tuggle, Southwest Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “We do not view this as a setback in our wolf recovery efforts. We acted judiciously to address public concerns and the wolf’s well-being. We do not regard this as a permanent removal.”

No pets or livestock in the Nutrioso area were harmed in the few days that M1049 was in the area. IFT members tried hazing the wolf away from the town, but that was not effective in this instance. He was immobilized and transported to a veterinary facility on Wednesday, February 2, and is being transferred to a captive facility in New Mexico. While in captivity M1049 will be evaluated and the Service will determine future release options for this animal.

Tuggle said, “The IFT’s rapid response and quick action is a good example of cooperation between the partner agencies.” The IFT is made up of biologists and technicians from the participating agencies and Tribes.

Mexican wolf recovery is a joint effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, White Mountain Apache Tribe, USDA Forest Service, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services, and other local stakeholders.

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