

Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Annual Report 1

Reporting Period: January 1 - December 31, 1998

Prepared by:

Wendy Brown, Mexican Wolf Field Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 2

Cooperators:

Arizona Game and Fish Department
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
USDA Wildlife Services



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Mexican wolves were extirpated from the wild in the United States by 1970. A captive breeding program, managed under a Species Survival Plan (SSP) for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by 41 zoos and wildlife sanctuaries in the United States and Mexico, now contains approximately 177 animals. The Secretary of the Interior signed a record of decision in March 1997, which implemented the USFWS's preferred alternative in an environmental impact statement on the reintroduction of wolves to a portion of their historic range in Arizona and New Mexico. In January 1998, the first Mexican wolves were transferred to acclimation pens on the Apache National Forest in preparation for their release into the wild. This report summarizes project information and activities from January 1 - December 31, 1998.

Abbreviations used in this document:

Packs and/or acclimation pen sites:

CB = Campbell Blue
HN = Hawks Nest
TC = Turkey Creek
ES = Engineer Springs

Wolf age and sex:

M = adult male (> 2 years old)
F = adult female (> 2 years old)
m = subadult male (< 2 > 1 years old)
f = subadult female (< 2 > 1 years old)
mp = male pup (< 1 year old)
fp = female pup (< 1 year old)

Methods

Release candidate wolves were selected by the SSP and acclimated prior to release in Service-approved facilities. These included the Ladder Ranch Captive Management Facility managed by the Turner Endangered Species Fund (Ladder Ranch), the Sevilleta Captive Management Facility managed by the FWS at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (Sevilleta), and the Wolf Haven Captive Management Facility managed by Wolf Haven International (Wolf Haven). Contact between wolves and humans was minimized and carcasses of road-killed native prey species (mostly deer and elk) supplemented their routine diet of processed canine food. Genetically and socially compatible breeding pairs were established and evaluated for physical, reproductive, and behavioral suitability for release. Some pairs produced pups in captivity before

release, and their pups and occasionally yearlings were included in the release group.

Wolves selected for release were radio collared and moved to smaller pens at release locations. Caretaker camps were established approximately 0.5 miles away from pen sites. Carcasses of native prey and fresh water were provided as needed. When necessary, security was maintained by posted U.S. Forest Service (USFS) closures of an area of approximately 0.5 mi radius around each pen.

Four chain link acclimation pens (0.33 acres) were constructed on the Apache National Forest for use in 1998 at the Campbell Blue (CB), Hawk's Nest (HN), Turkey Creek (TC), and Engineer Springs (ES) sites (Figure 1). Eleven wolves from three packs were transferred to the CB, HN, and TC pens January 26 - February 4, 1998. These included the CB alpha pair M166 and F174 and their female pup f511; HN alpha pair M131 and F127 and their four offspring f493, f494, m531 and m532; and the TC alpha pair M156 and F128.

In November, the Engineer Springs pen was constructed and used to bond the CB male with a new mate after his original mate was shot and killed. At the same time, the CB pen was used again to provide the HN male with a new mate after his original mate disappeared.

Wolves were monitored by radio telemetry from the ground and twice weekly from the air. Monitoring was most intensive during the initial weeks after release to determine when wolves began hunting. If we found wolves were near roads or other areas of human activity we hazed them by chasing on foot, horseback, or all-terrain vehicles. When necessary, we also used rubber bullets, cracker shells, and slingshots to encourage a flight response to humans.

All wolves were provided with supplemental road-killed elk and deer, or occasionally commercially produced "meat logs" for wild carnivores after release. The duration of supplemental feeding varied depending on time of year, availability of vulnerable prey, and whether pups were present. Supplemental feeding was gradually discontinued when wolves began killing prey.

Suspected wolf depredation on livestock was investigated by USDA Wildlife Services specialists. Results of all investigations were reported to the Defenders of Wildlife, a non-profit organization that compensates livestock owners for confirmed wolf depredation.

Range maps in this document were generated using Arc View software, based on radio telemetry and occasional confirmed visual sightings of individuals. Polygons generated were based on 90% of all verified locations and a "buffer" of either 3 or 5 miles, depending upon the number of locations used < 20 or ≥ 20 , respectively. This method was based on the definition of occupied wolf range in the Federal rule for the nonessential experimental Mexican wolf population. The maps were intended to describe the range and movements of wolves after release, and in some cases, movements in response to management actions or other significant events, such as the death of a mate. They were not intended as formal analysis of home range size.

Reintroduced Population Status

Thirteen wolves were released in 1998. One wild-born pup was observed, five wolves were shot and killed (M156, F174, f493, m531, m532), three were returned to captivity for management purposes (F128, f511, f494), and one disappeared and is presumed dead (F127). Of 11 wolves originally released on March 29, only two, the alpha males from the Campbell Blue and Hawks Nest Pack, (M166, M131) remained in the wild at the end of this reporting period. Two additional wolves (F482 and F486) were released as new mates for the remaining alpha males. Four wolves were free ranging on December 31 (Table 1).

Monitoring and Management

Campbell Blue Pack (M166, F174, f511, p577)

The Campbell Blue pack consisting of the alpha pair M166, F174, and their yearling offspring f511 was released from the CB pen (Figure 1) on March 29. After release, they were fed elk and deer carcasses at approximately 50% of their nutritional needs until wild elk calves became available as prey in early June. The CB pair denned around May 11, approximately 2 mi from their acclimation pen. The female's movements were very restricted May 11 – June 3.

On May 5, when yearling f511 was approximately 1 year old, she dispersed from her pack. She left immediately after HN yearling 494 was located briefly with the CB pack. She then began traveling north and west, moving outside the recovery area boundaries. She was captured 16 miles west of Snowflake, AZ on May 18 by net gun from a helicopter (Figure 2). She was returned to Sevilleta and later paired with her own mate in preparation for re-release.

On June 3, while attacking an elk calf with her mate, F174 was trampled by the mother elk defending her calf. After the incident, F174 was observed limping severely on her left rear leg and she deteriorated to the point where her survival was jeopardized. Supplemental feeding for the pair was resumed from late June until mid-July. After that, the CB wolves obtained their own food through hunting and scavenging. Nine prey site investigations conducted by project personnel June 1 – December 31 yielded three known kills, one possible kill, and five scavenged elk eaten by CB wolves (Table 2).

A fire burned over 300 acres approximately 1 mile east of the CB den in mid-June. Shortly thereafter, the pair began expanding their movements away from the den area. On June 26, biologists entered the site and found two well-used dens lined with wolf hair, and collected 71 scats from the denning area. No pup-sized scats or pup remains were found. On July 15, biologist observed a single pup (p577) with the CB pair. It appeared to be a male and was very shy of humans.

Radio telemetry locations showed the HN wolves were located with the CB wolves July 21-27. During this time of pack overlap, members of different packs were located together, and much howling occurred. On July 28, the CB wolves were located well north and west of their home range to date. They apparently expanded their movements in response to the presence of the

larger HN pack in the core of their home range. During the four months after their release, the pair established a range of approximately 148 square miles that included their release pen (Figure 3).

F174 was illegally shot and killed on August 7 in the Williams Valley area during the opening of bear season. Initial investigation of the scene suggested she has been killed by a mountain lion; however, necropsy later revealed she had been shot. She was in excellent condition when killed, weighing 54 lbs. (release weight 49.5 lbs.). The case remains open. A \$10,000 reward was offered by the Service for information leading to the conviction of the responsible party(ies).

M166 continued to care for the pup after the death of F174 but began moving extensively. The pup was last seen with the male on August 22 and is presumed dead. Subsequently, M166 traveled to the Nutrioso and Alpine communities, and was observed loitering near domestic dogs. Aversive conditioning was used to encourage him to leave the residential areas. He continued to travel widely and unpredictably after the loss of his pack, entering both New Mexico and the White Mountain Apache Reservation. The area of his movements increased over tenfold from those prior to the death of his mate. The pair's range encompassed 148 square miles March 29 – August 7 (377 locations), whereas the male's range covered some 1,573 square miles August 7 – November 18 (135 locations) (Figure 3).

On November 18, M166 was captured in a modified foothold trap on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. He was in excellent condition, weighing 80 lbs., identical to his pre-release weight. He was placed in an acclimation pen at Engineer Springs with a potential new mate, F482 (transferred to the pen from Ladder Ranch on November 16). The new pair was released on December 11. They remained together for the remainder of this reporting period, and restricted their movements to a 48 square mile area (Figure 4).

Hawks Nest Pack (M131, F127, f493, f494, m531, m532)

The Hawks Nest pack, including the alpha pair, two subadult females born in 1996, and two yearling males was released from the HN acclimation pen on March 29. They were fed supplemental elk and deer carcasses during April and May only, and survived by hunting and scavenging for the remainder of the reporting period. The alpha pair established a range of approximately 165 square miles centered around their release pen (Figure 5).

The pack made its first confirmed kill, an aged cow elk, on April 21. The kill was observed and reported by a local rancher. Nine elk kills were investigated by biologists in HN territory during the reporting period. Three were confirmed kills by the wolves, four were possible wolf kills, and two were attributed to scavenging of hunter-wounded or poached animals (Table 2).

The HN pack localized their movements near the pen approximately May 10; however by late May they were frequently traveling together away from the site, suggesting that if pups had been born, none had survived. Examination of the den site (two fresh, shallow dens 46 feet apart, dug under deadfall) revealed no pup remains or pup-sized scats, indicating that either the female denned but did not whelp, or pups were born but died before they were old enough to emerge from the den.

In late April, subadult f494 dispersed from her pack and briefly joined the CB pack May 1 - 3. On

May 8, she was located near the town of Alpine where she stayed the remainder of the month (Figure 6). Biologists attempted to discourage her presence in rural residential areas by chasing and pyrotechnic devices. She apparently killed 3 chickens and one duck, but no other depredations to domestic animals occurred. Trapping efforts to capture her began May 12. She was captured in a modified foothold trap one mile west of Alpine on May 28 and was transferred to Sevilleta on the same day. She was later transferred to a captive facility in Mexico as a reintroduction candidate there.

F493 dispersed from the pack on June 8 to the Escudilla Mountain area where she remained for most of June. Subsequently, she moved west to the Big Lake area and was located near campgrounds several times over the Fourth of July weekend. Efforts to discourage her from the area failed so she was captured July 9 and returned to her pack's home range. She remained with them until August 20 when she dispersed again, returning to Escudilla Mountain and occasionally traveling near Luna, N.M. (Figure 7). She was found shot to death near the state line on October 18. She was in good condition, weighing 52 lbs (56 lbs. at release). At the end of this reporting period, the investigation of her shooting was still pending.

In late June, m531 began making exploratory trips away from his pack. He was located on the White Mountain Apache Reservation several times between July and September. He returned to his pack for the majority of October then dispersed again in early November (Figure 8). He was located on the White Mountain Apache Reservation on November 10 where he remained until he was found shot to death on November 23. He was in good condition, weighing 77 lbs. (85 lbs. at release). The investigation of this shooting was still open at the end of this reporting period.

The alpha pair and yearling m532 remained together throughout the summer months, while f493 and f531 began exploring and returning to the pack. The pack expanded its' home range considerably in July and August, apparently usurping much of the CB pack's home range (Figures 2, 8).

On August 10, alpha F127 slipped her collar. Evidence suggested she became trapped by her collar inside a hollow log for about 24 hours, and extricated herself when she slipped the collar. It was apparent from radio locations and physical signs that other pack members remained at the site and attempted to dig her out of the log. We tried to recapture her to replace the collar without success. She was last observed with the pack on September 19. Her fate is unknown, but circumstances suggest she is dead.

Yearling m532 traveled with the alpha male until November 2. He was located near the Arizona/New Mexico border on November 5, and found shot to death on November 7 (Figure 8). He was in good condition, weighing 72 lbs. (85 lbs. at release). The investigation remained open at the end of this reporting period.

As with the CB male, M131 began ranging widely after the remainder of his pack was killed (Figure 8). We recaptured him in a foothold trap on November 23 and placed him in the Campbell Blue acclimation pen with a potential new mate, F486 (transferred to the pen from Ladder Ranch on November 16). M131 was in excellent condition when captured, weighing 80 lbs. (82 lbs. at release). The new pair was released on December 11. The wolves stayed together for only three

days and then began traveling separately. They remained apart for the remainder of this reporting period (Figure 9).

Turkey Creek Pair (M156, F128)

The Turkey Creek pair was released to the wild on March 29. They were fed supplemental deer carcasses during the month following their release. Scats collected by project personnel indicated they were feeding on smaller prey (rabbits and rodents) in addition to the supplied carcasses.

During the month that the TC pair was free ranging, they used an area of approximately 65 square miles that included their release pen (Figure 10). The TC pair demonstrated curiosity and lack of fear of people on several occasions. As denning season approached, the wolves approached camps with dogs, including a lion hunting camp with hounds, a search and rescue camp with 35 campers and numerous dogs, and a family with two dogs. They also exhibited nonchalance toward project personnel when radio tracking. Project personnel attempted to aversively condition the TC pair to humans and dogs with pyrotechnics and by running and shouting at them. Biologists visited camps within the home range of the TC pair and talked with occupants about the resident wolves.

On April 28, M156 was shot and killed by a camper. A family and their two dogs had set up a camp within the TC pair's territory. The wolves had approached the family's camp on two occasions during the morning. At approximately 10:00a.m., the family apparently heard a scuffle, approached the sound, and saw one wolf run away. The other wolf ran up the hill, turned around and approached within 50 ft. of the camper, who, feeling threatened, shot the wolf. The camper then discovered that one of his dogs had been fighting with the wolves and had been injured. USFWS law enforcement personnel investigated the case and found no substantiating evidence of a violation of the Endangered Species Act. No charges were filed. M156 was in good condition when killed, weighing 63 lbs. (68 lbs. at release).

F128 was recaptured by baiting her into the acclimation pen on May 1. She was pregnant and malnourished, weighing only 30 lbs. (48 lbs at release). She was returned to the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility (SWMF) on May 3. She delivered an unknown number of pups on May 5. One live pup was observed but subsequently died approximately June 14. F128 was permanently removed from the release pool candidates and was retired at the Living Desert captive facility, Palm Desert, California.

Occupied Wolf Range

Wolves occupied 2,625 during this reporting period, based on all known locations plus a 3-mile buffer (Figure 11). This calculation excluded dispersing wolf f511.

Wolf/Livestock, Wolf/Pet, and Wolf/Human Interactions

Twelve reports of wolf incidents ranging from human safety to chasing livestock were investigated (Table 3). Six were confirmed as wolf-related; three of these resulted in loss (1) or damage (2) and are described below. The remaining three were confirmed but resulted in no loss or damage. One loss of a calf was reported but unconfirmed. Three other incidents were reported as involving wolves with no damage reported. These incidents could not be investigated further, so no verdict was assigned. Two others were investigated and losses were attributed to dogs and coyotes (Table 3).

On April 28, wolf 156 was involved in an altercation with a camper's dog that resulted in injury to the dog. Details are described in the previous section on the TC pair.

On May 16, project personnel investigated a fatal wolf attack on a blue heeler dog. The attack occurred within the potential home range of the CB pack and large canid tracks and scat were found in the area. Although no radio locations of the wolves had been made in the area, the damage to the dog was consistent with a wolf attack. Because it was a stock herding dog, Defenders of Wildlife compensated the owner of the dog.

On May 18, a complaint of an injured miniature horse colt was investigated by project personnel. The timing of the attack was consistent with locations of dispersing wolf, f511 (CB pack) and the bite marks consistent with a wolf attack. The depredation was confirmed and Defenders of Wildlife compensated for veterinary care. The colt recovered from its injuries.

Interagency Coordination

The January 26 media event surrounding the transfer of wolves to the Campbell Blue pen was a tremendous cooperative effort by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), Arizona Department of Public Transportation, and the USFWS. It was attended by numerous dignitaries including Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt.

Parsons traveled to Washington DC on two occasions. On January 14, he briefed Congressional delegations on the nonessential experimental population rule, and on December 9, he met with Congressional staff representatives Loretta Beaumont (Interior Appropriations Committee) and Jim Hughes (staff to Congressman Joe Skeen) to respond to questions regarding the Mexican wolf.

The Interagency Management Advisory Group (IMAG) met on January 6, February 24, and March 18 to complete the Mexican Wolf Interagency Management Plan and discuss coordination and other issues. The plan was approved by the USFWS. The fourth and fifth meetings of the IMAG occurred on July 15 (Reserve, NM) and November 17 (Springerville, AZ), respectively.

USFWS and AGFD met on February 5 and March 19 to discuss personnel and other coordination issues.

Parsons and Armistead attended a meeting of law enforcement representatives from AGFD, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), and USFWS on February 18 to discuss coordination of agency law enforcement efforts.

Armistead spent 10 days in early March in Montana training with and assisting his counterpart, Carter Neimeyer, with wolf management and control activities.

The following coordination efforts occurred regarding the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT):

- AGFD discussed the wolf reintroduction project with WMAT biologists on March 9.
- Groebner and Parsons briefed the WMAT Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division on April 21.
- Parsons met with the WMAT on August 25 to discuss the potential for cooperative management of Mexican wolves on tribal lands. Later, the Tribal Council for the WMAT passed a resolution endorsing limited re-establishment of Mexican wolves on their lands. Wolf recovery would occur by dispersal of wolves reintroduced to the Apache National Forest and natural reproduction by these dispersers on the Reservation. The wolves will be managed according to an agreement yet to be reached between the Tribe and the USFWS.

Informational workshops for state, tribal, and federal biologists regarding wolf ecology and the reintroduction effort were hosted by NMDGF and the AGFD on March 19 and April 17, respectively. Presentations were made by Armistead, Boyd-Heger, Brown, Groebner, and Parsons.

Parsons attended a national gray wolf recovery strategy meeting at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center on May 20 - 21.

AGFD personnel met on June 19 with wilderness staff from the Alpine Ranger District to discuss wilderness wolf monitoring and management issues, and on July 7 with wilderness staff from the Apache Sitgreaves and Gila National Forests in Glenwood.

USFWS personnel participated in the annual meeting of the bi-national Mexican wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) July 20 - 24. Wolf pairings, transfers, and other management issues for the captive wolf population were discussed.

Wolf project personnel presented a public update on the project in Reserve, NM on October 7. The meeting was co-hosted by the Catron County Commission and the USFWS. Approximately 35 people attended.

Outreach

The Public Interaction Plan was completed and incorporated into the 1998 Mexican Wolf Interagency Plan in March.

Project updates were posted locally approximately every 2 weeks in the wolf recovery area (Alpine, Springerville, Clifton) in various places such as post offices, libraries, and USFS offices. Field updates are also provided on the USFWS Mexican wolf web site. The address is: <http://mexicanwolf.fws.gov>.

A Mexican Wolf Interagency Reporting Hotline, 1-888-459-WOLF (9653), was established for citizens to report sightings, harassment, or taking of Mexican wolves, or to report livestock depredations.

Large information signs were posted along strategic locations on the Apache Forest. The signs provide information on the reintroduction and give recommendations to minimize wolf-human conflicts.

Project personnel contacted campers, hunters, and other recreationists in the wolf-occupied recovery area and delivered information about the Mexican wolf project.

Notices were sent to all hunters who drew permits to hunt big game in the wolf recovery area. These notices advised hunters of the potential for encountering wolves, provided general recommendations for camping and hunting in wolf-occupied areas, and explained the legal provisions of the nonessential, experimental population rule. Additionally, a special mailing providing information about Mexican wolves was sent to approximately 6,000 hunters in Arizona and approximately 15,000 hunters in New Mexico.

Brown and Groebner gave presentations at public meetings hosted by the USFS in Alpine and Clifton on January 21 and February 17, respectively, to share information with local communities about the reintroduction. Approximately 90 people attended the meetings. The Alpine meeting was followed by a tour of the CB acclimation pen on January 22 and was attended by 17 people.

On November 18 - 19, the USFWS hosted a facilitated two-day Research Priorities Workshop in Springerville. Approximately 25 people representing 10 different areas of interest and expertise participated. The workshop was the second portion of a two-step process designed by the USGS New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit to obtain public input to help the USFWS establish research priorities for the Mexican wolf program.

Project personnel coordinated extensively with local residents, ranchers, campers, and hunters since the release of wolves. Local residents and ranchers have been very cooperative and helpful in resolving potential wolf-related conflicts.

The following presentations were made by project personnel during this reporting period:

February – New Mexico Cattle Growers

March 11 – Museum of Northern Arizona, sponsored by the Grand Canyon Trust.

April 21 – Preserve Arizona's Wolves, Phoenix, AZ.

April 28 - 30 – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Conference, Montana.
May 4 - 5 – Defenders of Wildlife sponsored conference, San Angelo, TX
March 23 – Edison Electric Biologists, Albuquerque, NM.
April 27 – Environmental Policy Program, Utah State University.
February 19 - April 23 – Five school presentations to students in north-central New Mexico.
May 8 – Preserve Arizona’s Wolves, Phoenix, AZ.
May 13 – Public meeting hosted by USFS to Alpine residents.
June 14 – The Forest Guardians.
July 1 – White Mountain Audubon Society.
July 18 – The Cottonwood Gulch Foundation.
August 18 – Pinetop-Lakeside Rotary Club.
August 27 – Public meeting hosted by USFS to Alpine residents.
August 29 – University of New Mexico.
August 30 – Prescott College.
August (unk) Euro-American Mammal Conference.
August (unk) American Association of Laboratory Animal Scientists.
September 28 – Conference on Ecological Restoration
October 1 – Sierra Club
October 15 – Watchable Wildlife Conference
October 17 – Rio Grand Zoo (to announce the commercial availability of “Wolf Country Beef”).
October 25 – Arizona Heritage Alliance
November 12 – National Wildlife Federation, Albuquerque
November 12 - 14 – Wolf Restoration Conference and Children’s Wolf Congress
November 21 – Festival of the Cranes, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge
December 11 – Joint meeting of the New Mexico Cattle Grower’s Associations and the New Mexico Wool Growers Association.

Additionally, there were several local school presentations within the wolf recovery area and Albuquerque.

Project personnel conducted numerous media interviews and hosted several media field visits. On December 1, Boyd-Heger participated in a live broadcast panel discussion with representatives from the Arizona and New Mexico Cattle Grower’s Association and *Dances with Wolves* screenwriter, Michael Blake.

The following national television networks aired news segments on the Mexican Wolf Project as follows:

December 6 – CNN
December 8 – NBC Today
December 10 – NBC Nightly News
December 18 – ABC News

Numerous local stations also ran stories on the project.

Law Enforcement

The USFWS concluded its investigation into the killing of the Turkey Creek M156 by a camper and determined that no violation of the Endangered Species Act or the Nonessential Experimental Population Rule occurred.

In November following the shooting death of five wolves, regular law enforcement patrols were initiated to increase security in efforts to reduce any further shootings. Investigations remain open on the shootings of wolves CB F174, HN f493, HN m531, and HN m532.

Litigation

A lawsuit against the Mexican wolf reintroduction project titled New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, et al. V. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, et al., CV 98-367 (D.N.M.) was filed by several livestock industry associations in New Mexico Federal District Court alleging that the Department of the Interior and the USFWS violated the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act in authorizing and implementing the Mexican wolf reintroduction project. The Defenders of Wildlife and 13 other parties were later admitted by the Court as Defendant-Interveners, meaning that these groups were also now parties to the lawsuit. The Department of Justice submitted answers to the plaintiff's complaint. The plaintiffs also filed, then withdrew, a motion for a preliminary injunction to prevent additional releases after the USFWS agreed to provide 30 day notification to the plaintiffs of any plans to release additional wolves. In December 1998, following the release of two female wolves, the Cattle Growers' filed a second motion for a preliminary injunction. Reply briefs related to this motion are expected to be completed by mid-April, 1999. When the last brief is submitted to the Court, a date for a hearing on the motion will then be set.

Personnel

The following personnel served during this reporting period. David Parsons directed the recovery program. Most individuals collected field data or provided other information for this report. Colleen Buchanan, Dan Groebner, and Paul Morey assisted with data summary.

Staff:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

David Parsons, Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader
Wendy Brown, Mexican Wolf Recovery Biologist
Colleen Buchanan, Mexican Wolf Captive Management Biologist
Paul Morey, Wildlife Technician
Cole Neil, Wildlife Technician
Dan Stark, Wildlife Technician
Paul Frame, Student Intern

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Dan Groebner, Regional Nongame Specialist and AGFD Wolf Project Leader
Diane Boyd-Heger, AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist

Tim Peltier, AGFD Mexican Wolf Technician
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Nick Smith, New Mexico Mexican Wolf Biologist
USDA Wildlife Services

Alan Armistead, Wolf Management Specialist
Volunteers

Mike Seidman (Phoenix Zoo)
Cadie Pruss (Defenders of Wildlife)
Kevin McKugh (Defenders of Wildlife)
Julianne O'Reilly (Defenders of Wildlife)
Erik Wapstra
Dave Liggett (Columbus Zoo)
Danl Stark (Defenders of Wildlife)
Theresa Bosch
Janet Reed (Texas A&M University student intern)
Sheila Herbst (Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge)
Laura Lagos
Alexis Watts

Table 1. Status and fates of reintroduced Mexican gray wolves January 1 – December 31, 1998.

* Indicates uncollared animal

<i>WOLF ID</i>	<i>PACK</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>	<i>STATUS/FATE</i>
M166	CB	3-29-98	free ranging
F174	CB	3-29-98	dead (shot) 8-7-98
F482	CB	12-11-98	free ranging
f511	CB	3-29-98	recaptured (dispersed outside recovery area) 5-18-98
p577 *	CB	wild born	fate unknown, last observed 8-22-98
M131	HN	3-29-98	free ranging
F 127	HN	3-29-98	fate unknown, last observed 9-19-98
F486	HN	12-11-98	free ranging
m532	HN	3-29-98	dead (shot) 11-7-98
m531	HN	3-29-98	dead (shot) 11-23-98
f494	HN	3-29-98	recaptured (frequented residential area) 5-28-98
f493	HN	3-29-98	dead (shot) 10-18-98
M156	TC	3-29-98	dead (shot) 4-28-98
F128	TC	3-29-98	recaptured (mate shot) 5-1-98

Table 2. Mexican gray wolf prey site investigations April 1 - December 31, 1998.

<i>PACK</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>*STATUS</i>	<i>COMMENTS</i>	<i>SPECIES</i>	<i>SEX</i>	<i>AGE</i>
HN	4/21/98	C		elk	female	old
CB	6/08/98	F	probable coyote kill	elk	unknown	# 1 week
CB	7/16/98	C		elk	male	yearling
CB	7/23/98	C		elk	male	calf
CB	7/23/98	P		elk	unknown	old
HN	7/29/98	P		elk	female	adult
CB	7/31/98	C		elk	unknown	calf
CB	8/2/98	P		elk	unknown	adult
CB	8/7/98	F	probable cougar kill	elk	unknown	calf
HN	8/7/98	C		elk	unknown	calf
HN	8/14/98	P		elk	unknown	calf
HN	8/26/98	C		elk	unknown	calf
CB	9/6/98	F	unretrieved bow hunter kill	elk	male	2 yr
HN	9/14/98	C		elk	male	6 months
CB	9/17/98	F	cougar kill	elk	female	calf
HN	9/18/98	P		elk	female	unknown
CB	9/19/98	F	possible cougar kill	elk	male	calf
HN	10/6/98	P	hunter crippling loss	elk	male	adult
HN	10/13/98	F	possible hunter crippling loss	elk	male	unknown
HN	10/25/98	F	hunter crippling loss	elk	female	adult
HN	11/10/98	P		mule deer	female	1.5 - 3 yr
CB	12/19/98	F	scavenged at hunting camp	white-tailed deer	male	adult

* Status - C = Confirmed wolf kill
P = Probable wolf kill
F = Fed on by wolves - cause of death unknown or other

Table 3. Reported Mexican wolf incident investigations in 1998.

<i>DATE</i>	<i>REPORTED INCIDENT</i>	<i>DAMAGE/LOSS</i>	<i>VERDICT</i>	<i>WOLVES INVOLVED</i>
4/23/98	wolves in camp harassing dogs	none	confirmed wolf	156,128
4/28/98	human safety	injured dog	confirmed wolf	156
5/5/98	wolves interacting with cows	none	none	131,127,493,494,531, 532
5/8/98	wolf in town	none	confirmed wolf	494
5/16/98	dead dog	blue heeler cow dog	confirmed wolf	166
5/18/98	wolves chasing horses	none	none	131,127,493,494,531, 532
5/18/98	injured miniature horse colt	injured colt	confirmed wolf	511
5/19/98	dead newborn colt	colt	confirmed dog/coyote	none
6/7/98	missing calf	none found	unconfirmed	131,127,493,494,531, 532
6/27/98	wolf snapping at calf	none	confirmed wolf	493
7/1/98	wolves chasing dog	none	none	131,127,493,494,531, 532,
10/30/98	injured goat	goat	confirmed dogs	none

