



Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

February 1-29, 2012

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in Arizona on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (ASNF) and Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR) and in New Mexico on the Apache National Forest (ANF) and Gila National Forest (GNF). Non-tribal lands involved in this Project are collectively known as the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA). Additional Project information can be obtained by calling (928) 339-4329 or toll free at (888) 459-9653, or by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department website at <http://www.azgfd.gov/wolf> or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf>. Past updates may be viewed on either website, or interested parties may sign up to receive this update electronically by visiting <http://www.azgfd.gov/signup>. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The Reintroduction Project is a multi-agency cooperative effort among the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), USDA Forest Service (USFS), USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS WS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT).

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Numbering System: Mexican wolves are given an identification number recorded in an official studbook that tracks their history. Capital letters (M = Male, F = Female) preceding the number indicate adult animals 24 months or older. Lower case letters (m = male, f = female) indicate wolves younger than 24 months or pups. The capital letter “A” preceding the letter and number indicate alpha wolves.

Definitions: A “wolf pack” is defined as two or more wolves that maintain an established territory. In the event that one of the two alpha (dominant) wolves dies, the remaining alpha wolf, regardless of pack size, retains the pack status. The packs referenced in this update contain at least one wolf with a radio telemetry collar attached to it. The Interagency Field Team (IFT)

recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

At the end of February 2012, the collared population consisted of 33 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 13 packs and three single wolves. The IFT located several of the collared single wolves traveling with other packs and dispersing wolves this month. Some other uncollared wolves are known to be associating with radio-collared wolves, and others are separate from known packs.

IN ARIZONA:

Bluestem Pack (collared AM806, AF1042 and mp1240)

Throughout February, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The radio telemetry collar for AM806 only worked intermittently this month.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared f1208, mp1244 and fp1247)

In February, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The pups have been located traveling together and alone, away from F1208, but still within the pack's territory.

Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF858)

Throughout February, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing its winter range in the south-central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR.

Paradise Pack (collared AM795, AF1056, mp1243 and mp1245)

In February, these wolves continued to utilize the traditional winter range of their territory in the northern portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Maverick Pack M1183 (collared M1183)

During February, the IFT located this wolf traveling on the FAIR.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1253)

During February, the IFT located this wolf traveling on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon (collared AM992, AF923, fp1250 and fp1251)

Throughout February, the IFT located the Dark Canyon Pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared M1158 and F1188)

Throughout February, the IFT documented these wolves traveling widely in the northwest portion of the GNF and in the central portion of the ASNF.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115, F1246 and mp1241)

In February, the IFT located the Luna Pack within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. M1155 of the Morgart Pack was located traveling with AF1115 this month. The two other collared wolves from this pack continued to be located traveling away from AF1115 in February. F1246 was located traveling with m1248 in the central portion of the GNF, while mp1241 was located traveling alone on the edges of the Luna Pack territory on the GNF and just outside of the BRWRA.

Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)

In February, the IFT located AM871 and AF861 within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF, including the Gila Wilderness.

Morgart Pack (collared M1155)

Throughout February, the IFT documented this wolf traveling with AF1115 in the north-central portion of the GNF, within the Luna Pack territory.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, and mp1249)

During February, the IFT located these wolves in the traditional San Mateo Pack territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185)

Throughout February, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF.

m1248 (collared)

Throughout February, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the central portion of the GNF. They continued to document it traveling with F1246 this month.

f1212 (collared)

During February, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT was unable to obtain a visual observation on this wolf this month to confirm if it was still traveling with an uncollared wolf. The IFT will continue to monitor it next month to determine its pairing status.

m1252 (collared)

Throughout February, the IFT located this wolf intermittently in the east-central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

No wolf mortalities were documented during the month of February.

INCIDENTS

During February, IFT personnel investigated eight livestock depredation incidents in the BRWRA.

On February 7, WS personnel investigated two dead cows near Vernon, Arizona, outside of the BRWRA. They determined the cows were killed separately by at least one uncollared wolf just prior to the 7th.

On February 9, WS personnel investigated a dead yearling heifer in New Mexico just outside of the BRWRA near the state line with Arizona. The investigation revealed that the cow died of unknown causes.

On February 11, WS personnel investigated a dead mule on private property near the Elk Mountains on the GNF. They assigned the incident to an uncollared wolf.

On February 15, AGFD IFT personnel investigated a dead goat on private property in Lakeside, Arizona. They determined the goat was killed by domestic dogs.

On February 17, WS personnel investigated a dead cow north of Luna, New Mexico, and determined the cow died of unknown causes.

On February 24, WS personnel investigated a dead calf near Antelope Peak in Arizona. They determined the calf was killed by coyotes.

On February 26, WS personnel investigated an injured cow in the vicinity of Indian Creek on the GNF. They assigned the incident to one of the Middle Fork Pack members. The cow was still alive and receiving veterinary care at the time this update was developed.

CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

On February 17-18, personnel at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility and Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility in New Mexico, in coordination with the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan, collected and froze semen from priority male wolves at the captive pre-release facilities for future research and use.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

Project personnel continued with landowner contacts regarding specific wolf locations in relation to livestock calving operations in Arizona and New Mexico in February.

A meeting of the Project cooperators was held on February 9 in Pinetop, Arizona, to discuss the development of project guiding documents, including an outline of the roles and responsibilities of the participating agencies and cooperators on the Mexican wolf project. Ten agency personnel and two county representatives attended the meeting.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Two FWS interns left the Project this month. Rob Wise and Aaron Koehlinger were both hard-working team members, and they will be missed. Thanks, Rob and Aaron!

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000; and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged an additional \$46,000 for a total reward amount of up to \$58,000, depending on the information provided.

Individuals with information they believe may be helpful are urged to call one of the following agencies: USFWS special agents in Mesa, Arizona, at (480) 967-7900, in Alpine, Arizona, at (928) 339-4232, or in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at (505) 346-7828; the WMAT at (928) 338-1023 or (928) 338-4385; AGFD Operation Game Thief at (800) 352-0700; or NMDGF Operation Game Thief at (800) 432-4263. Killing a Mexican wolf is a violation of the Federal Endangered Species Act and can result in criminal penalties of up to \$50,000, and/or not more than one year in jail, and/or a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.



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recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

At the end of March 2012, the collared population consisted of 31 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 12 packs and three single wolves. The IFT located several of the collared single wolves traveling with other packs and dispersing wolves this month. The IFT documented one wolf mortality this month. Some other uncollared wolves are known to be associating with radio-collared wolves, and others are separate from known packs.

IN ARIZONA:

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042 and mp1240)

Throughout March, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The radio telemetry collar for AM806 had been transmitting intermittently since January, and it appears the collar stopped working completely in March. AM806 is not included in this report due to its nonfunctioning radio telemetry collar.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared f1208 and mp1244)

In March, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The pups have been located traveling together and alone, away from F1208, but still within the pack's territory. In late March, the IFT located fp1247 dead within the pack's territory and the cause of death is under investigation.

Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF858)

Throughout March, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing its winter range in the south-central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR.

Paradise Pack (collared AM795, AF1056, mp1243 and mp1245)

In March, these wolves continued to utilize the traditional winter range of their territory in the northern portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183)

During March, the IFT located this wolf traveling on the FAIR.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253)

During March, the IFT located this wolf traveling on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon (collared AM992, AF923, fp1250 and fp1251)

Throughout March, the IFT located the Dark Canyon Pack within its traditional territory in the

west-central portion of the GNF.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared M1158 and F1188)

Throughout March, the IFT documented these wolves traveling widely in the northwest portion of the GNF and in the central portion of the ASNF.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115, f1246 and mp1241)

In March, the IFT located the Luna Pack within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT again located M1155 of the Morgart Pack traveling with AF1115 this month. The IFT now considers M1155 to be a part of the Luna Pack. The IFT located f1246 traveling with m1248 in the central portion of the GNF. These wolves were not traveling with AF1115 and M1155. The IFT did not locate mp1241 on telemetry flights or via ground telemetry during March and now consider this wolf to be a single animal. The IFT will continue with efforts to locate this wolf.

Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)

In March, the IFT located AM871 and AF861 within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF, including the Gila Wilderness.

Morgart Pack (collared M1155)

Throughout March, the IFT documented this wolf traveling with AF1115 in the north-central portion of the GNF, within the Luna Pack territory. The IFT now considers M1155 to be part of the Luna Pack, and the Morgart Pack to be defunct.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, and mp1249)

During March, the IFT located these wolves in the traditional San Mateo Pack territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185)

Throughout March, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF.

m1248 (collared)

Throughout March, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to document it traveling with f1246 this month.

f1212 (collared)

During March, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT was unable to obtain a visual observation on this wolf this month to confirm if it was still traveling with an uncollared wolf, but will continue to monitor it to determine its pairing status.

m1252 (collared)

In March, the IFT located this wolf intermittently in the east-central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

During March, the IFT documented one wolf mortality. The IFT located fp1247 from the Hawks

Nest Pack dead in late March, and the cause of death is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During March, IFT personnel investigated five livestock depredation incidents in the BRWRA.

On March 5, WS personnel investigated a dead calf near Collins Park, New Mexico, and determined at least one wolf killed the calf. The incident has not yet been assigned to a specific wolf.

On March 6, WS personnel investigated a dead cow and calf east of Apache Creek in New Mexico. The investigation revealed that the cow died of unknown causes, while a wolf killed the calf. The incident was assigned to an uncollared wolf.

On March 13, WS personnel investigated a horse that sustained fatal injuries from entanglement in a barbed wire fence near the Spur Lake Basin on the GNF. The cause of this incident was undetermined.

On March 13, WS personnel investigated a dead cow north of Apache Creek, New Mexico, and determined the cow died of unknown causes.

On March 27, WS personnel investigated a dead cow north of Canovis Creek, just outside of the BRWRA in New Mexico, and determined at least one wolf killed the cow. The incident has not yet been assigned to a specific wolf.

CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

On March 21, Dr. Susan Dicks gave a Project overview and a wolf and wildlife veterinary medicine presentation to 15 veterinarians at the VCA Veterinary Care Center in Albuquerque.

On March 30, Project personnel captured M1200 and F1054 at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility and transported them to another Species Survival Plan facility.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

Project personnel continued with landowner contacts regarding specific wolf locations in relation to livestock calving operations in Arizona and New Mexico in March.

On March 3, IFT personnel set up and manned a Mexican wolf display at the inaugural Northeast Arizona Regional Science Fair and Carnival at the Show Low Middle School in Show Low, Arizona. Approximately 87 students and adults were contacted during the event, and it was well received. The event was an opportunity to discuss wolf identification and management techniques with local students, as well as adults.

On March 9, IFT personnel provided a Project update to 41 individuals at the Greenlee County Cattle Growers meeting in Duncan, Arizona.

On March 28, IFT personnel conducted a range rider workshop at the Reserve Ranger District Office in Reserve, New Mexico, to provide information regarding range riding techniques to reduce wolf livestock interactions on grazing allotments ahead of the summer grazing season. Dr. Kyran Kunkel from the University of Montana presented an overview of management efforts from work in Alberta, Canada, regarding proactive management efforts that are utilized there to reduce wolf depredations on grazing livestock. Nineteen range riders and livestock producers were in attendance, including from the WMAT and SCAR, and many valuable discussions regarding this effort took place during the workshop. Approximately ten range rider agreements are currently being developed for the summer grazing season on the ASNF, GNF, WMAT and SCAR.

On March 29, IFT personnel presented a Project update to ten students and one instructor in a natural resources management class at Central Arizona College in Coolidge, Arizona.

A Mexican Wolf MOU Executives Meeting was held on March 30 in Phoenix, Arizona. Several topics were discussed, including the final Mexican Wolf Project cooperators MOU, roles and responsibilities of Project cooperators, population objectives, future Mexican wolf release strategies, and an update regarding the Interdiction Stakeholder Council. In addition to executive personnel from the five agency cooperators, representatives from Greenlee and Graham counties in Arizona, as well as IFT personnel, also attended the meeting.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Two FWS interns joined the Project this month – Jonathan Fournier and Brent Wolf. Welcome to the team, Brent and Jonathan!

FWS intern Adair McNear left the Project in March. Thanks, Adair, for your dedicated efforts during your time here!

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000; and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged an additional \$46,000 for a total reward amount of up to \$58,000, depending on the information provided.

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recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

At the end of April 2012, the collared population consisted of 31 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 13 packs and three single wolves. The IFT located several of the collared single wolves traveling with other packs and dispersing wolves this month. Some other uncollared wolves are known to be associating with radio-collared wolves, and others are separate from known packs.

Seasonal note: Wolf pups are generally born between mid-April and mid-May. During the upcoming months, the IFT will be actively monitoring wolf packs to determine if females are denning in order to document wild-born pups and estimate their survival.

IN ARIZONA:

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042 and m1240)

Throughout April, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. AM806 is not included in this report due to its nonfunctioning radio telemetry collar.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared F1208 and m1244)

In April, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented the presence of AM1038 with this pack during April; however, this wolf is not included in this report due to its nonfunctioning radio telemetry collar.

Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF858)

Throughout April, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing its traditional summer range in the south-central portion of the ASNF.

Paradise Pack (collared AM795, AF1056, m1243 and m1245)

In April, these wolves continued to utilize the traditional winter and summer range of their territory in the northern portion of the ASNF, FAIR and just outside of the BRWRA in Arizona.

ON THE FAIR:

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183)

During April, the IFT located this wolf traveling on the FAIR.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253)

During April, the IFT located this wolf traveling on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, f1250 and f1251)

Throughout April, the IFT located the Dark Canyon Pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared M1158 and F1188)

Throughout April, the IFT documented these wolves traveling in the northwest portion of the GNF and just outside of the BRWRA in New Mexico.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115 and M1155)

In April, the IFT located the Luna Pack within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT now considers M1155 to be a part of the Luna Pack. The IFT located F1246 traveling with M1248 in the central portion of the GNF during April. The IFT now considers F1246 and M1248 to be a new wolf pack.

Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)

In April, the IFT located AM871 and AF861 within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF, including the Gila Wilderness.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903 and m1249)

During April, the IFT located these wolves in the traditional San Mateo Pack territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185)

Throughout April, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF.

M1248 and F1246 (collared)

Throughout April, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT now considers these wolves to be new pack and will assign a pack name in May.

F1212 (collared)

During April, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT was unable to obtain a visual observation on this wolf this month to confirm if it was still traveling with an uncollared wolf, but will continue to monitor it to determine its pairing status.

M1252 (collared)

In April, the IFT located this wolf traveling widely throughout the BRWRA on the ASNF and GNF.

m1241 (collared)

The IFT did not locate m1241 on telemetry flights or via ground telemetry during April. The IFT will continue with efforts to locate this wolf.

MORTALITIES

No wolf mortalities were documented during April.

INCIDENTS

During April, IFT personnel investigated three livestock depredation incidents and one dog injury incident in the BRWRA.

On April 13, WS personnel investigated an injured dog from the vicinity of east Elk Mountain in New Mexico. The cause of this incident was attributed to coyotes.

On April 24, WS personnel investigated a dead cow north of Greens Peak outside of the BRWRA in Arizona. They determined the incident to be a wolf depredation and assigned it to the three members of the Paradise Pack.

On April 26, WS personnel investigated a dead calf north of Canovis Creek just outside of the BRWRA in New Mexico. They determined the incident to be a wolf depredation and assigned it to the Fox Mountain Pack.

On April 30, WS personnel investigated a dead calf near Collins Park, New Mexico. They determined the incident to be a coyote depredation.

CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

On April 13, at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility, personnel captured F1031 and F1034 for dental work and transferred the wolves to the Wildlife West Nature Park in Edgewood, New Mexico. Dr. Peter Emily of the Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation performed courtesy advanced dental procedures.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

In April, Project personnel continued with landowner contacts regarding specific wolf locations in relation to livestock calving operations in Arizona and New Mexico.

On April 5, IFT personnel gave a Project overview to approximately 30 individuals at a board meeting of the Malpais Borderlands group in Silver City, New Mexico.

On April 24, IFT personnel manned a Mexican wolf project outreach display at the inaugural WMAT Earth Day event in Whiteriver, Arizona. Over 300 individuals visited the display, and the IFT was able to provide information and outreach materials to a variety of event attendees.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

No significant activity occurred this month.

REWARDS OFFERED

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May 1-31, 2012

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Numbering System: Mexican wolves are given an identification number recorded in an official studbook that tracks their history. Capital letters (M = Male, F = Female) preceding the number indicate adult animals 24 months or older. Lower case letters (m = male, f = female) indicate wolves younger than 24 months or pups. The capital letter “A” preceding the letter and number indicate alpha wolves.

Definitions: A “wolf pack” is defined as two or more wolves that maintain an established territory. In the event that one of the two alpha (dominant) wolves dies, the remaining alpha wolf, regardless of pack size, retains the pack status. The packs referenced in this update contain at least one wolf with a radio telemetry collar attached to it. The Interagency Field Team (IFT)

recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

At the end of May 2012, the collared population consisted of 29 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 13 packs and three single wolves. The IFT located some of the collared single wolves traveling with other packs and dispersing wolves this month. Some other uncollared wolves are known to be associating with radio-collared wolves, and others are separate from known packs.

Seasonal note: Wolf pups are generally born between mid-April and mid-May. The IFT has documented denning behavior for the following packs: Bluestem, Hawks Nest, Maverick, Tsay o Ah, Fox Mountain, F1212, San Mateo, Willow Springs, Luna, Dark Canyon and Middle Fork. During the upcoming months, the IFT will be actively monitoring packs to document wild-born pups and estimate their survival.

IN ARIZONA:

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042 and m1240)

Throughout May, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared F1208 and m1244)

In May, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented the presence of AM1038 with this pack during May; however, this wolf is not included in this report due to its nonfunctioning radio telemetry collar.

Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF858)

Throughout May, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing its traditional summer range in the south-central portion of the ASNF.

Paradise Pack (collared AM795, AF1056, m1243 and m1245)

In early May, these wolves were documented using their traditional winter range in the northern portion of the ASNF, just outside of the BRWRA. Later in the month, these wolves were documented on the summer range of their territory on the FAIR.

ON THE FAIR:

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183)

During May, the IFT located this wolf on the FAIR.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253)

During May, the IFT located this wolf on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923 and f1251)

Throughout May, the IFT located the Dark Canyon Pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. Project personnel located f1250 dead within the pack territory during May.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared M1158 and F1188)

Throughout May, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF in New Mexico.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115 and M1155)

In May, the IFT located the Luna Pack within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)

Throughout May, the IFT located AM871 and AF861 within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF, including the Gila Wilderness.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903 and m1249)

During May, the IFT located these wolves in the traditional San Mateo Pack territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185)

Throughout May, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF.

M1248 and F1246 (collared)

In May, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT now considers these wolves to be new pack and will assign a pack name in June.

F1212 (collared)

During May, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT was able to obtain a visual observation of another uncollared wolf traveling with f1212 this month. The IFT now considers these wolves to be a pack and will assign a pack name in June.

M1252 (collared)

In May, the IFT located this wolf traveling through the northeast portion of the GNF.

m1241 (collared)

The IFT has not located m1241 on telemetry flights or via ground telemetry since late February. The IFT now considers this wolf to be fate unknown.

MORTALITIES

During May, the IFT located f1250 from the Dark Canyon Pack dead on the GNF. The death is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During May, IFT personnel investigated five livestock depredation incidents and one dog injury incident in the BRWRA.

On May 1, WS personnel investigated a dead cow near Cow Springs just outside of the BRWRA in New Mexico. They determined the incident to be a wolf depredation and assigned it to the Fox Mountain Pack.

On May 3, WS personnel investigated a dead cow north of Luna, New Mexico. They determined the cause of death to be related to birthing complications.

On May 20, WS personnel investigated a dead calf near Horse Springs, New Mexico. The cause of death was determined to be unknown.

On May 21, WS personnel investigated a dead calf north of Collins Park, New Mexico. They determined the incident to be a wolf depredation and assigned it to M1155 from the Luna Pack.

On May 28, WS personnel investigated a dead calf near Wahl Knoll on the ASNF. The cause of death was determined to be unknown.

On May 30, WS personnel investigated injuries to two dogs from the Alpine, Arizona, area. Both dogs sustained bite injuries; however, the cause of this incident was not determined.

CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

No significant activity occurred this month.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

In May, Project personnel continued with landowner contacts regarding specific wolf locations in relation to livestock calving operations in Arizona and New Mexico.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In May, two new FWS interns joined the Project, Graham Goodman and Kaija Klauer.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000; and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged an additional \$46,000 for a total reward amount of up to \$58,000, depending on the information provided.

Individuals with information they believe may be helpful are urged to call one of the following agencies: USFWS special agents in Mesa, Arizona, at (480) 967-7900, in Alpine, Arizona, at (928) 339-4232, or in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at (505) 346-7828; the WMAT at (928) 338-1023 or (928) 338-4385; AGFD Operation Game Thief at (800) 352-0700; or NMDGF Operation Game Thief at (800) 432-4263. Killing a Mexican wolf is a violation of the Federal Endangered Species Act and can result in criminal penalties of up to \$50,000, and/or not more than one year in jail, and/or a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.



Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

June 1-30, 2012

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recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

At the end of June 2012, the collared population consisted of 30 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 14 packs and one single wolf. Two new packs in New Mexico were designated during this month – Elk Horn (F1212 and uncollared wolf) and Canyon Creek (F1246 and M1248). Some other uncollared wolves are known to be associating with radio-collared wolves, and others are separate from known packs.

Seasonal note: Wolf pups are generally born between mid-April and mid-May. The IFT has documented denning behavior for the following packs: Bluestem, Hawks Nest, Maverick, Tsay o Ah, Fox Mountain, Elk Horn, San Mateo, Willow Springs, Luna, Dark Canyon and Middle Fork. The IFT has confirmed the presence of pups in several packs, including Bluestem, Hawks Nest and Fox Mountain. During the upcoming months, the IFT will be actively monitoring packs to document wild-born pups and estimate their survival.

IN ARIZONA:

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042 and m1240)

Throughout June, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AF1208 and m1244)

In June, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented the presence of AM1038 with this pack during June; however, this wolf is not included in this report due to its nonfunctioning radio telemetry collar.

Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF858)

Throughout June, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing its traditional summer range in the south-central portion of the ASNF.

Paradise Pack (collared AM795, AF1056, m1243 and m1245)

In early June, these wolves were documented using the summer range of their territory on the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR.

ON THE FAIR:

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183)

During June, the IFT located this wolf on the FAIR.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and m1254)

During June, the IFT located these wolves on the FAIR. IFT personnel conducted trapping efforts on the FAIR and captured and collared a yearling male for this pack, m1254.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923 and f1251)

Throughout June, the IFT located the Dark Canyon Pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared M1158 and F1188)

Throughout June, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF in New Mexico.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115 and M1155)

In June, the IFT located the Luna Pack within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)

Throughout June, the IFT located AM871 and AF861 within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF, including the Gila Wilderness.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903 and m1249)

During June, the IFT located these wolves in the traditional San Mateo Pack territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185)

Throughout June, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Canyon Creek (collared M1248 and F1246)

In June, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF.

Elk Horn (collared F1212)

During June, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the northwest and central portion of the GNF.

M1252 (collared)

In June, the IFT located this wolf traveling throughout the northeast portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

No wolves were located dead during this month.

INCIDENTS

During June, IFT personnel investigated two livestock depredation incidents in the BRWRA.

On June 5, WS personnel investigated a dead calf northwest of Luna, New Mexico. They determined the incident to be a black bear depredation.

On June 17, WS personnel investigated a dead yearling heifer north of Greens Peak in Arizona. The cause of death was determined to be unknown.

CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

On May 18, captive management personnel captured and moved M1043 and M1177 from the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility to the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility.

On June 19, captive management personnel captured and moved M1049 from the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility to the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility.

On June 20, captive management personnel captured and moved M1177 from the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility to the Endangered Wolf Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On June 2, IFT personnel presented a Project overview to approximately 20 honors science students from Corona del Sol High School in Tempe on a field outing near Big Lake in Arizona.

On June 16, IFT personnel staffed an outreach display regarding wildlife management efforts and wolf-related management issues specifically at the annual Greer Days event in Greer, Arizona. They contacted approximately 77 individuals during the event.

On June 19, IFT personnel presented a Project overview to 21 individuals attending the annual Arizona meeting for USDA Wildlife Services personnel at Big Lake in Arizona.

On June 21, IFT personnel presented a Project overview and trapping demonstration to 207 high school students from the Phoenix metropolitan area at the annual Future Farmers of America leadership conference in Heber, Arizona.

On June 21, IFT personnel presented a Project overview and discussion of wolf conservation to 35 children and two administrators at the Round Valley Boys and Girls Club in Eagar, Arizona.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

No significant activity occurred this month.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000; and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged an additional \$46,000 for a total reward amount of up to \$58,000, depending on the information provided.

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Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

July 1-31, 2012

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recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

At the end of July 2012, the collared population consisted of 30 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 14 packs and one single wolf. The IFT was able to capture and affix a telemetry collar to a new wolf pup-of-the-year, mp1274, from the Fox Mountain pack this month. Unfortunately, the collar did not stay on the pup. Some other uncollared wolves are known to be associating with radio-collared wolves, and others are separate from known packs.

Seasonal note: Wolf pups are generally born between mid-April and mid-May. The IFT has documented denning behavior for the following packs: Bluestem, Hawks Nest, Maverick, Tsay o Ah, Fox Mountain, Elk Horn, San Mateo, Willow Springs, Luna, Dark Canyon and Middle Fork. The IFT has confirmed the presence of pups in several packs, including Bluestem, Hawks Nest, Fox Mountain and Luna. During the upcoming months, the IFT will be actively trapping various packs to capture, collar and document wild-born pups to estimate their survival.

IN ARIZONA:

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042 and m1240)

Throughout July, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. IFT personnel located the carcass of AM806 within the traditional territory for the Bluestem Pack during July. The death is under investigation by law enforcement personnel.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AF1208 and m1244)

In July, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented the presence of AM1038 with this pack during July; however, this wolf is not included in this report due to its nonfunctioning radio telemetry collar.

Paradise Pack (collared AM795, AF1056, m1243 and m1245)

In July, these wolves were documented using the summer range of their territory on the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR. The IFT documented wolf m1245 traveling away from the other pack members within the traditional territory for this pack during July.

Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF858)

Throughout July, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing its traditional summer range in the south-central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183)

During July, the IFT located this wolf on the FAIR, as well as on the west-central portion of the ASNF.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and m1254)

During July, the IFT located these wolves on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1248 and F1246)

In July, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923 and f1251)

Throughout July, the IFT located the Dark Canyon Pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF.

Elk Horn Pack (collared F1212)

During July, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the northwest and north-central portion of the GNF.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared M1158 and F1188)

Throughout July, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. IFT personnel trapped and captured mp1274 from this pack in July. The collar, however, slipped off the wolf shortly after it was released.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115 and AM1155)

In July, the IFT located the Luna Pack within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. IFT personnel trapped and recaptured AM1155 during July. This wolf was fitted with a new telemetry collar and released back into its territory.

Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)

Throughout July, the IFT located these wolves within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF, including the Gila Wilderness.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903 and m1249)

During July, the IFT located these wolves in the traditional San Mateo Pack territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185)

Throughout July, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF.

M1252 (collared)

The IFT located this wolf early in July in the central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

IFT personnel located the carcass of AM806 within the traditional territory for the Bluestem Pack during July. The wolf's death is under investigation by law enforcement personnel.

INCIDENTS

During July, IFT personnel investigated seven livestock depredation incidents in the BRWRA.

On July 2, WS personnel investigated a dead cow west of Greens Peak in Arizona. The cause of death could not be determined.

On July 5, WS personnel investigated a dead calf west of Greens Peak in Arizona. The incident was determined to be a black bear depredation.

On July 9, WS personnel investigated a dead calf north of Collins Park in New Mexico. The incident was determined to be a wolf depredation, and the incident was assigned to a member of the Luna Pack.

On July 12, WS personnel investigated a dead calf south of Greens Peak in Arizona. The cause of death was determined to be related to intestinal distress.

On July 16, WS personnel investigated a dead calf west of Greens Peak in Arizona. The incident was determined to be a black bear depredation.

On July 23, WS personnel investigated a dead calf north of Collins Park in New Mexico. The cause of death was determined to be related to intestinal distress.

On July 30, WS personnel investigated a dead calf west of Greens Peak in Arizona. The incident was determined to be a black bear depredation.

CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

On July 12 and 13, FWS personnel participated in the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan annual meeting and Reunion Sobre el Lobo Mexicano in Olympia, Washington, hosted by Wolf Haven International.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

Project personnel conducted a variety of contacts with recreationists in Arizona and New Mexico during the course of regular field duties.

IFT personnel coordinated with several livestock producers regarding proactive management of several wolf packs in the BRWRA, including Paradise, Hawks Nest, Bluestem, Fox Mountain, Elk Horn, Luna and Middle Fork Packs.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Jonathan Fournier, a FWS intern, left the Project this month. Thanks for all of your hard work on the Project, Jonathan!

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000; and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged an additional \$46,000 for a total reward amount of up to \$58,000, depending on the information provided.

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Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

August 1-31, 2012

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recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

At the end of August 2012, the collared population consisted of 34 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 14 packs and one single wolf. The IFT implemented trapping efforts this month, and successfully captured and affixed telemetry collars to four new wolves in three packs. Two new male pups from the Bluestem Pack, mp1275 and mp1277, were captured and collared in Arizona. A yearling male wolf from the Fox Mountain Pack, m1276, and a female pup, fp1278, from the Dark Canyon Pack were captured and collared in New Mexico. Some other uncollared wolves are known to be associating with radio-collared wolves, and others are separate from known packs.

Seasonal note: During the past three months, the IFT has been actively monitoring wolf packs to determine if females are denning in order to document wild-born pups and estimate their survival through the summer. At the end of August, the IFT determined the following packs have produced pups during this year's denning season: Bluestem, Maverick, Fox Mountain, San Mateo, Luna and Dark Canyon. During the upcoming months, the IFT will be actively trapping various packs to capture, collar and document wild-born pups to estimate their survival.

IN ARIZONA:

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1240, mp1275 and mp1277)

Throughout August, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The IFT trapped and collared two new pups, mp1275 and mp1277, from this pack in August.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AF1208 and m1244)

In August, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented the presence of AM1038 with this pack during August; however, this wolf is not included in this report due to its nonfunctioning radio telemetry collar. The IFT has not yet documented any pups-of-the-year with this pack during the 2012 denning season.

Paradise Pack (collared AM795, AF1056, m1243 and m1245)

In August, these wolves were documented using the summer range of their territory on the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR. This month, the IFT documented wolf m1245 traveling with the other pack members within the traditional territory for this pack.

Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF858)

Throughout August, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing its traditional summer range in the south-central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183)

During early August, the IFT located this wolf on the FAIR. Later in the month, this wolf was located in the west-central portion of the ASNF.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and m1254)

During August, the IFT located these wolves on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1248 and F1246)

In August, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, f1251 and fp1278)

Throughout August, the IFT located the Dark Canyon Pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. The IFT trapped and collared fp1278, a new pup-of-the-year, this month.

Elk Horn Pack (collared F1212)

During August, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the northwest and north-central portion of the GNF.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared M1158, F1188 and m1276)

Throughout August, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. This month, IFT personnel trapped and captured m1276, a yearling male wolf from this pack.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115 and AM1155)

In August, the IFT located the Luna Pack within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. IFT personnel confirmed the presence of pups with this pack.

Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)

Throughout August, the IFT located these wolves within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF, including the Gila Wilderness.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903 and m1249)

During August, the IFT located these wolves in the traditional San Mateo Pack territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. IFT personnel confirmed the presence of pups with this pack.

Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185)

Throughout August, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF.

M1252 (collared)

The IFT located this wolf in mid-August traveling through the central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

No wolf mortalities were documented during the month of August.

INCIDENTS

During August, IFT personnel investigated six livestock depredation incidents in the BRWRA.

On August 1, WS personnel investigated a dead calf on private property in the vicinity of Jones Peak in New Mexico. The incident was determined to be a wolf depredation, and it was assigned to the Fox Mountain Pack. This was the fourth depredation incident assigned to this pack since March 2012. FWS issued a lethal removal order for AF1188 on August 8. This order was changed to a nonlethal removal method on August 10 after FWS deliberations with the Mexican wolf captive management community determined that a facility in Arizona would be willing to house AF1188 after the wolf was captured. As of the end of August, this wolf has not been captured.

On August 1, WS personnel investigated a dead calf west of Greens Peak in Arizona. The incident was determined to be a domestic dog depredation.

On August 4, WS personnel investigated a dead cow in the vicinity of Deep Creek on the GNF. The cause of death was determined to be a black bear depredation.

On August 5, WS personnel investigated a dead cow in the vicinity of Deep Creek on the GNF. The cause of death was determined to be a black bear depredation.

On August 8, WS personnel investigated a dead cow in the vicinity of Mangitas Flat on the GNF. The cause of death was unknown.

On August 9, WS personnel investigated a dead calf in the vicinity of Lee Valley Reservoir on the ASNF. The incident was determined to be a wolf depredation, and the incident was assigned to an uncollared wolf.

CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

On August 7, at the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility, Project personnel captured M919 and M921 and moved them to the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park in Carlsbad, New Mexico. This move is temporary in order to facilitate needed maintenance at the Ladder Ranch facility.

On August 27, at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility, Project personnel captured M1049 and transferred the wolf to the California Wolf Center in Julian, California.

On August 31, at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility, Project personnel captured M1043, F1055, F1032 and F1033 for health evaluations and vaccinations.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On August 4, IFT personnel presented a Project update to 12 individuals at the Southwest Wings Nature Festival in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Project personnel conducted a variety of contacts with recreationists in Arizona and New Mexico during the course of regular field duties.

During August, IFT personnel coordinated with several livestock producers regarding proactive management of several wolf packs in the BRWRA, including Paradise, Hawks Nest, Bluestem, Fox Mountain, Elk Horn, Luna and Middle Fork Packs.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

No significant activity occurred this month.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000; and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged an additional \$46,000 for a total reward amount of up to \$58,000, depending on the information provided.

Individuals with information they believe may be helpful are urged to call one of the following agencies: USFWS special agents in Mesa, Arizona, at (480) 967-7900, in Alpine, Arizona, at (928) 339-4232, or in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at (505) 346-7828; the WMAT at (928) 338-1023 or (928) 338-4385; AGFD Operation Game Thief at (800) 352-0700; or NMDGF Operation Game Thief at (800) 432-4263. Killing a Mexican wolf is a violation of the Federal Endangered Species Act and can result in criminal penalties of up to \$50,000, and/or not more than one year in jail, and/or a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.



Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

September 1-30, 2012

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in Arizona on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (ASNF) and Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR) and in New Mexico on the Apache National Forest (ANF) and Gila National Forest (GNF). Non-tribal lands involved in this Project are collectively known as the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA). Additional Project information can be obtained by calling (928) 339-4329 or toll free at (888) 459-9653, or by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department website at <http://www.azgfd.gov/wolf> or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf>. Past updates may be viewed on either website, or interested parties may sign up to receive this update electronically by visiting <http://www.azgfd.gov/signup>. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The Reintroduction Project is a multi-agency cooperative effort among the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), USDA Forest Service (USFS), USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS WS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT).

To view weekly wolf telemetry flight location information or the 3-month wolf distribution map, please visit <http://www.azgfd.gov/wolf>. On the home page, go to the “Wolf Location Information” heading on the right side of the page near the top and scroll to the specific location information you seek.

Please report any wolf sightings or suspected livestock depredations to: (928) 339-4329 or toll free at (888) 459-9653. To report incidents of take or harassment of wolves, please call the AGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Numbering System: Mexican wolves are given an identification number recorded in an official studbook that tracks their history. Capital letters (M = Male, F = Female) preceding the number indicate adult animals 24 months or older. Lower case letters (m = male, f = female) indicate wolves younger than 24 months or pups. The capital letter “A” preceding the letter and number indicate alpha wolves.

Definitions: A “wolf pack” is defined as two or more wolves that maintain an established territory. In the event that one of the two alpha (dominant) wolves dies, the remaining alpha wolf, regardless of pack size, retains the pack status. The packs referenced in this update contain at least one wolf with a radio telemetry collar attached to it. The Interagency Field Team (IFT)

recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

At the end of September 2012, the collared population consisted of 36 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 14 packs and one single wolf. Some other uncollared wolves are known to be associating with radio-collared wolves, and others are separate from known packs.

Seasonal note: In September, the IFT continued fall trapping efforts to document pack status and pup recruitment in several packs in the BRWRA. The IFT captured and collared a female pup from the Bluestem Pack, fp1280. The IFT also trapped and collared an adult female wolf, F1279, from the Willow Springs Pack. The IFT recaptured mp1274 from the Fox Mountain Pack. This wolf was originally trapped and collared in July; however, it slipped its collar shortly after release. The pup weighed a robust 36 pounds at capture. The IFT also recaptured m1276 from the Fox Mountain Pack in September.

IN ARIZONA:

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1240, mp1275, mp1277 and fp1280)

Throughout September, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. At least five pups were documented traveling with this pack this month, including fp1280, which was captured and collared this month.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AF1208 and m1244)

In September, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented the presence of AM1038 with this pack during September; however, this wolf is not included in this report due to its nonfunctioning radio telemetry collar.

Paradise Pack (collared AM795, AF1056, m1243 and m1245)

In September, these wolves were documented using the summer range of their territory on the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR.

Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF858)

Throughout September, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing its traditional summer range in the south-central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183)

During September, the IFT located this wolf on the FAIR.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and m1254)

During September, the IFT located these wolves on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1248 and F1246)

In September, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, f1251 and fp1278)

Throughout September, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF.

Elk Horn Pack (collared F1212)

During September, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the northwest portion of the GNF.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1188, m1276 and mp1274)

Throughout September, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. This month, IFT personnel trapped and recaptured mp1274 and m1276. mp1274 was originally captured and collared in July; however, this wolf slipped its collar shortly after it was released.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115 and AM1155)

In September, the IFT located the Luna Pack within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)

Throughout September, the IFT located these wolves within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF, including the Gila Wilderness.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903 and m1249)

During September, the IFT located these wolves in the traditional San Mateo Pack territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. IFT personnel confirmed the presence of at least four pups with this pack this month.

Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185 and F1279)

Throughout September, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. An adult female wolf, F1279, was captured and collared this month.

M1252 (collared)

The IFT located this wolf in September traveling through the central portion of the GNF, including areas just outside of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

No wolf mortalities were documented during the month of September.

INCIDENTS

During September, IFT personnel investigated two livestock depredation incidents in the BRWRA.

On September 8, WS personnel investigated a dead cow on private property in the vicinity of Jones Peak on the GNF. The cause of death from the investigation was unknown.

On September 29, WS personnel investigated a dead calf in the vicinity of Freeman Mountain on the GNF. The incident was determined to be a wolf depredation, and the IFT assigned the incident to a wolf or wolves from the Elk Horn Pack.

CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

On September 17, Project personnel captured M1130 at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility for health evaluations and vaccinations.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On September 15, IFT personnel presented a Project update to 25 individuals at the “Fall into the Wild” Festival at Sipe Wildlife Area. The annual event is a fundraiser for the White Mountain Regional Medical Center in Springerville, Arizona. Another 67 individuals visited a display booth for the Project.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

No significant activity occurred this month.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000; and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged an additional \$46,000 for a total reward amount of up to \$58,000, depending on the information provided.

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Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

October 1-31, 2012

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in Arizona on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (ASNF) and Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR) and in New Mexico on the Apache National Forest (ANF) and Gila National Forest (GNF). Non-tribal lands involved in this Project are collectively known as the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA). Additional Project information can be obtained by calling (928) 339-4329 or toll free at (888) 459-9653, or by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department website at <http://www.azgfd.gov/wolf> or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf>. Past updates may be viewed on either website, or interested parties may sign up to receive this update electronically by visiting <http://www.azgfd.gov/signup>. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The Reintroduction Project is a multi-agency cooperative effort among the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), USDA Forest Service (USFS), USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS WS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT).

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recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

At the end of October 2012, the collared population consisted of 42 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 14 packs and one single wolf. Some other uncollared wolves are known to be associating with radio-collared wolves, and others are separate from known packs.

Seasonal note: In October, the IFT continued fall trapping efforts to document pack status and pup recruitment in several packs in the BRWRA. The IFT captured and collared a female pup from the Fox Mountain pack, fp1281. The IFT trapped and fitted a new collar on F1212, plus trapped and collared adult male M1287 from the Elk Horn Pack. The IFT captured and collared a male pup, mp1282 from the San Mateo Pack, as well as three male pups from the Luna Pack, mp1284, mp1285 and mp1286.

IN ARIZONA:

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1240, mp1275, mp1277 and fp1280)

Throughout October, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. At least five pups, two juveniles and one adult, for a total of eight wolves, were observed in the pack this month.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AF1208 and m1244)

In October, AF1208 continued to use Hawks Nests traditional territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF. m1244 has been showing signs of dispersing from the pack, and has been located separate from AF1208 several times throughout the month. The IFT continued to document AM1038 with AF1208 through visual observations. AM1038 has a nonfunctioning radio collar.

Paradise Pack (collared AM795, AF1056, m1243 and m1245)

In October, these wolves were documented using their territory on the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR.

Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF858)

Throughout October, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing the south-central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183)

During October, the IFT located this wolf on the FAIR.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and m1254)

During October, the IFT located these wolves on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1248 and F1246)

In October, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT has not been able to locate AM1248 since October 15. The IFT will continue to try and confirm if AM1248 is still with AF1246.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, f1251 and fp1278)

Throughout October the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF.

Elk Horn Pack (collared M1287 and F1212)

On October 22, members of the IFT trapped and collared an adult male wolf from the Elk Horn Pack, AM1287. During October, the IFT located these wolves traveling in the northwest portion of the GNF.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1188, m1276, mp1274 and fp1281)

Throughout October, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. On October 4, IFT personnel trapped and collared a female wolf pup from the Fox Mountain Pack, fp1281. On October 10, AF1188 was captured and removed from the wild due to four confirmed depredation incidents.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115, AM1155, mp1284, mp1285 and mp1286)

In October, the IFT captured three male wolf pups from the Luna Pack, mp1284, mp1285 and mp1286. During the month, the IFT located the pack within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)

Throughout October, the IFT located these wolves within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF, including the Gila Wilderness.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, m1249 and mp1282)

On October 8, the IFT captured and collared a male pup from the San Mateo Pack, mp1282. Throughout October, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185 and F1279)

Throughout October, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF.

M1252 (collared)

The IFT located this wolf in October traveling through the central portion of the GNF, including areas just outside of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

No wolf mortalities were documented during the month of October.

INCIDENTS

During October, IFT personnel investigated three livestock depredation incidents in the BRWRA.

On October 1, IFT personnel investigated a dead bull calf in Thompson Park, Arizona. They determined the cause of death to be coyotes.

On October 1, IFT personnel investigated a dead cow near Jenkins Creek in New Mexico. The cause of death was unknown.

On October 23, IFT personnel investigated a dead yearling heifer near Carnero Creek in Arizona. They confirmed the yearling was a wolf kill and assigned the depredation to an uncollared wolf.

CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

On October 10, WS personnel captured F1188. They transferred it to the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility (Sevilleta) for a health check and adjustment period before transfer to the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center in Arizona.

On October 11, Project personnel caught M1043 and F1055 at Sevilleta and transferred them to the Universidad Autonoma De Queretaro in Mexico.

On October 14, Project personnel caught M1130 at Sevilleta and transferred it to the Organizacion Vida Silvestre AC in Mexico.

On October 27, F1126 from the Bookfield Zoo in Illinois and M1051 and M1052 from the Endangered Wolf Center in Missouri were flown in by LightHawk for transfer to Sevilleta.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On October 13, Susan Dicks gave presentations to visitors at Sevilleta as part of the "Refuge Days" celebration.

A public scoping meeting on a planned wolf release in Arizona occurred on October 11 in Alpine, Arizona. About 22 people from the public attended.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Brent Wolf finished his USFWS internship and has left the Project. Thank you for all of your hard work, Brent!

The IFT has three new interns on the Project – Chrissy Guimaras, Ben Betterly and Lily Glidden.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000; and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged an additional \$46,000 for a total reward amount of up to \$58,000, depending on the information provided.

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recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

At the end of November 2012, the collared population consisted of 43 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 14 packs and one single wolf. Some other uncollared wolves are known to be associating with radio-collared wolves, and others are separate from known packs.

Seasonal note: In November, the IFT initiated more focused efforts to document uncollared wolves within the BRWRA, including hair snare surveys, howling surveys, snow track surveys and trail cameras, and coordinated follow up regarding reported wolf sightings. These activities are scheduled to continue over the next three months.

IN ARIZONA:

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1240, mp1275, mp1277 and fp1280)

Throughout November, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. Two pups, mp1277 and fp1280, were located separately from the pack this month, but returned after only a few days.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AF1208 and m1244)

In November, AF1208 continued to use the pack's traditional territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT was able to obtain a visual sighting of the pack and observed two wolves. From this sighting, the IFT was also able to confirm that AM1038 is still traveling with AF1208. Juvenile wolf m1244 has dispersed and is traveling between Arizona and New Mexico.

Paradise Pack (collared AM795, AF1056, m1243 and m1245)

In November, the IFT documented these wolves using their territory on the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR.

Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF858)

Throughout November, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing the south-central portion of the ASNF.

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183)

During November, the IFT located AM1183 in the west-central portion of the ASNF and the FAIR. The IFT is continuing to search for opportunities to collar more wolves from this pack.

ON THE FAIR:

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253, m1254 and fp1283)

During November, the IFT located these wolves on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1248 and F1246)

In November, the IFT documented M1252, a single wolf, traveling with F1246 in the north-central portion of the GNF. M1248 has not been located since October 15.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, f1251 and fp1278)

During the first two weeks of November, the IFT attempted to trap and recollar AF923 and AM992, but were unsuccessful. This pack was located within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF throughout November.

Elk Horn Pack (collared M1287 and F1212)

In November, the IFT located these wolves traveling in the northwest portion of the GNF. The IFT documented possible pup tracks associated with this pack; however, they have not been able to obtain a visual confirmation of additional wolves.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, m1276, mp1274 and fp1281)

Throughout November, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. At times during this month, AM1158 and m1276 have been located separately from mp1274 and fp1281. At the end of November, the IFT documented all collared members of the pack as traveling together.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115, AM1155, mp1284, mp1285 and mp1286)

In November, the IFT located the Luna Pack within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a food cache for the pack and obtained several photos of collared and uncollared wolves associated with the pack.

Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)

Throughout November, the IFT located these wolves within the northern part of their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF. No counts of wolves were obtained for this pack this month.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, m1249 and mp1282)

During November, the IFT located this pack in its traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF.

Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185 and F1279)

Throughout November, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF.

M1252 (collared)

This wolf has been traveling with Canyon Creek Pack F1246 since October 15. The IFT is continuing to monitor the status of these wolves.

MORTALITIES

No wolf mortalities were documented during the month of November.

INCIDENTS

During November, IFT personnel investigated one livestock depredation incident in the BRWRA.

On November 23, WS personnel investigated an older-aged cow carcass in the vicinity of Sand Flats on the GNF in New Mexico. They were unable to determine a cause of death.

CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

On November 13, Project personnel transferred M968 and F1064 from the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility to the Mesker Park Zoo in Mesker Park, Indiana. LightHawk Aviation generously assisted with the transport.

On November 16, Project personnel captured, evaluated and separated M1215 for behavioral concerns. The animal was in good condition.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

IFT personnel conducted hunter contacts in Arizona and New Mexico regarding the presence of wolves in specific hunt management units.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Kaija Klauder completed her internship with the USFWS on the Project in November. Thank you, Kaija, for your dedication and hard work.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000; and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged an additional \$46,000 for a total reward amount of up to \$58,000, depending on the information provided.

Individuals with information they believe may be helpful are urged to call one of the following agencies: USFWS special agents in Mesa, Arizona, at (480) 967-7900, in Alpine, Arizona, at (928) 339-4232, or in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at (505) 346-7828; the WMAT at (928) 338-1023 or (928) 338-4385; AGFD Operation Game Thief at (800) 352-0700; or NMDGF Operation Game Thief at (800) 432-4263. Killing a Mexican wolf is a violation of the Federal Endangered Species Act and can result in criminal penalties of up to \$50,000, and/or not more than one year in jail, and/or a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.



Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

December 1-31, 2012

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in Arizona on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (ASNF) and Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR) and in New Mexico on the Apache National Forest (ANF) and Gila National Forest (GNF). Non-tribal lands involved in this Project are collectively known as the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA). Additional Project information can be obtained by calling (928) 339-4329 or toll free at (888) 459-9653, or by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department website at <http://www.azgfd.gov/wolf> or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf>. Past updates may be viewed on either website, or interested parties may sign up to receive this update electronically by visiting <http://www.azgfd.gov/signup>. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The Reintroduction Project is a multi-agency cooperative effort among the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), USDA Forest Service (USFS), USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS WS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT).

To view weekly wolf telemetry flight location information or the 3-month wolf distribution map, please visit <http://www.azgfd.gov/wolf>. On the home page, go to the “Wolf Location Information” heading on the right side of the page near the top and scroll to the specific location information you seek.

Please report any wolf sightings or suspected livestock depredations to: (928) 339-4329 or toll free at (888) 459-9653. To report incidents of take or harassment of wolves, please call the AGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Numbering System: Mexican wolves are given an identification number recorded in an official studbook that tracks their history. Capital letters (M = Male, F = Female) preceding the number indicate adult animals 24 months or older. Lower case letters (m = male, f = female) indicate wolves younger than 24 months or pups. The capital letter “A” preceding the letter and number indicate alpha wolves.

Definitions: A “wolf pack” is defined as two or more wolves that maintain an established territory. In the event that one of the two alpha (dominant) wolves dies, the remaining alpha wolf, regardless of pack size, retains the pack status. The packs referenced in this update contain at least one wolf with a radio telemetry collar attached to it. The Interagency Field Team (IFT)

recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

At the end of December 2012, the collared population consisted of 42 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 14 packs and one single wolf. Some other uncollared wolves are known to be associating with radio-collared wolves, and others are separate from known packs.

Seasonal note: In December, the IFT continued with more focused efforts to document uncollared wolves within the BRWRA, including snow track surveys, trail cameras and coordinated follow-up regarding reported wolf sightings. IFT personnel have been conducting landowner contacts within the BRWRA, ahead of the annual 2012 population count effort that will begin in late January 2013. These calls are to advise private landowners of this planned activity and ask permission for IFT personnel to enter private lands to facilitate wolf counts and captures.

IN ARIZONA:

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1240, mp1275, mp1277 and fp1280)

Throughout December, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented wolf m1240 traveling widely outside of this pack's traditional territory this month.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared m1244)

In December, IFT personnel located AF1208 dead within the packs' traditional territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The wolf's death is under investigation. The IFT documented AM1038 alive in the pack territory after AF1208 was found dead; however, AM1038 has a nonfunctioning radio collar, making it very difficult to track. m1244 has dispersed from the pack and has been traveling widely through the BRWRA.

Paradise Pack (collared AM795, AF1056, m1243 and m1245)

In December, the IFT located AM795 and AF1056 using their territory on the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR. The yearling wolves for this pack, m1243 and m1245, have dispersed and have been located traveling widely through the BRWRA.

Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF858)

Throughout December, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing the south-central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183)

During December, the IFT located AM1183 on the FAIR and the west-central portion of the ASNF.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253, m1254 and fp1283)

During December, the IFT located these wolves on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1248 and F1246)

In December, the IFT located F1246 and M1252 traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT has not been able to locate AM1248 since October 15, but will continue efforts locate it.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, f1251 and fp1278)

Throughout December, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. Later in December, the IFT documented f1251 traveling in the central portion of the GNF, away from the other wolves in this pack.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and AF1212)

During early December, the IFT located these wolves traveling in the northwest portion of the GNF. Later in the month, the IFT located AF1212 traveling with the Fox Mountain Pack, while AM1287 was located on the west side of Escudilla Mountain on the ASNF.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, m1276, mp1274 and fp1281)

Throughout December, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. In late December the IFT documented AF1212 from the Elk Horn Pack traveling with AM1158 and m1276 of the Fox Mountain Pack in their traditional territory.

Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, mp1284, mp1285 and mp1286)

In December, the IFT located the pack within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)

Throughout December, the IFT located these wolves within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, m1249 and mp1282)

In December, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the north portion of the GNF.

Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185 and F1279)

Throughout December, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF.

M1252 (collared)

The IFT located this wolf in traveling with F1246 of the Canyon Creek Pack throughout the month of December.

MORTALITIES

During the month of December, the IFT located AF1208 of the Hawks Nest Pack dead within the traditional pack territory in Arizona. The wolf's death is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During December, IFT personnel investigated four livestock depredation incidents in the BRWRA.

On December 14, WS personnel investigated a dead cow on New Mexico State Trust lands north of Mangas, New Mexico. The cause of death was determined to be a wolf, and the incident was assigned to an uncollared wolf

On December 22, WS personnel investigated two dead calves in an area south of Red Hill, New Mexico. The cause of death was determined to be coyotes.

On December 27, WS personnel investigated a report of three dead calves near Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. The cause of death was determined to be unknown and not related to predation.

On December 30, IFT personnel located a dead cow near Torriete Lakes in New Mexico. WS personnel investigated the carcass and determined it was killed by a wolf. The incident has not yet been assigned to a specific wolf or wolves.

CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

On December 12, at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility, Project personnel captured F1202, F1203, F1204, F1216, F1217, F1218, F1219, M1051, M1052 and F1126 for veterinary wellness exams and vaccinations. All animals appeared in good condition.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

IFT Project personnel initiated landowner calls this month ahead of planned helicopter population count and capture activities in January of 2013.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

No significant activity occurred this month.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000; and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged an additional \$46,000 for a total reward amount of up to \$58,000, depending on the information

provided.

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