



## Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

January 1-31, 2013

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 breeding 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**

Project personnel completed the 2012 end-of-year population count on February 1. The specific minimum population estimate for 2012 is 75 wolves with four breeding pairs. A breeding pair consists of at least one adult male (including an alpha male), at least one adult female (including an alpha female), and at least two pups produced during the same year that survive until the end of December. As a result of survey and capture efforts associated with the end-of-year population count, the collared population at the end of January 2013 consisted of 46 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among fourteen packs and four single wolves.

Note: In accordance with Standard Operating Procedure 27.0, the end-of-the-year population count is a minimum count with no range of numbers or associated statistical confidence intervals. The count includes three components:

1. All current radio-collared wolves and their pack associates being monitored as of December 31 of each year;
2. Radio-collared wolves whose collars are not functioning, but for which evidence exists indicating they were likely to have been on December 31, as determined by the IFT;
3. Uncollared wolves confirmed by IFT personnel anytime during November, December and January.

On January 21, the IFT captured a previously uncollared female pup, fp1289, from the Bluestem Pack in the vicinity of Juniper Bench on the ASNF. The wolf was fitted with a telemetry collar and released back into the Bluestem territory on the same day.

On January 21, the IFT captured and removed AF858 from the Rim Pack in accordance with a removal order issued by the FWS in mid-January. The Middle Management Team for the Project met in December 2012 and approved the management action. AF858 has not produced pups in the wild since 2010, likely due to its advanced age. Due to its genetic profile and age, the FWS and IFT determined this wolf would be more valuable to the captive breeding program than in the wild population. Veterinarians obtained unfertilized eggs from this wolf after it was captured, and it is recovering well after the surgery. The eggs may be used with future assisted-reproductive technologies to produce pups that have a favorable genetic profile to the overall Mexican wolf population. The IFT is planning to conduct a replacement release of two pair-bonded wolves into the Rim Pack territory during the spring of 2013.

On January 22, the IFT captured and collared two previously uncollared pups, mp1290 and fp1291, from the Maverick Pack in the vicinity of Black River on the ASNF. The IFT released both wolves back into their pack territories on the same day of capture. The IFT also recaptured AM1253 from the Tsay o Ah Pack on the FAIR. This wolf was fitted with a new telemetry collar and released the same day.

On January 23, the IFT captured and collared a previously uncollared female pup, fp1292, from

the San Mateo Pack near Mangas Mountain on the GNF. This wolf was fitted with a telemetry collar and released back into the pack territory.

On January 24, the IFT captured and collared a previously uncollared yearling male, m1293, from the Dark Canyon Pack near Bearwallow Mountain on the GNF. This wolf was fitted with a telemetry collar and released back into the pack territory. The IFT also recaptured M1185 from the Willow Springs Pack near John Kerr Peak on the GNF. This wolf was fitted with a new telemetry collar and released the same day into the Willow Springs Pack territory.

On January 25, the IFT captured and collared a previously uncollared yearling female, f1294, from the Elk Horn Pack in the vicinity of Escudilla Mountain on the ASNF. The wolf was released the same day near Escudilla.

On January 25, the IFT recaptured Paradise Pack AF1056 in the vicinity of Whiting Knoll on the ASNF. They replaced the wolf's telemetry collar and released it the same day. The IFT recaptured Bluestem Pack AF1042 near Three Forks on the ASNF, replaced its telemetry collar, and released it near Three Forks. The IFT also recaptured AM1158 from the Fox Mountain Pack near ELC Flat on the ASNF. The wolf was fitted with a new telemetry collar and released in the same vicinity where it was captured on the ASNF.

On January 29, the IFT captured M1133 on private land near Reserve, New Mexico. This wolf was initially released in Arizona on January 8 adjacent to the Bluestem Pack to potentially provide a breeding male for AF1042 whose mate had been illegally killed. After spending several days adjacent to the Bluestem Pack, M1133 moved into an area of New Mexico where it was unlikely to encounter other wolves. The FWS and IFT determined that recapture of M1133 was in the best interest of overall reintroduction project goals. This wolf was transferred to the Sevilleta Wolf Management facility and is being evaluated for captive breeding and translocation into the BRWRA in the future.

On January 31, the IFT recaptured F1246 from the Canyon Creek Pack near the Canyon Creek Mountains on the GNF. The wolf was fitted with a new telemetry collar and released the same day in the vicinity where it was captured.

On February 1, the IFT recaptured AF1115 from the Luna Pack near Pinon Knob on the GNF. The wolf was fitted with a new telemetry collar and released the same day in the vicinity where it was captured.

## **IN ARIZONA:**

### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1240, mp1275, mp1277, fp1280 and fp1289)**

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

### **Hawks Nest Pack (collared m1244)**

In January, the IFT located this wolf traveling widely through the BRWRA in Arizona and New

Mexico. The IFT was able to confirm that AM1038 was still alive in the traditional Hawks Nest territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF; however, it has a nonfunctioning radio collar, making this wolf impossible to track with telemetry equipment. The IFT now considers m1244 to be a single wolf.

**Paradise Pack (collared AM795 and AF1056)**

In January, the IFT located AM795 and AF1056 using their traditional winter territory on the northern portion of the ASNF. The yearling wolves for this pack, m1243 and m1245, have dispersed and have been located traveling widely through the BRWRA. The IFT now considers these two yearling males to be single wolves.

**Rim Pack (collared AM1107)**

Throughout January, the IFT located the Rim Pack utilizing the south-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT captured and removed AF858 from this pack in January; however, AM1107 will retain the Rim Pack name, and the IFT will continue to monitor its movements.

**Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, mp1290 and fp1291)**

During early January, the IFT located AM1183 on the SCAR. Later in January, the IFT located these wolves on the west-central portion of the ASNF.

**ON THE FAIR:**

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

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

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

**Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

In January, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. M1252 has been located with F1246 since November, and the IFT now considers this wolf to be part of the Canyon Creek Pack. The IFT has not been able to locate AM1248 since October 15, and now considers this wolf to be fate unknown.

**Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, m1293 and fp1278)**

Throughout January, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. In late December, the IFT documented f1251 traveling in the central portion of the GNF, away from the other wolves in this pack. During the end-of-year count, the IFT documented an uncollared wolf traveling with f1251 in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT now considers this wolf to be a dispersing female, separate from the Dark Canyon Pack.

**Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and f1294)**

In January, the IFT located AM1287 and AF1212 traveling separately in the BRWRA. AF1212 has been traveling with AM1158 and M1276 of the Fox Mountain Pack in the northwest portion of the GNF. AM1287 was documented traveling through the central and east-central portion of the ASNF in Arizona, as well as the northeastern portion of the GNF in New Mexico. The IFT now considers AF1212 to be part of the Fox Mountain Pack, while AM1287 and the newly

collared f1294 now comprise the Elk Horn Pack.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, m1276, mp1274 and fp1281)**

Throughout January, the IFT documented these wolves traveling separately in the northwest portion of the GNF. The IFT documented AF1212 from the Elk Horn Pack traveling with AM1158 and m1276 of the Fox Mountain Pack, while mp1274 and fp1281 were traveling together, but separate from other collared pack members. All of these wolves were still located in the traditional pack territory for the both the Fox Mountain and Elk Horn Packs. The IFT now considers AF1212 to be part of the Fox Mountain Pack.

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

In January, 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 January, the IFT located these wolves within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF, including the Gila Wilderness Area.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, m1249, mp1282 and fp1292)**

In January, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. Later in the month, the IFT documented m1249 traveling away from the other pack members, but still within the pack territory

**Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185 and F1279)**

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

**m1243 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf dispersing from the Paradise Pack in early December. Throughout January, the IFT located this wolf traveling widely through the GNF, including portions of the Gila Wilderness Area. No other wolves were documented traveling with m1243.

**m1245 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf dispersing from the Paradise Pack in early December. Throughout January, the IFT documented this wolf traveling widely through the GNF, including portions of the Gila Wilderness Area. No other wolves were documented traveling with m1245.

**f1251 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf dispersing from the Dark Canyon Pack in late December. Throughout January, the IFT located this wolf traveling separately from the pack members in the north-central portion of the GNF. During the end-of-year count, the IFT found an uncollared wolf traveling with f1251. The IFT will continue monitoring this pair to document potential formation of a new pack

**MORTALITIES**

No wolf mortalities were documented this month.

## **INCIDENTS**

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

On January 19, WS personnel investigated a dead cow on New Mexico State Trust lands north of Mangas, New Mexico. The cause of death was undetermined, but not associated with predation.

On January 19, WS personnel investigated a dead calf on New Mexico State Trust lands north of Mangas, New Mexico. They determined the calf's death was caused by a wolf. The IFT has not yet assigned the incident to a specific wolf.

## **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On January 3, Project personnel captured F1033 at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility and transferred it to the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility.

On January 8, M1133 was transferred from Sevilleta to the BRWRA as an initial release into the Primary Recovery Zone in Arizona.

On January 16, M1052 and M1215 were transferred from Sevilleta to the Ladder Ranch Facility.

On January 17, M919 and M921 were transferred from the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park in Carlsbad, New Mexico, to the Ladder Ranch Facility.

## **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

IFT personnel conducted landowner phone calls in January ahead of planned helicopter population count and capture activities that occurred later in the month.

## **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

FWS intern Anthony Saner left the Project this month. Thanks for the hard work, Anthony.

## **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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February 1-28, 2013

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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 February 2013, the collared population consisted of 46 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 14 packs and five 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 AF1042, mp1275, mp1277, fp1280 and fp1289)**

Throughout February, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented wolf m1240 continuing to travel widely throughout the BRWRA this month and now considers this wolf to be a single animal.

#### **Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and f1294)**

In February, the IFT located these wolves traveling in the northeast and central portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

#### **Hawks Nest**

The IFT was able to confirm that AM1038 was still alive in the traditional Hawks Nest territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF; however, it has a nonfunctioning radio collar, making this wolf impossible to track with telemetry equipment.

#### **Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, mp1290 and fp1291)**

During February, the IFT located these wolves on the west-central portion of the ASNF, while mp1290 was located traveling separately from the other pack members. At the end of the month, mp1290 was located traveling with Rim Pack AM1107.

#### **Paradise Pack (collared AM795 and AF1056)**

In February, the IFT located AM795 and AF1056 using their traditional winter territory on the northern portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented m1245 traveling with this pack for a brief time during the middle of February. This wolf dispersed back to the GNF later in the month.

#### **Rim (collared AM1107)**

Throughout February, the IFT located AM1107 utilizing the south-central portion of the ASNF. Later in the month, the IFT documented this wolf traveling with mp1290 from the Maverick Pack in the traditional winter territory for the Rim Pack.

### **ON THE FAIR:**

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

During February, the IFT located AM1253 and fp1283 on the FAIR. The IFT did not locate m1254 during the month.

## **IN NEW MEXICO:**

### **Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

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

### **Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, m1293 and fp1278)**

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

### **Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, m1276, mp1274 and fp1281)**

Throughout February, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. The IFT documented AF1212, AM1158 and m1276 traveling together, while mp1274 and fp1281 were located traveling together and separate from the other three collared wolves in this pack. The IFT located all of these wolves together during one weekly telemetry flight. Each location has been in the pack's traditional territory.

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

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

### **Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)**

The IFT did not locate these wolves during February, due largely to logistical issues involving weather conditions, telemetry flights and telemetry collars that may be nearing the end of their operating life. The IFT will follow up during March with efforts to locate these wolves.

### **San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, m1249, mp1282 and fp1292)**

In February, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. The IFT documented fp1292 and m1249 traveling away from the other pack members, but still within the pack territory.

### **Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185 and F1279)**

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

### **m1240 (collared)**

The IFT has documented this wolf dispersing from the Bluestem Pack since December 2012. Throughout February, this wolf has traveled separately from other pack members. The IFT now considers this wolf to be a single animal.

### **m1243 (collared)**

Throughout February, the IFT located this wolf traveling widely through the GNF, including portions of the Gila Wilderness Area.

### **m1244 (collared)**

In February, the IFT located this wolf traveling widely through the GNF in New Mexico.

**m1245 (collared)**

During early February, the IFT documented this wolf traveling with AM795 and AF1056 of the Paradise Pack on the ASNF. Later in the month, this wolf dispersed back to the central portion of the GNF in New Mexico.

**f1251 (collared)**

Throughout February, the IFT located this wolf traveling separately from the Dark Canyon Pack in the north-central portion of the GNF. During the end-of-year count in January, the IFT found an uncollared wolf traveling with f1251; however, the IFT did not attempt to obtain a visual on this wolf in February.

**MORTALITIES**

No wolf mortalities were documented this month.

**INCIDENTS**

During February, IFT personnel investigated four potential livestock depredation incidents and two nuisance incidents in the BRWRA.

On February 6, IFT personnel investigated a report of an uncollared wolf in Reserve, New Mexico. The investigation revealed that the animal was not a Mexican wolf, but was most likely a wolf-dog hybrid.

On February 14, WS personnel investigated two old cow carcasses near Atascacita Springs on the ASNF. The cause of the deaths was undetermined.

On February 15, WS personnel investigated a dead bull on State Trust Lands northwest of Springerville, Arizona. The cause of death was undetermined.

On February 20, IFT personnel investigated a report of two collared wolves near a residence close to Pinedale, Arizona, approximately one mile from the FAIR. The investigation revealed wolf-sized tracks near the residence; however, snow conditions made positive track identification difficult. No radio telemetry signals were obtained during several days of follow-up investigations. Personnel placed a trail camera on an elk carcass in the general vicinity; however, no wolves were documented on the camera.

On February 26, WS personnel investigated a dead calf near St John's, Arizona. The cause of death was determined to be weather-related.

On February 27, WS personnel investigated a dead calf near Wagontongue Mountain on the GNF. The cause of death was undetermined.

**CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On February 4, F858 was moved to the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility in New Mexico.

On February 14 and 17, personnel at the 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 for future research and use.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

No significant activity occurred this month.

### **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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## **CURRENT POPULATION STATUS**

At the end of March 2013, the collared population consisted of 46 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 12 packs and five single wolves. The IFT caught and collared a female pup, fp1295 from the Fox Mountain Pack. 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, mp1275, mp1277, fp1280 and fp1289)**

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

#### **Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and f1294)**

In March, the IFT located these wolves traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

#### **Hawks Nest (collared AM1038)**

During March, the IFT was able to confirm that AM1038 was still alive in the traditional Hawks Nest territory in the north-central portion of the ASNF; however, it has a nonfunctioning radio collar, making this wolf impossible to track with telemetry equipment. This wolf is not included in the collared population estimate or overall pack total in the Current Population Status summary above.

#### **Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, mp1290 and fp1291)**

During March, the IFT located these wolves on the west-central portion of the ASNF, as well as the FAIR. mp1290 continued to travel separately from other pack members in March, in the central portion of the ASNF.

#### **Paradise Pack (collared AM795 and AF1056)**

In March, the IFT located AM795 and AF1056 using their traditional winter territory in the northern portion of the ASNF, as well as north of the BRWRA.

#### **Rim (collared AM1107)**

Throughout March, the IFT located AM1107 utilizing the south-central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR. The IFT now considers this wolf to be a single animal, and although it will retain the pack name, it will not be included in the overall pack total in the Current Population Status summary above.

### **ON THE FAIR:**

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

During March, the IFT located AM1253 and fp1283 on the FAIR. The IFT did not locate m1254 this month.

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

**Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

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

**Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, m1293 and fp1278)**

Throughout March, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented fp1278 traveling separate from the pack for most of the month in the west-central portion of the GNF, including the Gila Wilderness.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, m1276, mp1274, fp1281 and fp1295)**

Throughout March, the IFT documented these wolves in the north-west portion of the GNF. The IFT documented AM1158, AF1212 and m1276 traveling together, while mp1274 was located traveling both together and separate from the other three collared wolves. Most of the month, the IFT located fp1281 separate from the rest of the pack. fp1281 traveled throughout the northwest portion of the GNF, as well as moving outside the BRWRA. IFT personnel caught and collared female pup fp1295 this month.

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

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

**Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)**

The IFT did not locate these wolves during the month of March. The radio collars for these two animals are most likely no longer functioning. The IFT continued ground efforts to locate the wolves, and they did document wolf sign in this pack's traditional territory.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, m1249, mp1282 and fp1292)**

In March, these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. The IFT documented m1249 traveling separately from other pack members, but still within the pack territory this month.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185 and F1279)**

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

**m1240 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf traveling widely throughout the BRWRA in March. The IFT documented this animal primarily in the central portion of the GNF and east-central portion of the ASNF.

**m1243 (collared)**

Throughout March, the IFT located this wolf traveling throughout the central portion of the

GNF.

**m1244 (collared)**

Throughout March, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the central portion of the GNF, north of the Gila Wilderness.

**m1245 (collared)**

During March, the IFT found this animal dead. The cause of death is under investigation.

**f1251 (collared)**

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

**MORTALITIES**

During March, the IFT documented one wolf mortality. The IFT located single wolf m1245 dead this month, and the cause of death is under investigation.

**INCIDENTS**

During March, IFT personnel investigated two livestock depredation incidents and two livestock injuries in the BRWRA. One nuisance incident outside of the BRWRA was also investigated this month.

On March 3, IFT personnel investigated a dead cow and newborn calf near Watts Creek on the ASNF. The cause of death for cow was determined to be a gunshot. The cause of the death for the calf was undetermined.

On March 5, IFT personnel trapped and removed a wolf-dog hybrid from the vicinity of Snowflake, Arizona. Genetic testing revealed it was a gray wolf-domestic dog hybrid. No Mexican wolf DNA was present in this animal. Its behavior prior to capture indicated it was habituated to humans. The IFT placed it in the custody of the Navajo County Animal Control Service for final disposition.

On March 18, IFT personnel investigated an injured calf in the area of Canovas Creek outside the BRWRA. The cause of injury was determined to be ravens.

On March 18, IFT personnel investigated the remains of a dead calf in the area of Wagontongue Mountain in New Mexico. The cause of death was undetermined.

On March 31, IFT personnel investigated an injured horse on private property in the northwest portion of the GNF. The cause of injury was undetermined.

**CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

No significant activity occurred this month.

## **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

No significant activity occurred this month.

## **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

FWS intern Crissy Guimaraes left the Project this month. Thanks for the hard work, Crissy!

Julia Smith joined the Project this month as a FWS intern. Welcome to the Project, Julia!

## **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

April 1-30, 2013

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 breeding 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 April 2013, the collared population consisted of 49 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 15 packs and five single wolves. The IFT received a report from a private trapper regarding an uncollared wolf that he observed in one of his trap sets near the Luera Mountains in New Mexico. The IFT responded the same day and confirmed the animal was a Mexican wolf. The wolf was collared, given the designation M1296, transported back to the BRWRA, and released on the GNF. 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.

The IFT initiated two wolf release operations this month. On April 25, the IFT placed two pair-bonded wolves, M1051 and F1126, in a hard-sided holding pen on the Alpine Ranger District in Arizona. These wolves will be released later this spring after F1126 whelps its litter of pups inside the pen. This operation is considered an initial release of wolf F1126 (born in captivity) and a translocation of M1051, which was produced in the wild in 2007 and removed to captivity as a four-week-old pup. The pack has been named the Coronado Pack.

On April 27, the IFT transported two pair-bonded wolves, M1133 and F1108, to a mesh holding pen in the Gila Wilderness on the Wilderness Ranger District in New Mexico. At the end of April, these wolves were still inside the pen. The IFT anticipates they will chew out of the mesh pen soon and begin utilizing the Gila Wilderness. This is a translocation operation because both wolves have either been previously released into the BRWRA (M1133) or born in the wild (F1108). This pack has been named the Half Moon Pack.

The IFT documented the natural formation of another wolf pack during April. F1251 was documented traveling with an uncollared wolf in the GNF during the January helicopter survey. During field activities in April, the IFT confirmed the presence of another wolf with F1251. This pair has been named the Prieto Pack.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, mp1275, m1277, f1280 and f1289)**

Throughout April, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT confirmed that AF1042 is denning.

#### **Coronado Pack (collared M1051 and F1126)**

On April 25, the IFT transported these wolves to a chain link enclosure in preparation for their release into the BRWRA. These wolves will be released from the pen after F1126 whelps its litter of pups, and they are large enough to travel away from the pen with M1051 and F1126. The IFT will continue to monitor this pair closely.

**Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and F1294)**

In April, the IFT located these wolves traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

**Paradise Pack (collared AM795 and AF1056)**

In April, the IFT located AM795 and AF1056 using their traditional territory in the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR.

**Rim (collared M1107)**

Throughout April, the IFT located M1107 utilizing the south-central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR. M1107 is still a single animal, and although it retains the pack name, it is not included in the overall pack total in the summary above.

**ON THE FAIR:**

**Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, m1290 and f1291)**

During April, the IFT located m1290 and f1291 on the FAIR. The IFT located m1290 traveling separately from other pack members during the last two weeks of April, in the west-central portion of the ASNF. Later in the month, m1290 returned to the pack. The IFT did not locate AM1183 in April, and it is likely that its telemetry collar has stopped working.

**Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and f1283)**

During April, the IFT located AM1253 and f1283 on the FAIR. The IFT has not located M1254 since late January. The IFT now considers this wolf to be fate unknown.

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

**Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

In April, these wolves were located traveling together in the central portion of the GNF.

**Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293 and f1278)**

Throughout April, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. Later in April, the IFT documented f1278 traveling away from the pack with M1244.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276, m1274, f1281 and f1295)**

During April, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. The IFT documented denning behavior with this pack this month.

**Half Moon Pack (collared M1133 and F1108)**

On April 27, Project personnel, utilizing specially trained pack mules, transported M1133 and F1108 into the Gila Wilderness and placed them in a temporary mesh pen at the McKenna Park translocation site.

**Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1284, m1285 and m1286)**

In April, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT

confirmed that AF1115 is denning.

**Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)**

The IFT did not locate these wolves during April. The radio collars for these two animals are most likely no longer functioning. The IFT continued with ground efforts to locate these wolves; however, they did not document any wolf sign in this pack's traditional territory. If the pack is not located in May, the IFT will consider its fate unknown and remove it from the summary totals above.

**Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

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

**San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, M1249, m1282 and f1292)**

In April, most of these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. The IFT obtained a visual observation of M1249 traveling alone in Arizona, south of Alpine. The IFT located f1292 dead in early April, and the incident is under investigation.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185 and F1279)**

Throughout April, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented denning behavior with this pack this month.

**M1240 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf traveling widely throughout the BRWRA in April. The IFT documented this animal primarily in the central portion of the GNF.

**M1243 (collared)**

Throughout April, the IFT has not been able to locate this wolf.

**M1244 (collared)**

Throughout April, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the central portion of the GNF, north of the Gila Wilderness. In late April, M1244 was located with Dark Canyon Pack f1278.

**M1296 (collared)**

The IFT located this newly collared wolf in the eastern portion of the GNF during the later portion of April.

**MORTALITIES**

During April, the IFT located single wolf fp1292 dead in the BRWRA. The cause of death is under investigation.

**INCIDENTS**

During April, IFT personnel investigated eight livestock depredation incidents and one nuisance report in the BRWRA.

On April 5, the IFT received information from NMGFD personnel regarding a report of two wolves near a home near Sand Flats in New Mexico. The reporting party was concerned that they may attack a domestic dog. IFT personnel responded and confirmed that wolves from the San Mateo Pack had been in the area.

On April 6, WS personnel investigated a dead cow and full-term unborn calf north of Luna, New Mexico. WS personnel determined the cause of death was wolf predation. The incident was assigned to M1158 and possibly one wolf from the Fox Mountain Pack, M1276 or F1212.

On April 6, WS personnel investigated the remains of an adult cow in the vicinity of Freeman Mountain in New Mexico. The cause of death could not be determined.

On April 21, WS personnel investigated a dead calf on Arizona State Trust lands north of Highway 60 near Vernon and confirmed was killed by wolves. The IFT set up a trail camera on the carcass to attempt to identify the wolves responsible. A dog with a collar was photographed. No collared wolves were located in the area.

On April 24, WS personnel investigated a dead calf near Antelope Tank north of Freeman Mountain on GNF and confirmed it as wolf depredation. The incident was assigned to an uncollared wolf. The IFT set up a diversionary food cache near the Fox Mountain den location.

On April 25, WS personnel investigated two calf carcasses on Arizona State Trust lands north of Highway 60 near Vernon and confirmed that both calves were killed by one or more wolves. The carcasses were older and were located in the same vicinity as the calf carcass investigated on April 21. No collared wolves have been located in the vicinity of the carcasses. Both carcasses were considered as separate depredation events.

On April 29, WS personnel investigated a calf carcass on Arizona State Trust lands north of Highway 60 near Vernon and confirmed the calf was killed by wolves. The incident was assigned to an uncollared wolf. The carcass was located in the same vicinity as the calf carcass investigated on April 21. IFT personnel initiated trapping operations in the area on April 30.

On April 29, WS personnel investigated a dead calf north of Toriette Lakes in New Mexico. The cause of death was not related to wolf predation.

### **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On April 10, Project personnel captured F1032 and M1201 at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility (Sevilleta) and transferred them to Universidad Autonoma de Queretaro in Mexico.

On April 25, Project personnel captured M1051 and F1126 at Sevilleta and transferred them to the IFT for placement in a chain link enclosure in preparation for their release into the BRWRA

On April 26, Project personnel captured M1133 and F1108 at Sevilleta and transferred them to a temporary mesh pen at the McKenna Park translocation site in the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico.

## **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

IFT personnel presented a project update to a natural resources management class at Central Arizona College in Coolidge, Arizona this month. Approximately 15 students and instructors were present for the discussion.

Project personnel and FWS met with Catron County officials, representatives from the New Mexico Cattlegrowers Association, and local livestock producers at an invited meeting at the Beaverhead Lodge in NM to discuss the proposed translocation of F1108 and M1133 wolves from captivity into the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting.

Project personnel and FWS held a public meeting in Reserve, NM to discuss the proposed translocation of F1108 and M1133 from captivity into the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. Approximately 45 people attended the meeting.

IFT personnel presented wolf conservation and management discussions to six animal sciences classes at Snowflake high school in Snowflake Arizona. Approximately 70 students were contacted during this effort.

## **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

Ben Betterly, a FWS intern, left the Project during April. Thanks for all of your hard work, Ben!

Lily Glidden, a FWS intern, left the Project during April. Thanks for all of your hard work, Lily!

Brandon Tritsch joined the Project as a FWS intern 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

May 1-31, 2013

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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 May 2013, the collared population consisted of 45 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 14 packs and five single wolves. The IFT removed one wolf this month due to its persistence outside the BRWRA boundary.

There were two ongoing wolf-release operations this month. The IFT has maintained two pair-bonded wolves, M1051 and F1126, in a hard-sided, holding pen on the Alpine Ranger District in Arizona. On May 22, the IFT investigated the pen for any pups produced by F1126. None were found, and it is suspected that the litter has died. This operation is considered an initial release of wolf F1126, as it was born in captivity, and a translocation of M1051, which was born in the wild in 2007 and removed to captivity as a four-week-old pup. The pack has been designated the Coronado Pack.

On May 4, two other pair-bonded wolves, M1133 and F1108, self-released when they chewed out of the soft-mesh pen situated in the Gila Wilderness on the Wilderness Ranger District in New Mexico. The female localized near the release site. The male left the area, traveling to Monticello, New Mexico, where the IFT captured it on May 11 and returned it to captivity. The IFT suspects F1108 whelped pups and is caring for them. The IFT set up a food cache in the area for F1108, and have documented the wolf using the cache. This is a translocation operation because both wolves have either been previously released into the BRWRA (M1133) or born in the wild (F1108). This pack has been designated the Half Moon Pack.

## **IN ARIZONA:**

### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1275, m1277, f1280 and f1289)**

Throughout May, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. The pack has remained close to its den site. The IFT confirmed that AF1042 produced three to five pups. Bluestem m1277 has left the pack, and the IFT have located it near the Lure and San Mateo Mountains in New Mexico.

### **Coronado Pack (collared M1051 and F1126)**

On May 22, the IFT confirmed M1051 and F1126 had no pups in their acclimation pen, and now suspect the litter has died. During May, volunteers observed Rim M1107 and an uncollared wolf near the pen. The IFT initiated trapping efforts to capture and collar the uncollared wolf traveling with M1107.

### **Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and F1294)**

In May, the IFT located these wolves traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona, with occasional forays into the GNF in New Mexico.

### **Paradise Pack (collared AM795 and AF1056)**

In May, the IFT located AM795 and AF1056 using their traditional territory in the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR.

**Rim (collared M1107)**

Throughout May, the IFT located M1107 utilizing the south-central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR. Volunteers observed M1107 visiting the Coronado Pack acclimation pen with an uncollared wolf. The IFT initiated trapping in an attempt to capture and collar the uncollared wolf, but have been unsuccessful to date.

**ON THE FAIR:**

**Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, m1290 and f1291)**

During May, the IFT located m1290 and f1291 on and off the FAIR in the area of the west-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT did not locate AM1183 in May. It is likely that its telemetry collar has ceased working, and thus is not included in the individual summary above.

**Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and f1283)**

During May, the IFT located AM1253 and f1283 on the FAIR. The IFT has not located M1254 since late January. The IFT now considers this wolf to be fate unknown.

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

**Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

In May, these wolves were located traveling together in the central portion of the GNF.

**Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293 and f1278)**

Throughout May, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. In April, the IFT documented f1278 traveling away from the pack with single wolf M1244. The IFT has documented denning behavior and suspects that Dark Canyon is caring for pups born in April.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276, m1274, f1281 and f1295)**

During May, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior with this pack, and a food cache has been maintained to help alleviate any depredation issues.

**Half Moon Pack (collared M1133 and F1108)**

On May 4, M1133 and F1108 chewed out of their holding pen in the Gila Wilderness. Shortly after this release, M1133 traveled to Monticello, New Mexico, where it was captured on May 11 and returned to captivity. F1108 has localized near the translocation site. The IFT believes it whelped pups and is currently caring for them. The IFT is maintaining a food cache nearby, and F1108 has been documented visiting the cache area.

**Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1284, m1285 and m1286)**

In May, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT confirmed that AF1115 is denning and is caring for four to six pups.

**Middle Fork Pack (collared AM871 and AF861)**

The IFT did not locate these wolves during May. The telemetry collars for these two animals are most likely no longer functioning. The IFT continued with ground efforts to locate these wolves; however, they did not document any wolf sign in this pack's traditional territory. The pack was not located in May, and the IFT now considers these wolves to be fate unknown, thus they are not included in the summary totals above.

**Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

Throughout May, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior from this pack. The IFT has observed an uncollared wolf on a trail camera with F1251. The IFT is maintaining a food cache near the suspected den site to alleviate potential depredation issues.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, M1249, m1282 and f1292)**

In May, most of these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. No denning behavior has been documented in this pack this year. The IFT has not received a recent telemetry signal from AM1157. It is likely that its telemetry collar has ceased working, and thus is not included in the individual summary above.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185 and F1279)**

Throughout May, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented denning behavior with this pack this month, and has confirmed this pack is caring for at least five pups.

**M1240 (collared)**

The IFT documented this animal primarily in the central portion of the GNF throughout May.

**M1243 (collared)**

Throughout May, the IFT was not able to locate this wolf.

**M1244 (collared)**

Throughout May, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the central portion of the GNF, north of the Gila Wilderness. The IFT located M1244 with the Dark Canyon Pack f1278 throughout May.

**M1296 (collared)**

On May 20, the IFT heard a live telemetry signal from this wolf west of Indian Peaks in the GNF. The IFT has not located this wolf since.

**MORTALITIES**

There were no known wolf mortalities in May.

**INCIDENTS**

IFT personnel investigated five livestock depredation incidents, all in New Mexico, and no nuisance reports in the BRWRA during May.

On May 2, WS personnel investigated two dead calves east of Turner Peak, and confirmed the deaths as wolf kills.

On May 5, WS personnel investigated a dead calf outside the BRWRA boundary on state-leased land near Monticello. They confirmed a wolf was responsible for the death of the calf as it was being birthed. The depredation was assigned to M1133, which was later captured in the area and returned to captivity.

On May 12, WS personnel investigated an injured calf south of Eagle Peak. The calf was euthanized by the owners due to the extent of the injuries. WS confirmed the incident to be wolf-caused.

On May 14, WS personnel investigated another calf depredation incident south of Eagle Peak. That calf was also euthanized due to the extent of its injuries. WS confirmed that incident to be wolf-caused, as well.

On May 31, WS personnel investigated the death of a yearling cow south of Gallo Peak. They determined the cause of death to be unknown, but not due to predation.

### **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

No significant activity this month.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

No significant activity this month.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

Two new FWS interns, Yuki Nonaka and Chelsea Vosburgh, began working for the Project this month. Welcome to the Project!

### **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, 2013

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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**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 June 2013, the collared population consisted of 44 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 12 packs and four single wolves.

There were two ongoing wolf release operations in June. In the first operation, the IFT maintained two pair-bonded wolves, M1051 and F1126, in a hard-sided acclimation pen on the Alpine Ranger District in Arizona. On June 3, IFT members trapped an uncollared wolf near the pen holding M1051 and F1126, affixed a telemetry collar, designated it f1305, and released it on site. f1305 has been traveling with AM1107 of the Rim Pack and had frequented the pen site. AM1107 was observed trying to fight with M1051 through the fence. On June 13, M1051 and F1126 were removed from the pen and returned to captivity. See the official new release for additional information at <http://onlinepressroom.net/fws/>.

In the second operation, on May 4, the IFT placed pair-bonded wolves F1108 and M1133 in a soft mesh pen in the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. They chewed out of the pen, but soon separated. M1133 was recaptured May 11 after moving outside the recovery boundary. F1108 was pregnant when placed in the pen, and the IFT suspects that it whelped pups after its release because it exhibited denning behavior near the release site. In mid-June, F1108 left the area and began moving extensive distances. The IFT believes it did not have any surviving pups. The wolf was found dead in late June due to a gunshot wound.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, mp1275, m1277, f1280 and f1289)**

Throughout June, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. This pack has produced at least five pups and has remained close to the den site. During June, the IFT located m1277 apart from the rest of the pack, near the Luera Mountains and San Mateo Mountains in New Mexico.

#### **Coronado Pack (collared M1051 and F1126)**

On June 13, the IFT captured the Coronado Pack inside their acclimation pen and returned them to captivity. The Rim Pack had been visiting the pen site and actively trying to defend their territory against the Coronado Pack through the metal fence. The Coronado Pack has been removed from the monthly summary above.

#### **Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and F1294)**

In June, the IFT located these wolves traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. The IFT has no evidence these wolves have a den or produced pups.

#### **Paradise Pack (collared AM795 and AF1056)**

In June, the IFT located AM795 and AF1056 using their traditional territory in the northern

portion of the ASNF and the FAIR. The IFT has no evidence that the Paradise Pack produced pups this year. On June 9, WS personnel investigated a dead calf and confirmed it as being killed by wolves. The depredation was assigned to the Paradise Pack, which were located in the area on June 4 when the calf was killed.

**Rim (collared AM1107 and f1305)**

During June, the IFT located AM1107 utilizing the south-central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR. Volunteers observed AM1107 visiting the Coronado Pack acclimation pen with an uncollared wolf. On June 3, the IFT successfully trapped an uncollared female near the pen, affixed a telemetry collar, designated it f1305, and released it on site. It has been traveling with AM1107 and is now considered part of the Rim Pack. There is no evidence that AM1107 and f1305 produced any pups this year.

**ON THE FAIR:**

**Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, m1290 and f1291)**

During June, the IFT located m1290 and f1291 on the FAIR. The IFT did not locate AM1183 in June, and it is likely that its telemetry collar has stopped working.

**Tsay-o-Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and f1283)**

During June, the IFT located AM1253 and f1283 on the FAIR.

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

**Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

In June, these wolves were located traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT has not documented any pups with this pack this year.

**Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293 and f1278)**

Throughout June, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. On June 4, the IFT documented that the pack had produced at least four pups. Yearling wolf f1278, originally from the Hawks Nest Pack, has been located recently traveling with M1244.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276, m1274, f1281 and f1295)**

During June, the IFT located these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior with this pack, and a food cache has been maintained to help alleviate any depredation issues. Periodically throughout June, f1281 and f1295 were located separate from AM1158 and AF1212. The IFT documented two uncollared wolves with this pack, and suspect they are yearlings.

**Halfmoon Pack (collared F1108)**

In late June, the IFT located F1108 dead in New Mexico due to a gunshot wound. The incident is under investigation. The IFT believes F1108 whelped pups when in the Gila Wilderness following its release; however, the IFT does not believe any pups survived. The Halfmoon Pack has been removed from the monthly summary above.

**Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1284, m1285 and m1286)**

In June, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. In May, the IFT confirmed the Luna Pack is denning.

**Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

Throughout June, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF. In May, an uncollared wolf was observed with F1251 on trail camera. The IFT has documented denning behavior in this pack, and is maintaining a food cache to alleviate potential depredation issues.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, M1249, m1282 and f1292)**

In June, most of these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. No denning behavior has been documented. In late June, the IFT observed seven wolves in this pack; three were uncollared. The IFT initiated trapping in late June in an attempt to replace collars on AF903 and AM1157.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185 and F1279)**

Throughout June, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. In May, the IFT documented denning behavior and confirmed the presence of pups. The pack continued to exhibit denning behavior during June.

**M1240 (collared)**

Throughout June, the IFT located M1240 primarily in the central portion of the GNF.

**M1243 (collared)**

During June, the IFT was not able to locate M1243, and now considers it fate unknown.

**M1244 (collared)**

In June, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the central portion of the GNF, north of the Gila Wilderness. The IFT located M1244 with f1278 from the Dark Canyon Pack throughout June.

**M1296 (collared)**

During the June 17 weekly telemetry flight, the IFT located M1296 between the San Mateo Mountains and the Magdalena Mountains in New Mexico.

**MORTALITIES**

In late June, the IFT found F1108 of the Halfmoon Pack dead due to a gunshot wound. An investigation is ongoing.

**INCIDENTS**

During June, WS personnel investigated three livestock depredation incidents and no nuisance reports in the BRWRA.

On June 9, WS personnel investigated a dead calf near Sheep Springs in Arizona. Their

investigation concluded that the calf was killed by members of the Paradise Pack on June 4.

On June 18, WS personnel investigated two dead calves near White Mountain Reservoir in Arizona. The first calf was killed on June 13, and was confirmed as being a wolf depredation. No collared wolves have been in this area, and the depredation was assigned to an uncollared wolf. The second calf was killed June 17. The determination was it died of unknown causes.

### **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On June 13, M1051 and F1126 were transferred from an acclimation pen at Corduroy Creek in Arizona to the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

No significant activity this month.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

No significant activity 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, 2013

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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**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 July 2013, the collared population consisted of 43 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 12 packs and four single wolves.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1275, f1280 and f1289)**

Throughout July, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT has monitored this pack with trail cameras, observing six pups on July 24. During July, the IFT located m1277 apart from other pack members in the northeast portion of the GNF and now consider it to be a single wolf.

#### **Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and F1294)**

In July, the IFT located these wolves traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. The IFT has no evidence these wolves have a den or produced pups.

#### **Paradise Pack (collared AM795 and AF1056)**

In July, the IFT located AM795 and AF1056 using their traditional territory in the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR. The IFT has no evidence the Paradise Pack produced pups this year. On July 31, WS personnel investigated a dead calf and confirmed it as being killed by wolves. They assigned the depredation to the Paradise Pack, which was located in the area on July 30.

#### **Rim (collared AM1107 and f1305)**

On July 5, the IFT received a report that AM1107 was observed limping. On July 6, the IFT observed AM1107 and confirmed it had an injured left front foot. A food cache was set up and maintained for two weeks. AM1107 used the cache, has since apparently recovered from the injury and is traveling widely again with f1305. The two wolves continue to utilize the south-central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR. There is no evidence they produced pups this year. Note that this pair will not be included in the overall pack summary above until they have been documented together for at least three months.

### **ON THE FAIR:**

#### **Maverick Pack (collared m1290 and f1291)**

During July, the IFT located m1290 and f1291 on the FAIR. The IFT still has not located AM1183 due its nonfunctioning telemetry collar. AM1183 is now considered fate unknown.

#### **Tsay-o-Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and f1283)**

During July, the IFT located AM1253 and f1283 on the FAIR.

## **IN NEW MEXICO:**

### **Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

In July, these wolves were located traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT has not documented any pups with this pack this year.

### **Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293 and f1278)**

Throughout July, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented that the pack produced at least four pups. Yearling f1278 traveled separately from the Dark Canyon Pack for most of July, but has recently returned. When not traveling with the Dark Canyon Pack, f1278 has been located traveling with M1244 in the west-central portion of the GNF.

### **Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276, m1274, f1281 and f1295)**

During July, the IFT located these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. The IFT documented denning behavior with this pack and has maintained a food cache to help alleviate any depredation issues. Throughout July, f1281 and f1295 were periodically located separate from AM1158 and AF1212. The IFT documented four pups with the Fox Mountain Pack by trail camera. On July 14, WS personnel investigated two dead calves near Toriette, New Mexico. The depredation was assigned to members of the Fox Mountain Pack.

### **Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1284, m1285 and m1286)**

In July, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has confirmed the Luna Pack produced pups this year.

### **Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

Throughout July, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT continues to document the presence of an uncollared wolf traveling with F1251 by trail camera. The IFT has maintained a food cache for the Prieto Pack and attempted to trap the uncollared wolf at the beginning of July with no success. The IFT has documented denning behavior in this pack.

### **San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, M1249, m1282 and f1327)**

On July 1, the IFT trapped and collared a yearling wolf from the San Mateo Pack, designating it f1327. The San Mateo Pack continued to use its traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. No denning behavior has been documented. The IFT has initiated trapping to replace collars on AM1157 and AF903.

### **Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185 and F1279)**

Throughout July, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior and confirmed the presence of pups in this pack.

### **M1240 (collared)**

Throughout July, the IFT located M1240 primarily in the central portion of the GNF.

### **M1244 (collared)**

In July, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the central portion of the GNF, north of the Gila Wilderness. M1244 has been located with f1278 from the Dark Canyon Pack in July.

**m1277 (collared)**

During July, the IFT has located m1277 separate from its natal pack and now consider it a single wolf. Throughout July, m1277 has traveled the northeastern portion of the GNF.

**M1296 (collared)**

During July, the IFT located M1296 traveling in the northeastern portion of the GNF.

**MORTALITIES**

No significant activity to report this month.

**INCIDENTS**

During July, WS personnel investigated seven livestock depredation incidents and one nuisance report in the BRWRA.

On July 5, WS personnel investigated an incident where a dog was attacked by a wolf. The attack was observed, and no collar was seen on the wolf. They confirmed the incident and assigned it to an uncollared wolf.

On July 5, WS personnel investigated a dead calf New Mexico. Their investigation concluded that the cause of death was unknown.

On July 9, WS personnel investigated a dead heifer in New Mexico and confirmed it as a wolf kill. The depredation was assigned to uncollared wolves.

On July 9, WS personnel investigated a dead cow northeast of St. Johns, Arizona, and determined it was not killed by wolves.

On July 10, WS personnel investigated a dead calf near Greens Peak, Arizona, and confirmed it as a wolf kill. The incident was assigned to uncollared wolves.

On July 14, WS personnel investigated two dead calves near Toriette, New Mexico. They determined the calves were killed by wolves. The depredations have been classified as one incident and assigned to members of the Fox Mountain Pack.

On July 28, WS personnel investigated a dead cow near Toriette, New Mexico, and determined the cause of death to be a lightning strike.

On July 31, WS personnel investigated a dead cow near Greens Peak, Arizona. They confirmed the depredation as a wolf kill and assigned to the Paradise Pack.

## **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

No significant activity to report this month.

## **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On July 11 and 12, FWS personnel participated in the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan Annual Meeting and Reunion de Lobo Mexicano in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, hosted by El Centro Ecologico del Estrada de Sonora (CEES).

On July 19 and 20, the IFT gave presentations on the status of the Mexican wolf reintroduction at the Green Fire Hike in Arizona.

## **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

No significant activity 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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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 2013, the collared population consisted of 43 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 13 packs and four single wolves.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1275, f1280 and f1289)**

Throughout August, the IFT located these wolves in their traditional territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. On August 18, the IFT set a trap line to collar the breeding male and pups of the year. Shortly after initiating trapping efforts, f1289 was caught, but subsequently died during processing. A necropsy is being performed to determine the cause of death. On August 28, m1275 was trapped and fitted with a new telemetry collar.

#### **Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and F1294)**

In August, the IFT located these wolves traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

#### **Paradise Pack (collared AM795 and AF1056)**

In August, the IFT located AM795 and AF1056 using their traditional territory in the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR. The IFT has no evidence the Paradise Pack produced pups this year. On August 19, WS personnel investigated a dead calf and confirmed it as being killed by wolves, assigning the depredation to the Paradise Pack. On August 27, WS investigated another dead calf and confirmed it as being killed by wolves, again assigning the depredation to the Paradise Pack.

#### **Rim (collared AM1107 and f1305)**

During August, AM1107 and f1305 continued to utilize the south-central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR. Note that this pair will now be included in the overall pack summary above since they have been documented together for at least three months.

### **ON THE FAIR:**

#### **Maverick Pack (collared m1290 and f1291)**

During August, the IFT located m1290 and f1291 on the FAIR and on the west-central portion of the ASNF.

#### **Tsay-o-Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and f1283)**

During August, the IFT located AM1253 and f1283 on the FAIR. On August 2, WS investigated a dead calf and an injured calf north of Lee Valley Reservoir in Arizona. The depredation was assigned to the Tsay-o-Ah Pack. This marks the first time the Tsay-o-Ah Pack had been located off of the FAIR.

## **IN NEW MEXICO:**

### **Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

In August, these wolves were located traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT has not documented any pups with this pack this year.

### **Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293 and f1278)**

Throughout August, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. Yearling f1278 has continued to travel with single wolf M1244 in the west-central portion of the GNF this month.

### **Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276, m1274, f1281 and f1295)**

During August, the IFT located these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. The IFT has maintained a food cache for this pack to help alleviate any depredation issues. Throughout August, f1281 and f1295 were consistently located separate from the rest of the collared wolves in the Fox Mountain Pack. On August 3, the IFT documented five pups with this pack by trail camera. On August 6, WS personnel investigated an injured calf in New Mexico that was later euthanized. The incident was assigned to members of the Fox Mountain Pack.

### **Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1284, m1285 and m1286)**

In August, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has confirmed the Luna Pack produced pups this year. In August, the IFT documented pup tracks with adult tracks in the Luna territory.

### **Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

Throughout August, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT continues to document the presence of an uncollared wolf traveling with F1251. The IFT has maintained a food cache for the pack and continues to observe the pack in order to confirm pups.

### **San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, M1249, m1282 and f1327)**

In August, the San Mateo Pack continued to use its traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. In August, the IFT noted AF903's telemetry collar was not working properly. The collar has since stopped functioning. Wolf f1327 has been located periodically with the San Mateo Pack since being collared in July. Wolves M1249 and m1282 were located traveling with AM1157 throughout August.

### **Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185, F1279 and mp1329)**

On August 7, the IFT obtained a visual observation of the Willow Springs Pack and counted six pups. During August, the IFT initiated trapping efforts to collar pups-of-the-year with this pack, and on August 23, trapped a male pup. The wolf was assigned stud book number mp1329, collared and released on site. Throughout August, these wolves were located in the north-central portion of the GNF.

### **M1240 (collared)**

Throughout August, the IFT located M1240 primarily in the central portion of the GNF.

**M1244 (collared)**

In August, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the central portion of the GNF, north of the Gila Wilderness. M1244 has been located traveling with f1278 from the Dark Canyon Pack in August.

**m1277 (collared)**

During August, the IFT located m1277 separate from its natal pack and now considers it a single wolf. Throughout August, m1277 has traveled the northeastern portion of the GNF, as well as traveling to the San Mateo Mountains on the Cibola National Forest.

**M1296 (collared)**

During August, the IFT located M1296 traveling to the San Mateo Mountains on the Cibola National Forest. This wolf has also been located north of the GNF.

**MORTALITIES**

On August 18, the IFT captured Bluestem Pack f1289 in order to replace its telemetry collar. The wolf died while being processed. A necropsy is being performed to determine the cause of death.

**Halfmoon Pack AF1108 Update**

Following translocation in the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico, AF1108 localized in the vicinity of McKenna Park, indicating denning behavior. After AF1108 was shot, the necropsy performed as part of the investigation confirmed it had been pregnant during the spring. The IFT believes that pups were born soon after AF1108 self-released from its acclimation pen. The IFT provided supplemental food during this period to assist the wolf in raising any surviving pups. AF1108 remained localized for several weeks, although the IFT did not observe any pups at this time.

AF1108 dispersed from the area on June 10, 2013, and did not return. If AF1108 did have pups, it appears most likely that they died prior to the female's dispersal. It is highly doubtful any pups could have survived for more than several days after the female's departure. Approximately two weeks later, AF1108 was killed by gunshot on private land outside of the Gila Wilderness.

The shooting was investigated by FWS, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and WS personnel. The investigation found evidence of wolf bite marks on a cow, and that the attack on the cow occurred on private lands. After a comprehensive and thorough investigation was completed, the FWS Office of Law Enforcement concluded that the take of wolf AF1108 on private land was legal under the provisions of the Experimental Population Rule, and therefore, not a violation of the Endangered Species Act.

**INCIDENTS**

During August, WS personnel investigated nine livestock depredation incidents and one nuisance report in the BRWRA.

On August 2, WS investigated one dead calf and one injured calf north of Lee Valley Reservoir in Arizona. They confirmed both the depredation and injury to have been caused by wolves and assigned them to the Tsay-o-Ah Pack.

On August 6, WS investigated a dead calf in New Mexico and confirmed it as a wolf kill. The depredation was assigned to members of the Fox Mountain Pack.

On August 7, WS investigated a dead cow in New Mexico and determined the cow died while giving birth.

On August 11, WS investigated a dead cow near Pole Knoll in Arizona and determined the cow was killed by lightning.

On August 19, WS investigated a dead calf near Greens Peak in Arizona and confirmed it as a wolf kill. The incident was assigned to the Paradise Pack.

On August 22, WS investigated a report of a dog attacked by a wolf near Aragon, New Mexico. The incident was confirmed to have been caused by wolves.

On August 26, WS investigated a dead calf in Arizona near Bee Hive Springs and confirmed it as a wolf kill. The depredation was assigned to uncollared wolves.

On August 26, WS investigated a dead calf east of SU cabin in Arizona and confirmed it as a wolf kill. The depredation was assigned to uncollared wolves.

On August 27, WS investigated another dead calf near Bee Hive Springs and confirmed it as a wolf kill. The depredation was assigned to the Paradise Pack.

On August 28, WS investigated a different dead calf near Bee Hive Springs and confirmed it as a wolf kill. The depredation was assigned to uncollared wolves.

### **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On August 24, project personnel transferred two Mexican wolves from the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility (Sevilleta) to the California Wolf Center, and received one wolf from the California Center.

On August 24, project personnel transferred two Mexican wolves from Sevilleta to the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, and received one wolf from the Southwest Center.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On August 10, the IFT gave a presentation on the Mexican wolf reintroduction project to 75 campers at Show Low Lake in Arizona.

On August 16 and 17, the IFT and other agency personnel attended an annual chemical immobilization training class.

On August 31, the IFT gave a presentation on the Mexican wolf reintroduction project to 35 students from the University of Arizona at the Sipe Wildlife Area located in Arizona.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

The Fish and Wildlife Service is currently reorganizing several positions within the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program.

During August, Liz Jozwiak, former FWS Field Projects Coordinator, moved to a position focusing on Mexican wolf policy issues and budget administration.

During August, John Oakleaf, FWS Senior Wolf Biologist, moved into the Field Projects Coordinator position and will be responsible for administering FWS field activities in the BRWRA. Contact John at (928) 245-1910 for questions or concerns regarding Mexican wolves in the wild.

During August, Tracy Melbihess moved to a position as the lead in development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 10(j) rule. Contact Tracy at (208) 258-0253 for questions or concerns regarding the Mexican wolf EIS process.

During August, David Carrasco was hired as a WS specialist.

### **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**

September 1-30, 2013

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 breeding 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 2013, the collared population consisted of 47 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 13 packs and six single wolves.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1275, f1280, mp1330, mp1331, fp1332 and fp1333)**

In September, the IFT set traps to capture and collar pups-of-the-year from the Bluestem Pack. On September 5, they captured a male pup, was attached a radio telemetry collar, designated it mp1330, and released it on site. On September 6, they captured another male pup, collared it, designated it mp1331, and released on site. In the evening of September 6, they captured a female pup, collared it, designated it fp1332, and released it on site. On September 8, they captured another female pup, collared it, designated it fp1333, and released it on site. IFT members observed ten Bluestem Pack wolves in late September, which is consistent with data the IFT has gathered documenting seven collared wolves, two uncollared pups and the uncollared alpha male.

#### **Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and F1294)**

In September, the IFT located these wolves traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

#### **Paradise Pack (collared AM795 and AF1056)**

In September, the IFT located AM795 and AF1056 using their traditional territory in the northern portion of the ASNF and the FAIR. In August, the IFT documented and assigned four depredations to this pack in 70 days. The IFT has initiated trapping efforts to capture the two Paradise Pack wolves and permanently remove them to captivity. The IFT has been unsuccessful in capturing either animal to date, but trapping efforts are continuing.

#### **Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and f1305)**

Throughout September, the IFT located AM1107 and f1305 utilizing the south-central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR.

### **ON THE FAIR:**

#### **Maverick Pack (collared m1290 and f1291)**

During September, the IFT located m1290 and f1291 on and off the FAIR in the west-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT has initiated trapping for uncollared wolves in this pack.

#### **Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and f1283)**

During September, the IFT located AM1253 and f1283 on the FAIR.

## **IN NEW MEXICO:**

### **Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

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

### **Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293 and f1278)**

Throughout September, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. The IFT consistently found f1278 with single wolf M1244 during September.

### **Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276 and m1274)**

During September, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF. The IFT has consistently located f1281 and f1295 separate from the Fox Mountain Pack and now consider them to be single wolves.

### **Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1284, m1285 and m1286)**

In September, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. A diversionary food cache has been maintained for the Luna Pack throughout the month.

### **Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

Throughout September, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT continues to document an uncollared wolf with F1251 and is maintaining a food cache for the animals to alleviate potential depredation issues.

### **San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, M1249, m1282 and f1327)**

In September, most of these wolves continued to use their traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. The IFT observed that the telemetry collars on AM1157 and AF903 are failing and has attempted to trap them to replace the collars. Wolf f1327 has been consistently located separate from the rest of the San Mateo Pack throughout September.

### **Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185, F1279 and mp1329)**

Throughout September, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT initiated trapping in August to capture and collar pups produced this year.

### **M1240 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf primarily in the central portion of the GNF throughout September.

### **M1244 (collared)**

Throughout September, the IFT located this wolf traveling with Dark Canyon wolf f1278 in the central portion of the GNF, north of the Gila Wilderness.

### **M1277 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf traveling in the northeast portion of the GNF and outside of the BRWRA boundary during September. The IFT now considers this wolf to be single and not a member of the Bluestem Pack anymore.

**f1281 (collared)**

In the months leading up to September, the IFT consistently documented this wolf separate from the Fox Mountain Pack and now consider it to be a single wolf. The IFT did not locate f1281 during September, but continue searching for it.

**f1295 (collared)**

During September, the IFT consistently located this wolf separate from the Fox Mountain Pack and now consider it to be a single wolf.

**M1296 (collared)**

In September, the IFT located this wolf traveling outside the BRWRA boundary and in the northeastern portion of the GNF.

**MORTALITIES**

During September, an uncollared wolf was found dead in New Mexico. The IFT is does not know the history or status of the animal. They assigned it stud book number m1334. The wolf's death is under investigation.

**INCIDENTS**

During September, WS personnel investigated five livestock depredation incidents and no nuisance reports in the BRWRA.

On September 1, WS personnel investigated a dead calf on private land west of Alpine, Arizona, and determined it was killed by a bear.

On September 5, WS personnel investigated a dead cow east of Pool Knoll in Arizona and determined it was killed by lightning.

On September 7, WS personnel investigated a dead cow in New Mexico and determined the cause of death to be unknown.

On September 10, WS personnel investigated two dead calves east of Greens Peak in Arizona and determined their cause of death to be unknown.

On September 30, WS personnel investigated a dead cow in New Mexico and determined the cause of death to be unknown.

**CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

No significant activity to report.

**COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On September 30, IFT members gave a presentation at the Gila River Festival on Water Resources in Silver City, New Mexico. IFT members presented information on the Mexican wolf reintroduction project and explained different techniques used in monitoring and managing wolves.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

Three new USFWS interns, Kaija Klauder, Mike Mohr and Ed Davis, started working for the Project this month. Welcome to the Project!

### **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, 2013

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**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 October 2013, the collared population consisted of 48 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 13 packs and seven single wolves.

The USFWS issued a removal order in September for the Paradise Pack for four confirmed livestock depredations within 70 days. On October 22, the IFT captured AM795 with the aid of a helicopter and removed the wolf to a captive facility in New Mexico. The IFT will continue efforts to capture AF1056.

The USFWS also issued a removal order for any uncollared male wolf in the Fox Mountain Pack for multiple livestock depredations. In October, the IFT initiated trapping efforts to fulfill this order, but was unsuccessful. The IFT will continue to trap for an uncollared male wolf in the Fox Mountain Pack in November.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1275, f1280, mp1330, mp1331, fp1332 and fp1333)**

In October, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The IFT observed several members of the Bluestem Pack in late October. From the information the IFT has collected in recent months, they estimate the Bluestem Pack numbers at least ten wolves.

#### **Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and F1294)**

In October, the IFT located this pack traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

#### **Paradise Pack (collared AF1056)**

The IFT located AM795 and AF1056 traveling separately in October. M1249 from the San Mateo Pack has replaced AM795 and has been located with AF1056 throughout October. On October 22, the IFT captured AM795 with the aid of a helicopter and removed the wolf to a captive facility in New Mexico. It was captured per a USFWS removal order for depredating four calves in 70 days. The IFT attempted to capture AF1056 on October 23, but was unsuccessful. The same day, the IFT captured M1249 and affixed a new GPS collar on the wolf, then released it on site. AF1056 and M1249 continue to travel within the traditional Paradise Pack territory in the northern portion of the ASNF.

#### **Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and f1305)**

Throughout October, the IFT located AM1107 and f1305 using the south-central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR.

#### **Maverick Pack (collared m1290, f1291, f1335 and mp1336)**

In October, the IFT set traps to collar wolves in the Maverick Pack. On October 12, they

captured a female wolf, affixed a telemetry collar, designated it f1335, and released it on site. On October 23, the IFT captured a male pup with the pack using a helicopter. The wolf was designated mp1336 and released on site. During helicopter operations in October, the IFT was able to count seven wolves in the Maverick Pack. Throughout the month, the Maverick Pack has traveled in the west-central portion of the ASNF and the FAIR.

#### **ON THE FAIR:**

##### **Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and f1283)**

During October, the IFT located AM1253 and f1283 on the FAIR.

#### **IN NEW MEXICO:**

##### **Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

In October, these wolves were located traveling together in the central portion of the GNF.

##### **Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923 and M1293)**

Throughout October, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. The IFT consistently found f1278 separate from the Dark Canyon Pack, traveling with M1244 throughout the month.

##### **Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276 and m1274)**

During October, the IFT documented these wolves in the northwest portion of the GNF, occasionally roaming outside of their traditional territory. The IFT continues to trap for an uncollared male wolf in the Fox Mountain Pack to fulfill the intent of the permanent removal issued by the USFWS.

##### **Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1284, m1285 and m1286)**

In October, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. On October 15, the IFT found the three juvenile males separate from the rest of the pack. At the end of the month, m1284 was back with the alpha wolves in this pack. Juveniles m1285 and m1286 were located separate from the pack at the end of October.

##### **Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

Throughout October, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF. An uncollared wolf is still being documented with F1251 on trail cameras. The IFT is maintaining a food cache for the wolves to alleviate potential depredation issues.

##### **San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, M1249, m1282 and f1327)**

In October, the San Mateo Pack was in their traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. The IFT is attempting to trap and replace failing collars on AM1157 and AF903. M1249 was located in Arizona at the beginning of October. M1249 has replaced AM795 of the Paradise Pack and has been traveling with Paradise female AF1056. f1327 has been located traveling with the San Mateo Pack in October.

##### **Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185, F1279 and mp1329)**

In October, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. Throughout October, the IFT located mp1329 separate from the Willow Springs Pack. On October 27, mp1329 and another uncollared wolf were seen together on trail camera at a food cache.

**M1240 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf primarily in the central portion of the GNF throughout October.

**M1244 (collared)**

Throughout October, the IFT located this wolf traveling with Dark Canyon wolf f1278 in the central portion of the GNF, north of the Gila Wilderness.

**M1277 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf traveling in the northeast portion of the GNF and outside of the BRWRA boundary during October.

**f1278 (collared)**

The IFT has documented this wolf separate from the rest of the Dark Canyon Pack and traveling with M1244 throughout October

**f1281 (collared)**

The IFT did not locate f1281 during October, but will continue searching for it in November.

**f1295 (collared)**

During October, the IFT located this wolf traveling alone in the western portion of the GNF.

**M1296 (collared)**

In October, the IFT located this wolf traveling outside the BRWRA boundary and in the northeastern portion of the GNF.

**MORTALITIES**

No wolf mortalities were reported in October.

**Necropsy update on f1289**

An independent laboratory performed a comprehensive gross and microscopic necropsy on wolf f1289, which died August 18 during routine capture processing. The necropsy yielded no specific cause of death. The animal was in good condition. No evidence of trauma or underlying disease was noted, but metabolic conditions or heart arrhythmias cannot be ruled out. Although a specific cause of death was not determined by the necropsy, the IFT is classifying this mortality as a capture-related mortality.

**INCIDENTS**

During October, WS personnel investigated three livestock depredation incidents and no nuisance reports in the BRWRA.

On October 14, WS personnel investigated a dead cow near Torriette Lakes in New Mexico and determined the cause of death to be unknown.

On October 23, WS personnel investigated a dead yearling cow north of the Indian Peaks in New Mexico and confirmed it to have been killed by a wolf.

On October 24, WS personnel investigated a dead cow south of Big Lake in Arizona and determined the cause of death to be unknown.

### **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On October 20, M1215 was captured at the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility and transferred to the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility (Sevilleta).

On October 21, wolves F1222, F1226, M1141, F1188, F1033 and M1215 were given comprehensive veterinary evaluations at Sevilleta.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On October 5, IFT personnel attended the Woodland Wildlife Festival in Lakeside, Arizona, manning a Project information booth and interacting with approximately 500 individuals during the event.

On October 12, IFT personnel attended the White Mountain Science Fair in Pinetop, Arizona, interacting with approximately 47 individuals at a Project information booth.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

No significant activity to report.

### **REWARDS OFFERED**

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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 breeding 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 November 2013, the collared population consisted of 46 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 13 packs and six single wolves.

The USFWS extended the removal order for the Paradise Pack AF1056 until February 4, 2014. The IFT will continue attempts to capture AF1056 for removal during the next few months.

The USFWS also issued a removal order for m1274, M1276 or any uncollared male wolf in the Fox Mountain Pack for multiple livestock depredations. On November 21, the IFT captured m1274 with the aid of a helicopter and removed the wolf to a captive facility in New Mexico.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1275, f1280, mp1330, mp1331, fp1332 and fp1333)**

In November, the Bluestem Pack, except f1280 and fp1332, continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. Wolf fp1332 traveled separately from the Bluestem Pack, but stayed within the pack's traditional territory. On November 20, a member of the IFT observed f1280 traveling with another wolf separate from the pack. On November 26, the IFT found tracks from f1280 and M1038 of the Hawks Nest Pack traveling together near Rudd Creek. On November 15, WS investigated a dead cow near Forest Road 581 south of Rogers Reservoir. They confirmed wolves killed the cow, and assigned the depredation to AF1042 and m1275 of the Bluestem Pack.

#### **Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and F1294)**

In November, the IFT located this pack traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. The IFT has documented two collared wolves traveling together in the Elk Horn Pack this month.

#### **Paradise Pack (collared AF1056)**

During November, AF1056 and M1249, a dispersing wolf from the San Mateo Pack, continued to travel together in the Paradise Pack territory in the northern portion of the ASNF. A USFWS removal order for AF1056 issued in September has been extended to February 4, 2014. The IFT will continue attempts to capture AF1056 for removal during the next few months.

#### **Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and f1305)**

Throughout November, the IFT located AM1107 and f1305 using the south-central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR. The IFT has only documented the two collared wolves traveling together in November.

#### **Maverick Pack (collared m1290, f1291, f1335 and mp1336)**

In November, the Maverick Pack traveled in the west-central portion of the ASNF and the FAIR.

## **ON THE FAIR:**

### **Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and f1283)**

During November, the IFT located AM1253 and f1283 on the FAIR.

## **IN NEW MEXICO:**

### **Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

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

### **Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923 and M1293)**

Throughout November, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. On November 20, the IFT captured AF923 with the aid of a helicopter. The wolf was recollared and released onsite. The IFT observed no uncollared wolves in the Dark Canyon Pack when they captured AF923. The IFT located f1278 separate from other members of the Dark Canyon Pack. Wolf f1278 has been traveling with M1244, but the pair was located separate from each other early in the month.

### **Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276 and m1274)**

During November, the IFT documented these wolves traveling in the northwest portion of the GNF and moving into San Mateo territory in the northeast portion of the GNF. On November 21, the IFT captured m1274 with the aid of a helicopter and removed the wolf to fulfill the intent of the permanent removal order issued by the USFWS. The IFT moved the wolf to a captive facility in New Mexico. The IFT has documented eight individuals traveling with the Fox Mountain Pack this month.

### **Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1284, m1285 and m1286)**

In November, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT located m1285 and 1286 separate from the rest of the Luna Pack this month. The IFT documented at least five individuals with the Luna Pack in November.

### **Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

Throughout November, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF. They did not observe any uncollared wolves with F1251 during the helicopter operation on November 20, but did document an uncollared wolf with F1251 on November 27.

### **San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, M1249, m1282 and f1327)**

In November, the IFT located the San Mateo Pack in its traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. On November 21, the IFT captured AM1157 and AF903 with the aid of a helicopter. The wolves were recollared and released on-site. The IFT has documented the Fox Mountain Pack traveling in the San Mateo Pack territory and interacting with the pack. The IFT has documented members of the San Mateo Pack together and separate in November due to these interactions. M1249 has left the San Mateo Pack and continues to travel with Paradise female AF1056.

### **Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185, F1279 and mp1329)**

The IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. Throughout November, the IFT located mp1329 separate from the Willow Springs Pack. The IFT documented four sets of tracks from the Willow Springs Pack indicating the presence of three pups.

**M1240 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf primarily in the central portion of the GNF throughout November. On November 20, with the aid of a helicopter, the IFT captured and recollared M1240, releasing it on-site.

**M1244 (collared)**

For most of November, the IFT located this wolf traveling with Dark Canyon wolf f1278 in the central portion of the GNF, north of the Gila Wilderness.

**M1277 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf traveling in the northeast portion of the GNF and outside of the BRWRA boundary during November.

**f1278 (collared)**

The IFT has documented this wolf separate from the rest of the Dark Canyon Pack and traveling with M1244 in November. The IFT located these wolves separate from each other on the November 14 telemetry flight.

**f1281 (collared)**

The IFT did not locate f1281 during November. This wolf is now fate unknown and not counted in the monthly collared population summary above.

**f1295 (collared)**

During November, the IFT located this wolf in the northern portion of the GNF and outside the BRWRA boundary.

**M1296 (collared)**

In November, the IFT located this wolf traveling both outside of the BRWRA and in the northeastern portion of the GNF.

**MORTALITIES**

No wolf mortalities were reported in November.

**INCIDENTS**

During November, WS personnel investigated three livestock depredation incidents and no nuisance reports in the BRWRA.

On November 12, WS personnel investigated a dead cow near the Virginia Chaffin-Pioneer Trail road in Arizona, and determined the cause of death to be unknown.

On November 15, WS personnel investigated a dead cow south of Rogers Reservoir in Arizona. They confirmed that wolves killed the cow and assigned the depredation to AF1042 and m1275 of the Bluestem Pack.

On November 23, WS personnel investigated a dead yearling cow near Luna, New Mexico. The cause of death was determined to be unknown.

### **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On November 21, M1130 was transferred to the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On November 15, members of the IFT gave a tour of the BRWRA to an independent film crew.

On November 22, the IFT conducted a public meeting in Alpine, Arizona, regarding proposals for initial releases and translocations for 2014. The meeting was attended by forty-two members of the public.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

No significant activity to report.

### **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, 2013

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.

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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 December 2013, the collared population consisted of 46 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 13 packs and five single wolves.

The USFWS extended the removal order for the Paradise Pack AF1056 until February 4, 2014. The IFT will continue attempts to capture AF1056 for removal for the duration of the removal order.

**IN ARIZONA:**

**Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1275, f1280, mp1330, mp1331, fp1332 and fp1333)**

In December, the Bluestem Pack, except f1280, continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. On December 11, the IFT was able to obtain photos from a trail camera indicating AM1038, a member of the former Hawks Nest Pack, and f1280 are traveling together.

**Elk Horn Pack (collared AM1287 and F1294)**

In December, the IFT located this pack traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. The IFT documented two collared wolves traveling together in December.

**Paradise Pack (collared AF1056)**

During December, AF1056 and M1249, a dispersing wolf from the San Mateo Pack, continued to travel together in the Paradise Pack territory in the northern portion of the ASNF. A USFWS removal order for AF1056 issued in September has been extended to February 4, 2014. The IFT will continue attempts to capture AF1056 for removal for the duration of the removal order.

**Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and f1305)**

Throughout December, the IFT located AM1107 and f1305 using the south-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT has only documented the two collared wolves traveling together.

**Maverick Pack (collared m1290, f1291, f1335 and mp1336)**

In December, the Maverick Pack left the FAIR and has been traveling in the south central portion of ASNF. On December 30, f1335 was located separate from the Maverick Pack near the Black River south of PS Knoll.

**ON THE FAIR:**

**Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 and f1283)**

During December, the IFT located AM1253 on the FAIR. Wolf f1283 was located separate from AM1253 on the FAIR this month.

## **IN NEW MEXICO:**

### **Canyon Creek Pack (collared M1252 and F1246)**

In December, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented two wolves in this pack during December.

### **Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923 and M1293)**

Throughout December, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented five sets of tracks with the Dark Canyon Pack in December. On December 22, three wolves from the Dark Canyon Pack were observed on photos taken from a trail camera. On December 25, two wolves from the Dark Canyon Pack were observed on trail camera

### **Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, and M1276)**

During December, the IFT documented these wolves traveling in the northwest portion of the GNF and moving into San Mateo territory in the northeast portion of the GNF. The IFT obtained a visual of 4 wolves from the Fox Mountain Pack on December 22. On December 26 the IFT obtained another visual on two wolves from the Fox Mountain Pack.

### **Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1284, m1285, m1286 and m1337)**

In December, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT located m1284, m1285 and 1286 separate from the two alpha wolves periodically throughout December. On December 28, the IFT received a report from a private trapper in New Mexico stating that the trapper had caught a wolf. The IFT responded to the area and processed, collared and designated the wolf m1337. The wolf is assumed to be a member of the Luna pack, since it was located within their territory.

### **Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

Throughout December, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented two sets of tracks associated with the Prieto Pack in December.

### **San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, M1249, m1282 and f1327)**

In December, the IFT located the San Mateo Pack in its traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. Dispersing wolf, M1249, continues to be located with AF1056 of the Paradise Pack. In December, m1282 has been located traveling outside of the San Mateo Pack territory, and the IFT located f1327 with single wolf M1296. The Fox Mountain Pack traveled into the San Mateo Pack territory periodically in December

### **Willow Springs Pack (collared M1185, F1279 and mp1329)**

Throughout December, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. mp1329 was located separate from the Willow Springs Pack in December. The IFT documented tracks indicating the presence of uncollared wolves traveling with Willow Springs Pack.

### **M1240 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf traveling extensively throughout the BRWRA.

**M1244 (collared)**

In December, the IFT located this wolf traveling with Dark Canyon wolf f1278 in the central portion of the GNF, north of the Gila Wilderness.

**f1278 (collared)**

The IFT documented f1278 traveling with M1244 throughout the month of December in the south-central portion of the GNF.

**f1295 (collared)**

During December, the IFT did not locate f1295.

**M1296 (collared)**

In December, the IFT located this wolf traveling in the northeastern portion of the GNF and outside the BRWRA. In late-December, M1296 was located with f1327 from the San Mateo Pack.

**MORTALITIES**

In December, m1277 was found dead in New Mexico due to a gunshot wound. The incident is under investigation.

**INCIDENTS**

During December, there were no livestock depredation reports and no nuisance reports in the BRWRA.

**CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On December 3, Project Personnel transferred M1215 and F1033 from the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility to the Universidad Autonoma De Queretaro in Mexico.

On December 17, Project Personnel transferred M795 from the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility to the New York Wolf Conservation Center. He is scheduled to be semen collected this year and will be retired from the reintroduction program.

On December 23, Project Personnel transferred M1133 from the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility to the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility to be placed in with F858 for companionship.

Annual vaccinations and exams were also conducted on the remaining ten wolves at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility.

**COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On December 3, USFWS held a public hearing on USFWS proposals regarding Gray Wolf delisting nationally from the Endangered Species Act and Mexican Wolf relisting and 10j rule revisions at the Hon-Dah resort and casino on the FAIR.

**PROJECT PERSONNEL**

No significant activity to report.

**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.