



## Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

January 1-31, 2014

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 2013 end-of-year population count on January 31. The specific minimum population estimate for 2013 is 83 wolves with five 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 2014 consisted of 50 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 13 packs and three 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 20, the IFT captured and removed AF1056 from the Paradise Pack in accordance with a removal order issued by the FWS in September and extended till February

On January 20, the IFT captured and removed M1249 from the Paradise Pack. M1249 will be paired with a captive female and released in the spring of 2014.

On January 20, the IFT captured and removed m1290 from the Maverick Pack. m1290 will be paired with a captive female and the pair will be released in the spring of 2014.

On January 20, the IFT captured and re-collared AM1038 of the Hawks Nest Pack. AM1038 was processed and released back into the pack territory.

On January 21, the IFT captured and re-collared f1294 from the Elk Horn Pack. This wolf was fitted with a telemetry collar and released back into the pack territory.

On January 21, the IFT captured and collared a previously uncollared female pup, fp1339 from the Bluestem Pack in Arizona. This wolf was fitted with a telemetry collar and released back into the pack territory.

On January 21, the IFT captured and collared a another previously uncollared female wolf pup, fp1340 from the Bluestem Pack in Arizona. This wolf was fitted with a telemetry collar and released back into the pack territory.

On January 21, the IFT captured and collared a previously uncollared adult male wolf, M1341 from the Bluestem Pack in Arizona. This wolf was fitted with a telemetry collar and released back into the pack territory. The IFT is waiting on genetics to determine if M1341 is the breeding male in the Bluestem Pack.

On January 21, the IFT captured and collared a previously uncollared male wolf, m1342 from the Maverick Pack. This wolf was fitted with a telemetry collar and released back into the pack territory.

On January 21, the IFT captured and re-collared AM1183 from the Maverick Pack. This wolf was fitted with a telemetry collar and released back into the pack territory.

On January 22, the IFT captured and collared a previously uncollared male wolf M1343 on the WMAT. This wolf was fitted with a telemetry collar and released on site.

## **IN ARIZONA:**

### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1275, mp1330, mp1331, fp1332, fp1333, fp1339, fp1340 and M1341)**

In January, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. During the annual helicopter survey ten wolves, nine collared and one uncollared were observed in the Bluestem Pack. On January 21, the IFT captured and collared wolves M1341, fp1340 and fp1339 during the helicopter survey. The wolves were processed and released back into their traditional territory.

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

In January, the IFT located this pack traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. During the annual helicopter survey two wolves, both collared, were observed in the Elk Horn Pack. On January 21, the IFT captured F1294 and replaced its malfunctioning radio collar. The wolf was processed and released into its traditional territory.

### **Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, f1280)**

In January the IFT continued to document f1280, formerly of the Bluestem Pack traveling with AM1038. During the annual helicopter survey the IFT captured and replaced AM1038's non-functioning collar. This pair of wolves has been together for three months and is now considered a pack. Since AM1038 was the Hawks Nest alpha male this pair will retain the Hawks Nest Pack name.

### **Paradise Pack (collared AF1056 and M1249)**

During January, AF1056 and M1249, continued to travel together in the Paradise Pack territory in the northern portion of the ASNF. During January, M1249 had been documented traveling with AF 1056 for three months and is now considered a member of the Paradise Pack. On January 20, during the annual helicopter survey, the IFT captured both AF1056 and M1249. The wolf AF1056 was permanently removed to captivity per a USFWS removal order for depredations issued in September. The wolf M1249 was temporarily removed to captivity where

it will be paired with a genetically valuable female wolf to promote pair-bonding and potential breeding. The IFT plans to release this pair into the wild in the spring of 2014. M1249 will retain the Paradise Pack name.

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

Throughout January, the IFT located AM1107 and f1305 using the south-central portion of the ASNF. During the annual helicopter survey two collared wolves were observed in the Rim Pack.

**Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, m1290, f1291, f1335, m1342 and mp1336)**

In January, the Maverick Pack traveled between the FAIR and the south central portion of ASNF. On January 20, the IFT caught m1290 during the annual helicopter survey. m1290 was temporarily moved to a holding pen where he will be paired with a captive female and released in spring 2014. On January 21, during the annual helicopter survey the IFT captured AM1183 and replaced non-functioning telemetry collar. The IFT also captured an uncollared juvenile male. The wolf was collared and assigned studbook number m1342. Both captured wolves were released into their traditional territory.

**ON THE FAIR:**

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

During January, the IFT located AM1253 on the FAIR. Wolf f1283 was located traveling with M1343 on the FAIR this month.

**Single (collared M1343)**

On January 22, M1343 was captured and collared during the annual helicopter survey. M1343 was released on sight and has been traveling with f1283 from the Tsay-o-Ah Pack

**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. During the annual helicopter operation the IFT observed two collared wolves and one uncollared wolf in the Canyon Creek Pack.

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

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

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

During January, the IFT documented these wolves traveling in the northwest portion of the GNF. At the beginning of January M1276 began displaying dispersal behavior and was often located separate from the pack.

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

In January, the IFT located these wolves in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT located m1284 traveling with and separate from the alpha animals in January. m1285 and

m1286 were located separate from one-another and from the two alpha wolves throughout January.

**Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

Throughout January, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF. During the annual helicopter population survey the IFT observed 2 wolves in the Prieto Pack.

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

In January, the IFT located the San Mateo Pack in its traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. The alpha animals, AM1157 and AF903, have been located separate but within the pack's territory throughout January. m1282 was located traveling outside of the BRWRA and, in late-January, traveling with single wolf f1295. The IFT documented f1327 traveling with single wolf M1296 in the northern portion of the GNF and outside the BRWRA. Wolf M1249 is now considered a member of the Paradise Pack: this wolf was captured and temporarily removed to facilitate pair-bonding with a captive female.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, mp1329 and mp1338)**

In mid-January, a private trapper caught an uncollared wolf. The IFT was notified of the capture, processed the wolf, and assigned it studbook number mp1338. Although, both mp1329 and mp1338 have been located separate from the Willow Springs Pack in January, mp1338 documented traveling with the alpha animals following its capture.

**M1240 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf traveling through portions of Arizona and New Mexico in January. During the annual helicopter survey the IFT documented this wolf with f1278, but by the end of January M1240 was located traveling separate from f1278.

**M1244 (collared)**

In January, the IFT located this wolf dead. The incident is under investigation and M1244 is not included in the population totals for this month.

**f1278 (collared)**

The IFT documented f1278 traveling in the south-central portion of the GNF. Since M1244 was found dead in January, f1278 has been located with single wolf M1240 and dispersing Luna Pack wolf M1284 on different occasions.

**f1295 (collared)**

In January, f1295 was located traveling outside of the BRWRA and, in late-January, traveling with m1282 of the San Mateo Pack in New Mexico.

**M1296 (collared)**

In January, the IFT located this wolf traveling with f1327 from the San Mateo Pack in the northeastern portion of the GNF and outside the BRWRA.

**MORTALITIES**

In January, M1244 was found dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

## **INCIDENTS**

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

On January 19, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Black Peak in New Mexico. The cow was confirmed as being killed by wolves.

On January 23, Wildlife Services investigated another dead cow near Black Peak in New Mexico. The cow was confirmed as being killed by wolves.

## **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

## **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On January 22, the Middle Management Team executives' meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## **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.

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February 1-28, 2014

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### **CURRENT POPULATION STATUS**

At the end of February 2014, the collared population consisted of 50 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 13 packs and five single wolves.

#### **IN ARIZONA:**

**Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1275, mp1330, mp1331, fp1332, fp1333, fp1339, fp1340 and M1341)**

During February, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. All collared wolves in Bluestem Pack have remained together throughout the month. On February 15, the IFT observed m1275 and fp1332 together. The rest of the collared members of Bluestem were nearby in Campbell Blue creek. The IFT is documenting predation rates with the Bluestem Pack. The study started February 15, and will conclude March 15.

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

During February, the IFT located this pack traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. The two wolves were documented traveling together throughout the month.

**Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, f1280)**

During February, the IFT documented these wolves using their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF.

**Paradise Pack (collared AF1056 and M1249)**

In January, AF1056 and M1249 were captured. Wolf AF1056 was permanently removed to captivity per a USFWS removal order issued in September for depredations occurring during the summer of 2013. Wolf M1249 was temporarily removed to captivity where it has been paired with a genetically valuable female wolf to promote pair-bonding and potential breeding. The IFT plans to release this pair into the wild in the spring of 2014. M1249 and the captive female F1126 will not be called the Paradise Pack, as stated in last month's update. The IFT will designate a new pack name, to identify these animals as a newly formed pair and prevent future confusion by associating them, by name, to wolves that were previously removed from the wild.

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

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

**ON THE FAIR:**

**Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, m1290, f1291, f1335, m1342 and mp1336)**

In February, the Maverick Pack traveled throughout their traditional territory; between the FAIR

and the south central portion of ASNF. The IFT captured m1290 during the annual helicopter survey in January. m1290 was temporarily moved to a holding pen where it has been paired with a captive female F1218 to promote pair-bonding and potential breeding. The pair will be released within the primary recovery zone in Arizona in April 2014.

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

During February, the IFT located AM1253 on the FAIR. Wolf f1283 has left the Tsay-O-Ah Pack in January and has been located traveling with M1343 on the FAIR this month.

**Single (collared M1343)**

During February, M1343 has been traveling with f1283 from the Tsay-O-Ah Pack on the FAIR

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

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

During February, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented one uncollared wolf in this pack in January.

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

Throughout February, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented dispersal behavior in M1293. The wolf has periodically been located separate from the Dark Canyon Pack in February.

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

During February, the IFT documented these wolves traveling in the northwest portion of the GNF. The Fox Mountain pack continued to make movements outside of their traditional territory and into a neighboring pack's territory. M1276 continued to display dispersal behavior and was often located separate from the pack. Several depredations occurred within the traditional Fox Mountain pack territory while the collared members of the pack were not in the area; thus, the IFT believes that not all members of the Fox Mountain pack are travelling together and that an uncollared wolf or wolves, loosely associated with the Fox Mountain pack was/were responsible for the depredations. In response to the multiple depredations, the USFWS issued a removal order for an uncollared wolf loosely associated with the Fox Mountain pack.

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

In February, the IFT located the alpha pair in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. m1285 and m1286 have been located separate from the adult wolves throughout February, but have periodically traveled back into the Luna Pack territory. m1284 and m1337 were typically located separate from the alpha pair, but were independently located with the alpha pair at least once.

**Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

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

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

In February, the IFT located AM1157 and AF903 in the packs traditional territory in the northern

portion of the GNF. The San Mateo juveniles have dispersed from the main pack and have been traveling with other single wolves. m1282 dispersed outside of the BRWRA and is now traveling with single wolf f1295. The IFT documented f1327 traveling with single wolf M1296 in the northern portion of the GNF and outside the BRWRA in New Mexico.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, mp1329 and mp1338)**

During February, the Willow Springs Pack used their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented two uncollared pups on a remote camera this month. Two of the three uncollared wolves are thought to be pups of the year that were missed during the population count. They will be added as an addendum to the 2013 population count.

**M1240 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf traveling through the south-central portion of the GNF. M1240 had been located with f1278 at the end of January. M1240 was located separate from f1278 at the beginning of February possibly due to the Luna juveniles being in the area. At the end of February M1240 and f1278 were located together again.

**f1278 (collared)**

The IFT documented f1278 traveling in the south-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has located f1278 with three different Luna Pack male wolves in February. At the end of February f1278 was located with single male M1240.

**f1295 (collared)**

In February, f1295 was located traveling with m1282 from the San Mateo Pack outside of the BRWRA. The IFT will attempt to capture these wolves for boundary issues and relocate them back into the BRWRA.

**M1296 (collared)**

In February, the IFT located this wolf traveling with f1327 from the San Mateo Pack in the northeastern portion of the GNF and outside the BRWRA in New Mexico.

**MORTALITIES**

No mortalities were documented this month.

**INCIDENTS**

During February, there were six livestock depredation reports involving eleven cattle and no nuisance reports in the BRWRA.

On February 1, Wildlife Services investigated four dead cows near Toriette, New Mexico. Three of the four cows were confirmed as being killed by wolves.

On February 2, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Toriette, New Mexico. The cause of death was unknown.

On February 4, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows near Toriette, New Mexico. The cause of death was unknown.

On February 11, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow just north of the BRWRA, in New Mexico. The cause of death was confirmed as being killed by a wolf.

On February 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Toriette, New Mexico. The cause of death was determined to be natural causes.

On February 28, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows near Escondido Mountain, New Mexico. The cause of death was unknown.

### **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

No significant activity occurred during the month of February.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On February 20, the Middle Management Team conducted for the Mexican wolf reintroduction project conducted a meeting in Holbrook, Arizona.

### **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.

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## **CURRENT POPULATION STATUS**

At the end of March 2014, the collared population consisted of 48 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 14 packs and two single wolves. Wolves M1296 and f1327 have been traveling together for three months and will now be officially named the Mangas Pack.

## **IN ARIZONA:**

### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, m1275, mp1330, mp1331, fp1332, fp1333, fp1339, fp1340 and M1341)**

During March, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The Bluestem Pack was monitored this month as part of a predation study. On March 8, members of the IFT found a yearling elk the Bluestem pack had killed and eaten. On March 17, the IFT investigated a report of a single wolf south of Big Lake. IFT members investigated the area the following day and found all collared members of the Bluestem Pack in the area. IFT members also found the carcass of a cow elk that the pack had killed and eaten.

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

During March, the IFT located this pack traveling in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. The collar on AM1287 has stopped working, but the IFT has verified that the wolf is alive and still traveling with F1294.

### **Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038 and f1280)**

In March, the IFT documented these wolves using the Hawks Nest traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF.

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

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

## **ON THE FAIR:**

### **Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, f1291, f1335, m1342 and mp1336)**

In March, the Maverick Pack traveled on the FAIR and the central portion of ASNF. The Maverick Pack continues to travel together in their traditional territory.

### **Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1253 M1343 and f1283)**

On March 31, the IFT located AM1253 dead. The cause of death is under investigation. Wolf f1283 is traveling with M1343 and is now called the Tsay o Ah Pack.

## **IN NEW MEXICO:**

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

During March, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. On March 11, the IFT found two to three sets of tracks left by the Canyon Creek Pack indicating a third uncollared wolf is still traveling with M1252 and F1246.

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

Throughout March, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central

portion of the GNF. M1293 has been periodically located separately from the Dark Canyon Pack during the month. On March 6, IFT members located two sets of tracks left by AM992 and AF923 indicating no other wolves were traveling with the pack.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276 and m1345)**

During March, the IFT documented these wolves traveling in the northwest portion of the GNF. M1276 has not been located during the month of March. On March 28, the IFT captured and re-collared AM1158. On March 29, the IFT captured an uncollared juvenile wolf. The wolf was collared, designated m1345 and released on site in the GNF.

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

In March, the IFT located the alpha pair in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. All the juvenile wolves in this pack except m1337 have been located separate from the adult wolves throughout March, but have periodically traveled back into the Luna Pack territory. At the end of March both m1284 and m1285 were located with single wolf f1278.

**Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

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

**Mangas Pack (M1296 and f1327)**

In March M1296 and f1327, originally from the San Mateo Pack, had been traveling together for three months. The pair is utilizing the area in the Northeastern Portion of the GNF. The new pair has periodically been located outside the BRWRA, but has returned on their own within the BRWRA boundary.

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

In March, the IFT located AM1157 and AF903 in the pack's traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. The collared San Mateo juveniles have dispersed from the main pack and have been traveling with other single wolves. On March 28, the IFT captured f1295 with m1282 near the Malpais National Monument. The wolves were removed to captivity and will be re-released into the BRWRA later this year. For the past three months, f1327 has been located with wolf M1296 in the northern portion of the GNF; they are now officially called the Mangas Pack.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, mp1329 and mp1338)**

During March, the Willow Springs Pack used their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT has not been able to locate mp1329 during the month of March. On March 22, a private licensed trapper caught AM1185. The IFT responded to the trap site, processed AM1185 and released the wolf within its home-range.

**M1240 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf traveling through the central portion of the GNF. M1240 was located with f1278 for most of March. M1240 was located separate from f1278 at the end of March possibly due to the Luna juveniles m1284 and m1285 being in the area with f1278.

**f1278 (collared)**

The IFT documented f1278 traveling in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT has located

f1278 was with single male M1240 for most of March. At the end of March, f1278 was located with Luna Pack dispersing wolves m1284 and m1285.

### **f1295 (collared)**

In March, f1295 was located traveling with m1282 from the San Mateo Pack outside of the BRWRA. The IFT captured both of these wolves on March 28 with a helicopter. The pair will be held in captivity and re-released into the BRWRA later this year.

## **MORTALITIES**

On March 31, AM1253 was found dead. The cause of death is under investigation.

## **INCIDENTS**

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

On March 7, Wildlife Services investigated one dead cow near Toriette, New Mexico. The cow was determined to be a probable wolf kill.

On March 10, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Govina Canyon, New Mexico. The cause of death was confirmed as a wolf. The incident was assigned to AM1185 and AF1279 of the Willow Springs Pack.

On March 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf on BLM land north of the BRWRA in New Mexico. The cause of death was probable wolf.

On March 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in the north central portion of the GNF in New Mexico. The cause of death was determined to be a confirmed wolf. The incident was assigned to an uncollared member(s) loosely associated but not travelling with the Willow Springs Pack

On March 26, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow on WMAT. The cow was determined not to have been killed by wolves, but died of other causes.

On March 29, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow west of Strayhorse in Arizona. The cause of death was confirmed as a wolf and assigned to an uncollared wolf.

On March 31, Wildlife Services investigated an injured cow in the north central portion of the GNF in New Mexico. The injuries were confirmed to have been wolf caused and the cow was euthanized due to the extent of the injuries. The incident was assigned to AM1185, AF1279 and m1338 of the Willow Springs Pack.

## **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On March 13, Project personnel captured M1133 at the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management

Facility and transferred him to Wolf Conservation Center in New York.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On March 19, the IFT hosted an independent film crew in Arizona

On March 20, IFT personnel gave an update of the project at the annual A/S National Forest – Arizona Game and Fish Department planning meeting held at Sipe Wildlife Area.

On March 31, the IFT gave an update of the project to USFS biologists at the Region 3 Biologist meeting in Albuquerque.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

In March Beth Wojcik resigned from the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Thanks for your hard work.

In March Matt Ellis was hired as the new specialist for USDA Wildlife Service's in New Mexico. Welcome to the project Matt.

### **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, 2014

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 2014, the collared population consisted of 52 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 16 packs and four single wolves.

## **IN ARIZONA:**

### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, mp1330, mp1331, fp1332, fp1333, fp1339, and fp1340 )**

During April, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior in the Bluestem Pack starting in mid-April. In April, m1275 was located dead in Arizona. This mortality is under investigation. The IFT received genetic results and confirmed that AM1341 is the breeding male in the Bluestem Pack.

### **Coronado Pack (collared M1249 and F1126)**

On April 9, The IFT released the Coronado Pack on the ASNF. The Coronado Pack initially stayed together but was subsequently split up by the Maverick Pack on April 12. M1249 traveled north and depredated a calf on April 18 and again on April 20. On April 18, M1249 was observed near some houses in Vernon Arizona. The nuisance report was received by the IFT on April 23. M1249 traveled south onto the FAIR and has been on the FAIR since April 21. F1126 has stayed south of Wildcat Crossing. The IFT is monitoring F1126 to determine when the wolf will whelp its pups. The IFT does not believe M1249 will return to F1126.

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

In mid-April, the IFT documented denning behavior in this pack within their traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. AM1287s radio collar has failed; however, the IFT has verified that the wolf is alive and with F1294.

### **Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038 and f1280)**

During April, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. In mid-April, the IFT documented denning behavior in the Hawks Nest Pack.

### **Hoodoo Pack (collared M1290 and F1218)**

On April 2, the Hoodoo Pack was released on the ASNF. The Pack traveled north and stayed in the area near Centerfire Creek. On April 5, The IFT located the Maverick Pack in the vicinity of the Hoodoo Pack. After April 5, the Hoodoo Pack was separated and located together only one other time which was on the telemetry flight on April 21. At the end of April, the Hoodoo Pack remains separated; M1290 traveled on to the FAIR and F1218 stayed near Wild Cat Crossing and the Rim in the ASNF

### **Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, AF1291, f1335, mp1336, and m1342)**

During April, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and central portion of the ASNF. In mid-April, the IFT documented the Maverick Pack denning in the central portion of ASNF. The IFT received genetic results and confirmed that AF1291 is the Maverick Packs breeding female.

### **Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and F1305)**

In April, the IFT documented denning behavior in the Rim Pack. AM1107 and F1305 have denned in the south-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT has received genetic results back and

confirmed that F1305 is the offspring of the Maverick Pack breeding pair; AM1183 and AF1291.

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

##### **Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343 and f1283)**

Throughout April, the Tsay o Ah Pack was located on the FAIR. The IFT has documented denning behavior in this Pack.

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

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

During April, the IFT located these wolves traveling together in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT monitored this pack to document denning behavior; in late-April the IFT documented denning behavior in this pack.

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

Throughout April, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. The IFT is monitoring the Dark Canyon Pack to determine if they are denning; by the end of April no denning behavior had been documented.

##### **Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276 and m1345)**

During April, the IFT documented these wolves traveling in the northwest portion of the GNF. M1276 has not been located during the month of April. Newly collared wolf m1345 has been located separate from the Fox Mountain Pack periodically throughout April. The IFT documented denning behavior in the Fox Mountain pack in late-April.

##### **Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, M1284, and m1337)**

In April, the IFT located the alpha pair in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The juvenile wolves in this pack, M1285 and M1286, have been located separate from the Luna Pack for three months and are now considered single wolves. M1284 has returned periodically to the Luna Pack and m1337 was typically located with the Luna Pack in April. In late-April, the IFT documented denning behavior in this pack

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

Throughout April, the IFT located this wolf in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT did not document denning behavior in this pack during April.

##### **Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and f1327)**

In April, the Mangas Pack utilized the area in the Northeastern Portion of the GNF. The IFT has not documented denning behavior in this pack during April.

##### **San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157 and AF903)**

In April, the IFT located AM1157 and AF903 in the pack's traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. The IFT did not document denning behavior in this pack during the month of April and is unlikely to den this year due to the advanced age of AF903.

### **Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, mp1329 and mp1338)**

During April, the Willow Springs Pack used their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. mp1329 has not been located for three months and is now considered fate-unknown. The IFT monitored the Willow Springs Pack throughout April, and documented denning behavior in late-April.

### **M1240 (collared)**

The IFT documented this wolf traveling through the central portion of the GNF. M1240 was located with f1278 during the month. The IFT is monitoring M1240 and f1278 to determine if f1278 will den; however, no denning behavior was observed in April.

### **f1278 (collared)**

The IFT documented f1278 traveling in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT has located f1278 with single male M1240 during the month. The IFT is monitoring f1278 and M1240 to determine if f1278 will den; however, no denning behavior was observed in April.

### **M1285 (collared)**

In April, M1285 was located during the weekly telemetry flight near Turkey feather Pass in the Gila Wilderness. M1285 has not been located at the end of the month likely due to wide dispersal movements.

### **M1286 (collared)**

In April, M1286 continued to make wide dispersal movements in the GNF.

## **MORTALITIES**

In April, M1275 was found dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

## **INCIDENTS**

During April, there were six livestock depredation reports and one nuisance report in the BRWRA.

On April 4, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf near Stray Horse in Arizona. The cause of death was confirmed as a wolf. The incident was assigned to an uncollared wolf.

On April 8, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf near Stray Horse in Arizona. The cause of death was probable wolf.

On April 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near the Mangas Mountains in New Mexico. The cause of death was unknown.

On April 17, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf north of Vernon Arizona. The cow was determined to have been killed by a wolf. The depredation was assigned to M1249 of the Coronado Pack.

On April 20, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf north of Vernon Arizona. The cause of death was confirmed as a wolf. The depredation was assigned to M1249 of the Coronado Pack.

On April 23, the IFT received a report from a Vernon resident that a wolf was observed near a house on April 18. The IFT determined the wolf was M1249 from the Coronado Pack. After the incident M1249 was confirmed as depredating two calves outside of the BRWRA and then traveled south and has been located on the FAIR since April 21.

On April 25, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow outside the BRWRA in New Mexico. The cow was confirmed to have been killed by a wolf. The depredation was assigned to an uncollared wolf.

### **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On April 8, Project Personnel captured M1052 and F1203 for transfer to the Universidad Autonoma de Queretaro in Mexico.

On April 8, Project Personnel captured M1141 and F1188 for transfer to the UMA La Mesa facility in Mexico.

On April 9, Project Personnel captured M1249 and F1126. Annual exams were performed as well as annual vaccinations administered. Both wolves were transferred to the IFT for release.

On April 9, Project Personnel performed a veterinary check on M1274 and F1222.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On April 10, a presentation was given by the IFT to the Central Arizona Community College students.

On April 20, a trapping demonstration was given by the IFT at the Junior Turkey Camp in Unit 1.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

In April, Charlotte Catalano joined the project as a USFWS volunteer.

At the end of April Quinn Harrison left the project. Thanks for all your hard work Quinn!

### **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

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May 1-31, 2014

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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 2014, the collared population consisted of 48 wolves with functional radio collars. M1240 and F1278 have been located together for three months and are denning. They will now be referred to as the Iron Creek Pack. There are currently 17 packs and 3 single wolves within the BRWRA.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, mp1330, mp1331, fp1332, fp1333, fp1339, and fp1340 )**

During May, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The Bluestem Pack continues to exhibit denning behavior and the IFT counted at least 3 new pups with the pack this month.

#### **Coronado Pack (collared M1249 and F1126)**

In May M1249 and F1126 were still separated. On May 1, a food cache was started for F1126 and the IFT determined that F1126 had whelped pups. F1126 has no previous experience in the wild, and with no mate to assist her with hunting and rearing the pups, the IFT determined that the pups would not likely survive based on previous occurrences of inexperienced lone females being unsuccessful in raising pups in the wild. On May 14, trapping was initiated to catch and remove F1126 and her pups to captivity. On May 16, the IFT caught F1126 and located the den with 6 pups. The IFT removed F1126 to captivity with four of the pups and all of these wolves were alive at the end of May. The two remaining pups were translocated into the Dark Canyon Pack den in New Mexico for cross-fostering purposes to be raised by the Dark Canyon Pack. The pups were placed with the Dark Canyon litter so they could be raised by the Dark Canyon Pack. All four pups in captivity survived

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

In May, the Elk Horn Pack exhibited denning behavior within their traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. The telemetry collar on AM1287 stopped functioning this month. The IFT has confirmed that AM1287 is still alive and with F1294 in May.

#### **Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038 and f1280)**

During May, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The Hawks Nest Pack continues to exhibit denning behavior.

#### **Hoodoo Pack (collared M1290 and F1218)**

In May F1218 was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation. M1290 has traveled separate from F1218 since the pair had split up in April. M1290 traveled north through WMAT and was observed near livestock on May 16. M1290 was chased out of the livestock and remained on WMAT until May 30, when a member of the IFT obtained a visual of M1290 and

one uncollared.

**Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, AF1291, f1335, mp1336, and m1342)**

During May, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and the central portion of the ASNF. On May 25, the IFT documented a minimum of four pups in the Maverick Pack.

**Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and F1305)**

In May, the Rim Pack was located in the south-central portion of the ASNF. The pack is exhibiting denning behavior and on May 30, a member of the IFT observed at least one pup with the Rim Pack.

**ON THE FAIR:**

**Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343 and f1283)**

Throughout May, the Tsay o Ah Pack was located on the FAIR. The IFT continues to document denning behavior in this Pack.

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

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

During May, the IFT located these wolves within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF. During May, the IFT has documented denning behavior in this pack.

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

Throughout May, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. In early May IFT documented denning behavior in this pack. On May 15, members of the IFT cross-fostered two pups from F1126s litter into the Dark Canyon packs den. Three pups were located in the Dark Canyon den; AF923 is now caring for 5 pups. After the two pups were cross-fostered into the Dark Canyon Pack, AF923 moved the pups to a new den location. A supplemental food cache was established to aid AF923 in caring for the additional pups placed in its den.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276 and m1345)**

During May, the IFT documented these wolves within the northwest portion of the GNF. M1276 has not been located during the month of May. The Fox Mountain Pack continues to display denning behavior. On May 2, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Centerfire New Mexico. The investigation determined that the cow was killed by wolves and the incident was assigned to AM1158 or one uncollared wolf associated with the Fox Mountain Pack. A food cache was established by the IFT and no depredations have resulted since the food cache has been utilized by pack members. The IFT continues to monitor the Fox Mountain Pack closely.

**Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, and m1337)**

In May, the IFT located the alpha pair within their traditional territory in the north-central

portion of the GNF. In May M1284 has been located separate from the pack for at least three months and is now considered a single wolf. The Luna Pack has continued to display denning behavior. Two uncollared wolves have been documented with the Luna Pack. The IFT believes these uncollared wolves are pups from 2013.

**Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

In May, the IFT located this wolf within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented denning behavior in this pack May. The breeding male is uncollared.

**Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and f1327)**

In May, the Mangas Pack utilized the area in the Northeastern Portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior in this pack in May.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157 and AF903)**

In May, the IFT located AM1157 and AF903 in the pack's traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior in this pack despite the advanced age of AF903. On May 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Canyon Del Buey in New Mexico. The cow was confirmed to have been killed by a wolf and assigned to an uncollared wolf associated with the San Mateo pack.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, and mp1338)**

In May, the Willow Springs Pack used their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Willow Springs pack continues to display denning behavior.

**Iron Creek Pack (collared M1240 and F1278)**

M1240 has been located with F1278 in May. In May, F1278 began displaying denning behavior. Because they have displayed denning behavior and been located together for almost three months M1240 and F1278 have been designated the Iron Creek Pack. This pack has localized in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the Southern portion of the Gila National Forest.

**M1284 (collared)**

In May, M1284 has been located separate from the Luna Pack for three months and is now considered a single wolf. M1284 made dispersal movements traveling between the GNF and the Gila Wilderness area. On May 19, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf near O bar O Mountain in New Mexico. The cause of death was confirmed as a wolf and assigned to M1284 and any uncollared wolves with it at the time.

**M1285 (collared)**

In May, M1285 has made wide dispersal movements in the GNF of New Mexico and the Gila Wilderness area.

**M1286 (collared)**

In May, M1286 continued to make wide dispersal movements in the GNF.

**MORTALITIES**

In May, F1218 was found dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

The IFT received the necropsy report for AM1253, who was found dead in Arizona. The report concluded that AM1253 died of NEOPLASIA-ADENOCARCINOMA (a type of cancer).

## **INCIDENTS**

During May there were seven livestock depredation reports and one nuisance report in the BRWRA.

On May 2, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf north of Luna, New Mexico. The cause of death was confirmed as a wolf. The incident was assigned to AM1158 of the Fox Mountain Pack or an uncollared associated with the Fox Mountain Pack.

On May 4, Wildlife Services investigated five dead sheep near Luna, New Mexico. The investigation determined that the sheep were killed by domestic dog(s).

On May 10, Wildlife Services investigated an injured cow north of Luna, New Mexico. The investigation determined the injury was wolf caused. The calf survived its injuries.

On May 12, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf near Pot Tank in New Mexico. The calf was determined to have been killed by coyotes.

On May 16, M1290 was observed by a ranch hand near livestock near Greens Peak in Arizona. The wolf was chased out of the area.

On May 19, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf near O bar O Canyon in New Mexico. The cause of death was confirmed as a wolf. The depredation was assigned to M1284 and any uncollared wolves with it at the time.

On May 20, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Canyon Del Buey in New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by a black bear.

On May 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Canyon Del Buey in New Mexico. The cow was confirmed to have been killed by a wolf. The depredation was assigned to an uncollared associated with the San Mateo pack.

## **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On May 2, M1051 was captured at the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility and transferred to the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility in preparation to reunite him with F1126.

On May 15, the IFT removed F1126 and 4 pups from the wild to captivity. F1126 and the 4 pups were taken to Sevilleta and placed in an enclosure adjacent to M1051, F1126's mate from 2013. F1126 continued to care for an unknown number of pups, and positive behavior was observed between M1051 and F1126 along a shared fence line. On May 17, staff successfully reunited

M1051 with F1126. Both adults are assisting with the rearing of the pups and all four pups are surviving.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On May 27, the IFT gave a presentation to 35 students from the Corona Del Sol High school in Arizona.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

In May, Grant Samsill started his internship with the AGFD on the Mexican Wolf Project. Welcome to the project Grant!

### **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, 2014

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 2014, the collared population consisted of 49 wolves with functional radio collars. M1282 and F1295 were translocated to McKenna Park in the Gila Wilderness on June 18. They will now be referred to as the Lava Pack. There are currently 18 packs and 4 single

wolves in the BRWRA.

## **IN ARIZONA:**

### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, mp1330, mp1331, fp1332, fp1333, fp1339, and fp1340)**

During June, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The Bluestem Pack continues to exhibit denning behavior during the month of June. On June 18 Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf near Kettle Holes in Arizona. The investigation determined that the calf was killed by a wolf. The depredation was assigned to f1332. The wolf f1332 has been located separate from the rest of the Bluestem Pack during the month of June.

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

In June, the Elk Horn Pack exhibited denning behavior within their traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. The IFT documented AM1287 with F1294 with the use of a trail camera this month. The collar on AM1287 is not functional.

### **Hawks Nest Pack (collared AF1280)**

During June, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The Hawks Nest Pack continues to exhibit denning behavior. The collar on AM1038 has stopped working, but the IFT has documented AM1038 is still with f1280 with the use of a trail camera.

### **Hoodoo Pack (collared M1290)**

In June, M1290 traveled between the northern portion of the FAIR and the north portion of the ASNF. The IFT again documented an uncollared wolf with M1290 during this month.

### **Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, AF1291, f1335, mp1336, and m1342)**

During June, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and the central portion of the ASNF. The Maverick Pack continues to display denning behavior.

### **Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and F1305)**

In June, the Rim Pack was located in the south-central portion of the ASNF. The pack is still exhibiting denning behavior.

## **ON THE FAIR:**

### **Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343 and AF1283)**

Throughout June, the Tsay o Ah Pack was located on the FAIR. The IFT continues to document denning behavior in this Pack.

### **M1249 (collared)**

The wolf M1249 was located on the FAIR throughout the month of June.

## **IN NEW MEXICO:**

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

During June, the IFT located these wolves within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior in this pack during this month.

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

Throughout June, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. The Dark Canyon Pack continued to display denning behavior during the month of June. In May 2 pups from the Coronado Pack were cross-fostered into the dark Canyon Pack. A food cache was established to help the Dark Canyon Pack care for the extra puppies. The IFT documented the three collared members of the Dark Canyon Pack utilizing the food cache during the month of June. Although the Dark Canyon Pack continues to display denning behavior the IFT has yet to document the presence of pups since the cross-fostering was implemented.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, M1276 and m1345)**

During June, the IFT documented these wolves within the northwest portion of the GNF. M1276 has not been located during the month of June and is now considered fate unknown. The Fox Mountain Pack continues to display denning behavior. A food cache was established by the IFT to deter the pack from depredating on livestock and no depredations have resulted since the food cache has been established. On June 23, 4 pups from the Fox Mountain Pack were documented on a trail camera visiting the food cache. .

**Lava Pack (collared M1282 and F1295)**

On June 18, the Lava Pack was translocated and released at Gila Flats in New Mexico. The pair has since split up after their release. The wolf F1295 has remained in the Gila Wilderness and M1282 has not been located since shortly after the release.

**Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, and m1337)**

In June, the IFT located the alpha pair within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The Luna Pack continues to display denning behavior. On June 2, during the weekly telemetry flight IFT personnel observed m1337 chasing livestock however a search of the area later revealed no dead livestock. .

**Prieto Pack (collared F1251)**

In June, the IFT located this wolf within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented denning behavior in this pack during this month. A food cache has been established to prevent livestock depredations by the Prieto Pack. Both adult wolves associated with the Prieto pack have been documented using this food cache in June.

**Mangas Pack (collared AM1296)**

In June, the Mangas Pack utilized the area in the Northeastern Portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior in this pack during June. During June f1327 was located dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation. A supplemental food cache was started to help M1296 feed any pups associated with the Mangas Pack.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157 and AF903)**

In June, the IFT located AM1157 and AF903 in the pack's traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. Although denning behavior has been documented, the IFT has yet to observe pups with the pack.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, and mp1338)**

In June, the Willow Springs Pack used their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. On June 14 the IFT documented three collared wolves and two uncollared wolves using the Willow Springs food cache. The Willow Springs Pack continues to display denning behavior.

**Iron Creek Pack (collared M1240 and F1278)**

In June, the Iron Creek Pack continued to display denning behavior. This pack has localized in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the Gila National Forest. The pack has been documented using this area of the GNF as their territory.

**M1254 (collared)**

In June, the IFT located M1254 for the first time in over a year. The wolf was located in the north western part of the GNF. The Wolf has traveled between the north western portion of the GNF and the western portion of the GNF since he was rediscovered.

**M1284 (collared)**

In June, M1284 made wide dispersal movements in the GNF of New Mexico.

**M1285 (collared)**

In June, M1285 made wide dispersal movements in the GNF of New Mexico and the Gila Wilderness area.

**M1286 (collared)**

In June, M1286 continued to make wide dispersal movements in the GNF.

**MORTALITIES**

In June, F1327 was found dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

**INCIDENTS**

During June there were three livestock depredation reports and one nuisance report in the BRWRA.

On June 2, members of the IFT observed M1337 of the Luna Pack chasing livestock in New Mexico. There were no dead livestock found in the area.

On June 4, Wildlife Services investigated one dead cow and one dead calf near Canyon Del Buey, New Mexico. The cow calf pair died of unknown cause not related to wolves.

On June 21, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf near Kettle Holes in Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was killed by a wolf and the depredation was assigned to f1332 of the Bluestem Pack. .

On June 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf near White Mountain Reservoir in Arizona. The calf was determined to have been killed by coyotes.

### **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On June 15, Coronado pups, fp1348, mp1349, mp1350, and mp1351 were captured at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility and received veterinary health checks. The pups were determined to be healthy and thriving.

On June 16, F1226, F1222, and M1274 were captured at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility and received veterinary health checks.

On June 18, Lava M1282 and F1295 were captured at the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility and transported to Gila Flats NM for translocation to the wild. Wolf program staff also captured and transported F858 from the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility to the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center.

On June 30, Coronado pups, fp1348, mp1349, mp1350, and mp1351 were captured at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility and received veterinary health checks. The pups were determined to be healthy and thriving. F1202 was captured and moved to a different pen at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On June 21, the IFT gave a presentation at the Phoenix Zoo to 36 teachers from across Arizona. The presentation was part of a program that showed the different perspectives of managing endangered species in Arizona.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

In June, Brent Wolf and Ed Davis started working with the AGFD on the Mexican Wolf Project. Welcome to the project Brent and Ed!

### **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 July 2014, the collared population consisted of 55 wolves with functional radio collars. On July 22, 2014 the IFT translocated the Coronado Pack, consisting of two adults and four pups of the year, into the Gila Wilderness near McKenna Park. On July 24, the Pack “self-released” from a mesh pen and are now roaming the Gila Wilderness. There are currently 19 packs and 4 single wolves in the BRWRA.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, m1330, m1331, f1332, f1333, f339, and f1340)**

During July, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The Bluestem Pack continues to exhibit denning behavior during the month of July. On July 20, Wildlife Services investigated two injured horses near the 26 Road in Arizona. The investigation determined that the horses were attacked and injured by wolves. GPS locations from AF1042’s collar indicated that Bluestem was in the area where the two horses were injured the night of the attack. Wolf f1332 has been located separate from the rest of the Bluestem Pack during the month of July.

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

In July, the Elk Horn Pack exhibited denning behavior within their traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. The IFT documented AM1287 with F1294 with the use of a trail camera this month. One pup has been documented with the Elk Horn Pack.

#### **Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038 and AF1280)**

During July, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The Hawks Nest Pack continues to exhibit denning behavior. The collar on AM1038 has started working again and the IFT has documented the wolf near the suspected den site during July. At the end of July the IFT documented 1-2 pups howling with the adults in the Hawks Nest Pack.

#### **Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, AF1291, f1335, m1336, and m1342)**

During July, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and the central portion of the ASNF. The Maverick Pack continues to display denning behavior.

#### **Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF1305)**

In July, the Rim Pack was located in the south-central portion of the ASNF. The Rim Pack has moved periodically from one location to another during July, and maybe using rendezvous sites. The IFT has documented one pup with the Rim Pack.

### **ON THE FAIR:**

**Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1343 and AF1283)**

Throughout July, the Tsay o Ah Pack was located on the FAIR. The IFT continues to document denning behavior in this Pack.

**Hoodoo Pack (collared M1290)**

M1290 was located on the FAIR throughout the month of July

**M1249 (collared)**

M1249 was located on the FAIR throughout the month of July.

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

**Canyon Creek Pack (collared AM1252 and AF1246)**

During July, the IFT located these wolves within their traditional territory in the central portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior in this pack during this month.

**Coronado Pack (collared AM1051, AF1126, fp1348, mp1349, mp1350, and mp1351)**

On July 22, the Coronado Pack was transported to the Gila Wilderness where they were placed in a mesh pen near McKenna Park. On July 24, the Coronado Pack chewed their way out of the mesh pen and this pack has remained localized in the area of the release site. A food cache has been set up to localize the pack in the release area as well as assist help the wolves with successfully becoming established in the wild.

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

Throughout July, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. The Dark Canyon Pack continued to display denning behavior during the month of July. In May two pups from the Coronado Pack were cross-fostered into the Dark Canyon Pack. Three existing pups were documented in the den at that time. A food cache was established to help the Dark Canyon Pack care for the extra pups. In July the IFT documented that five pups were utilizing the food cache indicating that the cross-fostering operation was successful.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212 and m1345)**

During July, the IFT documented these wolves within the northwest portion of the GNF. The Fox Mountain Pack continues to display denning behavior. A food cache was established by the IFT to deter the pack from depredating on livestock and no depredations have resulted since the food cache has been established. The IFT has obtained pictures of four pups utilizing the food cache.

**Lava Pack (collared M1282 and F1295)**

Since the Lava Pack was translocated and released at Gila Flats in New Mexico, the pair has remained separated. Wolf F1295 has remained in the Gila Wilderness and M1282 traveled north and was first located near the Mal Pais in New Mexico. M1282 then moved south and has been located with the San Mateo Pack (M1282's natal pack) during July.

**Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, and m1337)**

In July, the IFT located the alpha pair within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The Luna Pack continues to display denning behavior.

**Prieto Pack (collared AF1251)**

In July, the IFT located this wolf within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented denning behavior this year with this pack. A food cache has been established to prevent livestock depredations by the Prieto Pack. Both adult wolves associated with the Prieto pack have been documented using this food cache. On July 20, Wildlife Services investigated a report of two injured horses near Rainy Mesa in New Mexico. It was determined that the injuries to the horses were caused by wolves. The IFT determined the Prieto Pack was responsible for the injuries.

**Mangas Pack (collared AM1296)**

In July, the Mangas Pack utilized the area in the northeastern portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior in this pack. A supplemental food cache was started to help AM1296 feed any pups associated with the Mangas Pack. During July the IFT documented AM1296 utilizing the food cache. The IFT has not documented any pups associated with AM1296.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157 and AF903)**

In July, the IFT located AM1157 and AF903 in the pack's traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. After the release of the Lava Pack M1282 traveled north to the Mal Pais in New Mexico and then moved south and has been located with the San Mateo Pack during July. The San Mateo Pack has moved this month to a suspected rendezvous site. On July 1, members of the IFT searched the area where San Mateo has denned and found adult wolf tracks as well as puppy tracks. The San Mateo Pack continues to demonstrate denning behavior in their new location.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, and m1338)**

In July, the Willow Springs Pack used their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. On July 29 the IFT received a report from a member of the public that there were four pups observed in the vicinity of where the Willow Springs Pack has localized this year for denning season. The Willow Springs Pack continues to display denning behavior.

**Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240 and AF1278)**

In July, the Iron Creek Pack utilized their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the Gila National Forest. The pack has displayed denning this year behavior and continues to be localized near a den or rendezvous site.

**M1254 (collared)**

In July, M1254 moved through the eastern portion in the GNF of New Mexico including the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness.

**M1284 (collared)**

In July, M1284 made wide dispersal movements in the GNF of New Mexico.

**M1285 (collared)**

In July, M1285 made wide dispersal movements in the GNF of New Mexico including the Gila Wilderness area.

**M1286 (collared)**

In July, M1286 made wide dispersal movements in the GNF.

**MORTALITIES**

No wolf mortalities were documented in July.

**INCIDENTS**

During July there was one livestock depredation report and two nuisance reports in the BRWRA.

On July 2, Wildlife Services investigated one dead calf near OD Ridge, in Arizona. The investigation concluded that the calf was a probable wolf kill.

On July 20, Wildlife Services investigated two injured horses near the 26 Road in Arizona. The investigation determined that the horses were attacked and injured by wolves. GPS locations from AF1042's collar indicated that Bluestem was in the area where the two horses were injured the night of the attack.

On July 20, Wildlife Services investigated two injured horses near Rainy Mesa in New Mexico. The investigation determined the horses were injured by wolves and the IFT determined that the wolves responsible for the injuries were members of the Prieto Pack.

**CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On July 21, the Coronado Pack, consisting of AM1051, AF1126 and fp1348, mp1349, mp1350, and mp1351 were captured at the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility and prepared for release to the Gila Wilderness. On July 22, the Coronado pack was transported to the Gila Wilderness on mules.

**COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On July 15 and 16, the IFT completed wildlife capture training at the Alpine Community Center.

On July 26, the IFT presented information to journalists from Arizona Highways magazine during a hike to the top of Mount Baldy in Arizona. The hike was part of the magazines article on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the wilderness act.

## **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

In July, Julia Smith started working as a technician for AGFD on the Mexican Wolf Project. 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.

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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 2014, the collared population consisted of 55 wolves with functional radio collars. On August 7, the IFT captured and collared a male wolf pup from the Bluestem Pack in Arizona. The wolf was designated mp1382 and released on site. On August 24, 2014 the IFT captured collared and released a male wolf pup from the Hawks Nest Pack. The wolf was designated mp1383 and released on site. On August 25, the IFT captured and collared mp1354 from the Dark Canyon Pack in New Mexico. There are currently 18 packs and 4 single wolves in the BRWRA.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, m1330, m1331, f1332, f1333, f1339, f1340 and mp1382)**

During August, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. On August 7, the IFT captured a male pup from the Bluestem Pack. The pup was collared, designated mp1382 and released on site. The Pack has moved from the den site and is using several rendezvous sites in the Packs' traditional territory. The IFT continued to document three pups with the Bluestem Pack throughout August.

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

In August, the Elk Horn Pack has moved to a rendezvous site in their traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. The IFT documented AM1287 with F1294 with the use of a trail camera this month. The IFT has been receiving GPS points from AM1287's collar in spite of the VHF not working. One pup has been documented with the Elk Horn Pack.

#### **Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, AF1280 and mp1383)**

During August, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The Hawks Nest Pack continues to exhibit denning behavior. AM1038 has been documented traveling with AF1280 even though the collar on AM1038 has malfunctioned. On August 24, the IFT captured a male pup associated with the Hawks Nest Pack. The pup was collared, designated mp1383 and released on site. The IFT has documented 1-2 pups with Hawks Nest Pack in August.

#### **Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, AF1291, f1335, m1336, and m1342)**

During August, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and the central portion of the ASNF. The Maverick is currently using several rendezvous sites both on and off of the FAIR.

#### **Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and AF1305)**

In August, the Rim Pack was located in the south-central portion of the ASNF. The Rim Pack has moved periodically from one location to another during August, and maybe using

rendezvous sites. The IFT continues to document one pup with the Rim Pack.

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

##### **Tsay o Ah Pack (collared AM1343 and AF1283)**

The Tsay o Ah Pack was located on the FAIR throughout the month of August.

##### **Hoodoo Pack (collared M1290)**

M1290 was located on the FAIR throughout the month of August.

##### **M1249 (collared)**

M1249 was located on the FAIR throughout the month of August.

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

##### **Canyon Creek Pack (collared AM1252 and AF1246)**

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

##### **Coronado Pack (collared AM1051, AF1126, and fp1348)**

In August, the Coronado Pack has remained in the vicinity of the release site within the Gila Wilderness. Following the packs self-release from the pen, the three male pup's radio collars were retrieved; the pups had slipped their collars off. Throughout August, fp1348 remained collared.

##### **Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293, and mp1354)**

The IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF throughout August. In August, the IFT continued to document all five pups utilizing the food cache indicating that the cross-fostering operation conducted in May 2014 was successful. On August 25, the IFT captured and collared a male wolf pup (mp1354) associated with the Dark Canyon Pack; all pups were assigned stud book numbers during the cross-fostering event. mp1354 is one of the three offspring of AM992 and AF923, not one of the two pups cross-fostered into the Dark Canyon Pack den in May.

##### **Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212 and m1345)**

During August, the IFT documented these wolves within the northwest portion of the GNF. The Fox Mountain Pack continues to display denning behavior. A food cache was established by the IFT to help deter the pack from depredating on livestock and no depredations have resulted since the food cache has been established. The IFT continues to document four pups associated with the Fox Mountain Pack.

##### **Lava Pack (collared M1282 and F1295)**

Throughout August, the Lava Pack pair remained separate. Wolf F1295 has remained in the Gila Wilderness and was located with single wolf M1285 on August 25. M1282 has been located with the San Mateo Pack (M1282's natal pack) throughout August.

**Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, and m1337)**

In August, the IFT located the alpha pair within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. On August 20, the IFT documented three pups associated with the Luna Pack. On August 11, M1284 was located with the Luna Pack (its natal pack) and was located with the Pack throughout the remainder of August.

**Prieto Pack (collared AF1251)**

In August, the IFT located this wolf within its traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented denning behavior this year with this pack. A food cache has been established to help prevent livestock depredations by the Prieto Pack. Both adult wolves associated with the Prieto pack have been documented using this food cache. No pups have been documented.

**Mangas Pack (collared AM1296)**

In August, the Mangas Pack utilized the area in the northeastern portion of the GNF. The IFT has not documented any pups associated with AM1296 during the month of August.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157 and AF903)**

In August, the IFT located AM1157 and AF903 in the Pack's traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. M1282 is still traveling with the San Mateo Pack (1282's natal pack) after it was released with F1295 in the Gila Wilderness in July. F1295 remains in the Gila wilderness. On August 19, the IFT documented one pup with the San Mateo Pack.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, and m1338)**

In August, the Willow Springs Pack used their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Willow Springs Pack continues to display denning behavior.

**Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240 and AF1278)**

In August, the Iron Creek Pack utilized their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the Gila National Forest. The pack has displayed denning behavior this year and continues to be fairly localized suggestive of use of a rendezvous site.

**M1254 (collared)**

In August, M1254 moved through the eastern portion in the GNF of New Mexico including the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness.

**M1284 (collared)**

On August 11, during the weekly flight, M1284 was located with the Luna Pack in the northern-central portion of the Gila National forest. The wolf has stayed with the Luna Pack (M1284's natal pack) throughout August.

**M1285 (collared)**

In August, M1285 made wide dispersal movements in the GNF of New Mexico including the Gila Wilderness area. On August 25, M1285 was located with F1295 from the Lava Pack in the Gila Wilderness.

**M1286 (collared)**

In August, M1286 made wide dispersal movements through the GNF.

**MORTALITIES**

No wolf mortalities were documented in August.

The IFT received the necropsy report for M1253, a wolf that was recovered from the FAIR in April 2014. The cause of death was due to stomach cancer. The necropsy results also yielded information that M1253 was actually a previously identified wolf with studbook M825. M825 was a Hon-dah pup released on the FAIR in 2003.

**INCIDENTS**

During August there were eight livestock depredation reports involving nine animals and no nuisance reports in the BRWRA.

On August 3, Wildlife Services investigated 1 dead calf near O Bar O- New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was killed by wolves. The depredation was assigned to 2 uncollared wolves loosely associated with the Luna Pack.

On August 6, Wildlife Services investigated 1 dead cow near Canyon Del Buey in New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by wolves. The depredation was assigned to members of the San Mateo Pack.

On August 13, Wildlife Services investigated an injury to a cow near Dry Lakes in New Mexico. The injury was confirmed as being caused by a wolf.

On August 20, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf near Cox Canyon in New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was a probable wolf kill.

On August 21, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf near Bill Knight Gap in New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was killed by a wolf. The depredation was assigned to an uncollared wolf or wolves.

On August 23, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf near Pat Knoll in Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was killed by a bear.

On August 26, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Geneva Tank in Arizona. The investigation determined the cow died of unknown causes.

On August 26, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Big Lake in Arizona. The investigation determined the cow died from being struck by lightning.

## **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

On August 14, project personnel transferred F1222 from the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility to Wolf Haven International.

On August 14, project personnel transferred M1130 and F1226 from the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility to the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility to allow for maintenance at the Sevilleta.

On August 18, project personnel transferred M1274 and F1202 from the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility to the Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility to allow for maintenance at the Sevilleta.

## **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On August 9, the IFT gave a project update to 50 members of the public at the Big Lake Campground in Arizona.

On August 30, IFT personnel attended the Wildlife and Science Festival in Woodland Park in Pinetop Arizona. The Festival was attended by about 1,000 people.

## **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

In August Charlotte Catalano concluded her internship with the USFWS. Thanks for all your help Charlotte!

## **REWARDS OFFERED**

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

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



## Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

September 1-30, 2014

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 September, the collared population consisted of 57 wolves with functional radio collars. There are currently 18 packs and 5 single wolves in the BRWRA. As of this report the IFT has documented 40 pups produced in the wild population.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

**Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, m1330, m1331, f1333, f1339, f1340 and mp1382)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 3**

In September, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The IFT has observed the pack several times during the month of September and have documented eleven wolves in the Bluestem Pack. Wolf f1332 has been located separate from the Bluestem Pack for three consecutive months and will now be considered a single wolf.

**Elk Horn Pack (collared F1294)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 3**

In September, the IFT located AM1287 dead. The incident is under investigation. The IFT documented the production of 3 pups with the Elk Horn Pack. Following the loss of AM1287, the IFT established a supplemental food cache to assist AF1294 with rearing pups. AF1294 continues to be located within its traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

**Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, AF1280 and mp1382)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 3**

During September, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented 3 pups with the Hawks Nest Pack during September. On September 1, mp1383 slipped its radio collar. The pup was recaptured and recollared on September 16. On September 26, AM1038 was caught and its collar was replaced.

**Hoodoo Pack (collared M1290)**

In September, M1290 traveled between the northern portion of the FAIR and the north portion of the ASNF.

**Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and F1305)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 1**

In September, the Rim Pack was located in the south-central portion of the ASNF.

### **ON THE FAIR:**

**Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, AF1291, f1335, mp1336, and m1342)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 4**

During September, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and ASNF.

**Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343 and AF1283)**

During September, the Tsay o Ah Pack was located on the FAIR.

**M1249 (collared)**

Wolf M1249 was located on the FAIR throughout the month of September.

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

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

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

**Coronado Pack (collared AM1051 and AF1126)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 4**

Throughout September, the Coronado Pack was located within the Gila Wilderness.

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

**Pups associated with pack this year: 5**

Throughout September, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. On September 2, mp1354 slipped its radio collar; efforts to recollar this pup have been unsuccessful.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, m1345 and mp1384)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 4**

During September, the IFT documented the Fox Mountain Pack within its traditional territory in the northwest portion of the GNF. On September 2, the IFT captured and collared a wolf pup associated with the Fox Mountain Pack. The wolf was collared, designated mp1384 and released on sight.

**Lava Pack (collared M1282 and F1295)**

During September, the Lava Pack has remained separate from each other. Throughout September, M1282 has been located with its natal pack, the San Mateo Pack. F1295 has been located with, or in close proximity to, single M1285 in the Gila Wilderness throughout September.

**Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1337, and M1284)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 3**

In September, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has initiated efforts to attempt to capture and collar uncollared wolves with

the Luna Pack.

**Prieto Pack (collared AM1387, AF1251 and mp1386)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 3**

Throughout September, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. On September 22, the IFT captured a male wolf; it was collared, designated mp1386 and released on site. On September 25, the IFT captured an adult male wolf; it was collared, designated AM1387 and released on site.

**Mangas Pack (collared AM1296)**

In September, the Mangas Pack utilized the area in the Northeastern Portion of the GNF.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, and M1282)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 1**

In September, the IFT located AM1157, AF903 and M1282 from the Lava Pack in the San Mateo's Pack traditional territory in the northern portion of the GNF. Wolf M1282 from the Lava Pack has returned to the San Mateo Pack and has been associated with the San Mateo Pack throughout September.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, m1338 and mp1385)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 5**

In September, the Willow Springs Pack used their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. On September 5, the IFT trapped and collared a male pup; it was collared, designated mp1385 and released on site.

**Iron Creek Pack (collared M1240 and F1278)**

**Pups associated with pack this year: 1**

In September, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the Gila National Forest.

**M1254 (collared)**

In September, the IFT located M1254 in the north western part of the GNF. The Wolf has traveled between the north western portion of the GNF and the western portion of the GNF throughout September.

**M1284 (collared)**

Throughout September, M1284 was located with its natal pack, the Luna Pack.

**M1285 (collared)**

In September, M1285 was located with or in close proximity to F1295 within the Gila Wilderness.

**M1286 (collared)**

M1286 was not located for three consecutive months; the IFT now considers M1286 fate unknown.

### **f1332 (Collared)**

f1332 is now considered a single wolf. Originally from the Bluestem Pack, it has been located separate from the Bluestem Pack for three consecutive months. Wolf f1332 has remained in Arizona and has traveled the south central portion of the ASNF. The IFT has documented this wolf traveling alone.

### **MORTALITIES**

In September, AM1287 from the Elk Horn Pack was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

### **INCIDENTS**

During September there were five livestock depredation reports and no nuisance reports in the BRWRA.

On September 1, Wildlife Services investigated one dead cow in New Mexico near the Mangitas Mountains. The investigation determined the cow was killed by wolves. The depredation was assigned to uncollared wolves.

On September 7, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves near Mexican Hay Lake in Arizona. The investigation determined the calves had been killed by wolves. The depredation was assigned to uncollared wolves.

On September 10, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Crosby Crossing in Arizona. The investigation determined the cow died from a broken back.

On September 26, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Arizona west of the town of Greer. The investigation determined the calf was killed by wolves. The depredation was assigned to uncollared wolves.

### **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

No significant activity to report

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On September 26, 27, and 28 a journalist from Arizona Highways Magazine, toured the BRWRA with members from the IFT.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

In September, Aron Smethurst concluded his internship with the USFWS. Thanks for all your hard work Aron!

In September, Becca Lyon concluded her internship with the USFWS. Thanks for all your hard work Becca!

In September, Alex Hanrahan concluded his internship with the USFWS. Thanks for all your hard work Alex!

In September, Carrie Kyle decided to extend her internship with the USFWS. Thanks for your continued dedication to the program Carrie!

In September, Gael Sanchez began her internship with the USFWS. Welcome to the program Gael.

In September, Dan Tomasetti began his internship with the USFWS. Welcome to the program Dan.

In September, Allison Greenleaf ended her career with AZGFD and started working with the USFWS contingent of the Mexican Wolf Project. Congratulations Allison!

### **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 October, the collared population consisted of 59 wolves with functional radio collars. There are currently 18 packs and 6 single wolves in the BRWRA. As of this report the IFT has documented 40 pups produced in the wild population for 2014.

#### **IN ARIZONA:**

##### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, m1330, m1331, f1333, f1339, f1340 and mp1382)**

In October, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. On October 20, a member of the IFT observed eleven wolves in the Bluestem pack near Sierra Blanca Lake. The wolves were observed feeding on a dead

cow elk.

**Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294)**

In October, AF1294 continued to be located within its traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. No other significant events occurred involving this pack during October.

**Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, AF1280 and mp1383)**

During October, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. No other significant events occurred involving this pack during October.

**Hoodoo Pack (collared M1290)**

In October, M1290 traveled between the northern portion of the FAIR and the north portion of the ASNF. No other significant events occurred involving this pack during October.

**Rim Pack (collared AM1107 and F1305)**

In October, the Rim Pack was located in the south-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT attempted trap a single pup associated with the pack and AM1107 to replace the collar, but were unsuccessful.

**ON THE FAIR:**

**Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, AF1291, F1335, mp1336, and M1342)**

On October 30, the IFT caught and recollared M1342. The previous collar on M1342 had failed and needed to be replaced. During October the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and ASNF.

**Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343 and AF1283)**

During October, the Tsay o Ah Pack was located on the FAIR.

**Single M1249 (collared)**

On October 14, M1249 was trapped on the FAIR. M1249 was processed and released on site. M1249 has remained on the FAIR during October.

**Single f1388 (collared)**

On October 12, the IFT caught and collared a juvenile female wolf on the FAIR. The wolf was collared, designated f1388 and released on site. Wolf f1388 has remained on the FAIR.

**Single f1389 (collared)**

On October 14, the IFT caught and collared a juvenile female wolf on the FAIR. The wolf was collared, designated f1389 and released on site. Wolf f1389 has remained on the FAIR.

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

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

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

**Coronado Pack (collared AM1051, AF1126 and mp1350)**

On October 18, the IFT captured and AM1051 in the Gila Wilderness. The wolf was released on site. On October 19, the IFT captured and collared mp1350. The wolf pup was released on site. The Coronado Pack continues to remain within the Gila Wilderness.

**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 monitored the Dark Canyon pack closely in October for opportunities to collar pups; however, no capture operations were conducted.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, m1345 and mp1384)**

During October, the IFT documented the Fox Mountain Pack within its traditional territory in the northwest portion of the GNF. A food cache has been maintained for the Fox Mountain Pack this month in an effort to prevent livestock depredations.

**Lava Pack (collared M1282 and F1295)**

During October, the Lava Pack has remained separate from each other. Through early-October, M1282 has been located with its natal pack, the San Mateo Pack. F1295 has been located with, or in close proximity to, single M1285 in the Gila Wilderness throughout October.

**Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1337, and M1284)**

In October, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has maintained a food cache for the Luna Pack in an effort to prevent livestock depredations.

**Prieto Pack (collared AM1387, AF1251 and mp1386)**

Throughout October, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. A food cache has been maintained for the Prieto Pack in an effort to prevent livestock depredations.

**Mangas Pack (collared AM1296)**

In October, the Mangas Pack utilized the area in the northeastern portion of the GNF.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AM1157, AF903, and M1282)**

During October AM1157 was located dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation. M1282 has not been located during the second half of October. On October 30, M1345 originally from the Fox Mountain Pack was located traveling with AF903.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, m1338, mp1385, fp1390, and mp1391)**

On October 20, the IFT captured and an uncollared female pup from the Willow Springs Pack. The pup was collared, designated fp1390 and released on site. On October 21, the IFT captured and collared a male subadult from the Willow Springs Pack. The wolf was collared, designated m1391 and released on site. Willow Springs Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

**Iron Creek Pack (collared M1240 and F1278)**

In October, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the Gila National Forest.

**M1254 (collared)**

In October, a wolf believed to be M1254 was recovered dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

**M1284 (collared)**

Throughout October, M1284 was located with its natal pack, the Luna Pack, in the north-central portion of the GNF.

**M1285 (collared)**

In October, M1285 was located with F1295, from the Lava Pack, within the Gila Wilderness.

**f1332 (Collared)**

Wolf f1332 has remained in Arizona and has traveled the south central portion of the ASNF. The IFT has documented this wolf traveling alone.

**MORTALITIES**

In October, AM1157 from the San Mateo Pack was located dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

In October, a wolf believed to be M1254 was recovered dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

**INCIDENTS**

During October there were four livestock depredation reports and no nuisance reports in the BRWRA.

On October 2, Wildlife Services investigated one dead cow in New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was a probable wolf kill incident.

On October 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Long Canyon in Arizona. The investigation determined the cow died of unknown causes.

On October 8, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow on the FAIR in Arizona. The investigation determined the cow died from unknown causes.

On October 27, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Sometime Creek in New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow died of unknown causes.

**CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

The Sevilleta Captive Management Facility remains empty due to ongoing facility maintenance.

**COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On October 15, a member of the IFT gave a project update to the Arizona Game and Fish Nongame Branch meeting at Horseshoe Ranch.

Between October 17 and 19 a photographer from Arizona Highways magazine toured the BRWRA to prepare for an upcoming magazine article.

On October 21, the Middle Management Team (MMT) met at the Springerville Forest Service office to discuss current project issues and to discuss future 10j rule changes.

On October 31, the IFT met to coordinate the January 2015 helicopter survey.

**PROJECT PERSONNEL**

On October 6, Justin Martens began his position as a wildlife biologist for the USFWS. Welcome to the project Justin.

On October 10, Allison Greenleaf, a former AZGFD biologist with the project, began her

position as a wildlife biologist for the USFWS.

### **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

November 1-30, 2014

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 November, the collared population consisted of 57 wolves with functional radio collars. There are currently 19 packs and 4 single wolves in the BRWRA. As of this report the IFT has documented 40 pups produced in the wild population for 2014.

The IFT initiated efforts to document the overall wolf population this month with track counts and visual observations being obtained on known packs. Food caches and camera traps are also being deployed in an effort to document the uncollared portion of the population.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, m1330, m1331, f1333, f1339, f1340 and mp1382)**

In November, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented thirteen wolves in the Bluestem pack during November. The On November 1, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow south of Middle Mountain in Arizona. The investigation determined that the cow was killed by wolves. The depredation was assigned to the adults and juveniles in the Bluestem Pack.

#### **Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294)**

In November, AF1294 was located within its traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. During November the IFT documented two uncollared pups traveling with AF1294 indicating the Elk Horn Pack currently consists of three wolves.

#### **Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, AF1280 and mp1383)**

During November, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented the Hawks Nest Pack consisting of two adults and three pups in November.

#### **Hoodoo Pack (collared M1290)**

In November, M1290 traveled between the northern portion of the FAIR and the north portion of the ASNF. The IFT was able to confirm that a second uncollared wolf is still traveling with M1290 this month.

#### **Rim Pack and Maverick Pack (collared AF1305 and m1336)**

In November, AM1107 was found dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation. Since that time, m1336 from the Maverick Pack has been documented several times traveling with AF1305 in November. AF1305 and m1336 were located together in the south-central portion of

the ASNF throughout November.

**Single f1332 (Collared)**

Wolf f1332 has remained in Arizona and has traveled the south central portion of the ASNF. During the yearly population counts, the IFT found tracks of a second wolf traveling with f1332.

**ON THE FAIR:**

**Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, AF1291, F1335, and M1342)**

During November, the Maverick Pack traveled within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and ASNF. During the early part of November m1336 left the Maverick Pack and began traveling with Rim AF1305 within the Rim Pack traditional territory. M1342 began making dispersal movements this month. The wolf was located near Eagle peak in New Mexico during the first part of November. M1342 then returned to the Maverick Pack and has been located with the Maverick Pack at the end of November.

**Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343 and AF1283)**

During November, the Tsay o Ah Pack was located on the FAIR.

**Tse ighan lige Pack (collared M1249, f1389 and f1388)**

During November, M1249 was located on the FAIR.

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

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

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

**Coronado Pack (collared AM1051, AF1126 and mp1350)**

Throughout November the IFT located the Coronado pack within the Gila Wilderness. On November 27 and 29, the IFT investigated several nuisance reports concerning the Coronado pack in the vicinity of Gila Hot Springs. The pack was closely monitored and hazed through the end of the month. The Coronado Pack continues to remain within the Gila Wilderness.

**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.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, m1345 and mp1384)**

During November, the IFT documented AM1158, AF1212, and mp1384 of the Fox Mountain Pack within its traditional territory in the northwest portion of the GNF. m1345 has been documented repeatedly with AF903 from the San Mateo pack. A food cache has been maintained for the Fox Mountain Pack this month in an effort to prevent livestock depredations.

**Iron Creek Pack (collared M1240 and F1278)**

In November, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the Gila National Forest.

**Lava Pack (collared M1285 and F1295)**

Through November, M1282 has not been located. F1295 has been located with, or in close proximity to, M1285 in the Gila Wilderness.

**Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, m1337, and M1284)**

In November, AM1155, AF1115, and m1337 of the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has maintained a food cache for the Luna Pack in an effort to prevent livestock depredations. M1284 has been exhibiting dispersing behavior and has only been located with the other members of the Luna pack once this month.

**Mangas Pack (collared AM1296)**

In November, the Mangas Pack utilized the area in the northeastern portion of the GNF

**Prieto Pack (collared AM1387, AF1251, mp1386, fp1392)**

Throughout November, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. On November 9, fp1392 was caught and collared. A food cache has been maintained for the Prieto Pack in an effort to prevent livestock depredations.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AF903 and m1345)**

During November the IFT has located AF903 within the traditional San Mateo territory travelling with m1345 originally from the Fox Mountain pack. M1282 has not been located during November.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, m1338, mp1385, fp1390, and mp1391)**

Throughout November the IFT has located the Willow Springs Pack in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented nine wolves in the Willow Springs pack during November. A food cache has been maintained for this pack to prevent livestock depredations.

**M1282 (collared)**

M1282 has not been located this month.

**M1284 (collared)**

Throughout November, M1284 was located with its natal pack, the Luna Pack, in the north-central portion of the GNF.

**M1285 (collared)**

In November, M1285 was located with F1295, from the Lava Pack, within the Gila Wilderness.

**MORTALITIES**

In November, AM1107 from the Rim Pack was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

## **INCIDENTS**

During November there were three livestock depredation reports and two nuisance reports in the BRWRA.

On November 1, Wildlife Services investigated one dead cow in Arizona south of Middle Mountain. The investigation determined the cow was killed by wolves. The depredation was assigned to the adults and juveniles from the Bluestem Pack.

On November 19, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Canyon Del Buey in New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by wolves and the depredation was assigned to the Mangas Pack.

On November 25, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Collins Park in New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by wolves and the incident was assigned to the Luna Pack.

On November 27, a dog was attacked near Gila Hot Springs in New Mexico. The incident was assigned to the Coronado Pack.

On November 29, a dog was attacked near Gila Hot Springs in New Mexico. The incident was assigned to the Coronado Pack.

## **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

The Sevilleta Captive Management Facility remains empty due to ongoing facility maintenance.

## **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

On November 11, The IFT gave a presentation to 17 members of the Wildlife Society at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

## **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.

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## Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

December 1-31, 2014

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 December, the collared population consisted of 59 wolves with functional radio collars. There are currently 19 packs and 3 single wolves in the BRWRA

The IFT continued efforts this month to document the overall wolf population this month with track counts and visual observations being obtained on known packs. Food caches and camera traps are also being deployed in an effort to document the uncollared portion of the population.

### **IN ARIZONA:**

#### **Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, m1330, m1331, f1333, f1339, f1340 and mp1382)**

In December, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented thirteen wolves in the Bluestem Pack in December. At the beginning of the month the IFT captured video of the Bluestem Pack eating a cow elk that was killed by the Maverick Pack; nine wolves from the Bluestem Pack were documented utilizing the carcass on camera. Two wolves from Bluestem, f1339 and mp1382 have been located separate from the rest of the pack in during the month.

#### **Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294 and M1342)**

In December, AF1294 was located within its traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF in Arizona. M1342 from the Maverick Pack has been traveling with AF1294 throughout the month of December.

#### **Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, AF1280 and mp1383)**

During December, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF.

#### **Hoodoo Pack (collared M1290)**

In December, M1290 traveled between the northern portion of the FAIR and the north portion of the ASNF. M1290 was also located as far south as Hannagen Meadows during the telemetry flight on December 22. On December 28, the IFT obtained a visual on M1290 and observed the wolf by its self.

#### **Rim Pack and Maverick Pack (collared AF1305 and m1336)**

In December AF1305 and m1336 continued to travel together in the south-central portion of the ASNF throughout November. Genetic work is being performed to identify if these wolves are in fact siblings.

**Single f1332 (Collared)**

Wolf f1332 has remained in Arizona and has traveled the south central portion of the ASNF.

**ON THE FAIR:**

**Maverick Pack (collared AM1183, AF1291, and F1335)**

During December, the Maverick Pack traveled within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and ASNF. Wolf M1342 has left the Maverick Pack and has been traveling with AF1294 from the Elk Horn Pack. The IFT located a kill made by the Maverick Pack this.

**Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343 and AF1283)**

During December, the Tsay o Ah Pack was located on the FAIR.

**Tse ighan lige Pack (collared AM1249, f1389 and f1388)**

During December, the Tse ighan lige Pack was located on the FAIR.

**IN NEW MEXICO:**

**Canyon Creek Pack (collared AM1252 and AF1246)**

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

**Coronado Pack (collared M1051, AF1126 and mp1350)**

Throughout December the IFT located the Coronado pack within the Gila Wilderness. IFT members hazed the Coronado wolves away from a residence in the Gila Hot Springs area on December 28 to December 31 when the wolves left the area. The Coronado Pack continues to remain within the Gila Wilderness.

**Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293 and mp1354)**

Throughout December, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the GNF. On December 15, members of the IFT located a cow elk that the Dark Canyon Pack killed and began to eat. Traps were placed near the elk carcass and mp1354 was re-captured and re-collared.

**Fox Mountain Pack (collared AM1158, AF1212, and mp1384)**

During December, the IFT documented AM1158, AF1212, and mp1384 of the Fox Mountain Pack within its traditional territory in the northwest portion of the GNF. A food cache has been maintained for the Fox Mountain Pack this month in an effort to prevent livestock deprecations.

**Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240 and AF1278)**

In December, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the Gila National Forest.

**Lava Pack (collared M1285 and F1295)**

Throughout December, M1285 and F1295 have been located together traveling the northwest

portion of the Gila Wilderness. The wolves have been together for three months and M1285 is now considered part of the Lava Pack.

**Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, and m1337)**

In December, AM1155, AF1115 of the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has maintained a food cache for the Luna Pack in an effort to prevent livestock depredations. Wolf m1337 is displaying dispersal behavior, and has not been located with the Luna Pack in December. Although in recent months single M1284 has occasionally been located with members of its natal pack; it remained separate during December.

**Mangas Pack (collared M1296)**

In December, M1296 traveled between the northern portion of the GNF in New Mexico and the northeastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

**Prieto Pack (collared AM1387, AF1251, mp1386, fp1392)**

Throughout December, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. A food cache was maintained into December in an effort to prevent livestock depredations.

**San Mateo Pack (collared AF903 and m1345)**

During December the IFT located AF903 traveling with m1345 within the traditional territory of the San Mateo Pack.

**Willow Springs Pack (collared AM1185, AF1279, m1338, mp1385, fp1390, and mp1391)**

Throughout December, the IFT has located the Willow Springs Pack in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. Wolf mp1391 was not located in December and m1338 displayed dispersal behavior and roamed throughout the GNF during the month. A food cache was maintained for this pack into December to prevent livestock depredations.

**M1282 (collared)**

M1282 has not been located this month.

**M1284 (collared)**

Throughout December, M1284 was located traveling the west-central portion of the GNF.

**MORTALITIES**

No mortalities occurred during December.

**INCIDENTS**

During December there was one livestock depredation report and one nuisance report in the BRWRA.

On December 8, Wildlife Services investigated one dead cow in New Mexico near Rainy Mesa. The investigation determined the cow was hit and killed by a car back in September.

On December 24, members of the Coronado pack (M1051 and an uncollared pup) were reported exhibiting nuisance behavior. They were observed near residences with livestock and interacting with domestic dogs through a fence. The IFT responded to the area to monitor and haze the wolves.

### **CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

No significant activity to report.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

No significant activity to report.

### **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

No significant activity to report.

### **REWARDS OFFERED**

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