



Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

January 1-31, 2016

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona, including the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), San Carlos Apache Reservation (SCAR) and New Mexico. 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 www.azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at 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 www.azgfd.gov/signup. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The 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 semi-monthly wolf telemetry flight location information please visit www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/RWL.cfm

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.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

The Fish and Wildlife Service met with the 11 Southwestern Region Forest Supervisors on February 4 to give an overview of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department met with the Forest Service's Black Mesa Ranger District and local permittees on February 8 to discuss release/translocation sites for Mexican wolves.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department will participate in the USDA Wildlife Service's Non-Lethal Damage Management Workshop at the Hon dah Casino and Hotel on February 18.

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

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

Project personnel commenced the end-of-year population count on January 20. The population count will conclude February 6 and the minimum population estimate for 2015 will be available in February. As a result of survey and capture efforts associated with the end-of-year population count, the collared population at the end of January 2016 consisted of 52 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 20 packs and 2 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 AM1296, from the Mangas Pack. This wolf was re-collared and released it back into the pack territory.

On January 23, the IFT captured AF1295, from the Lava Pack. This wolf was re-collared and

released back into the pack territory.

On January 25, the IFT captured M1342, from the Elk Horn Pack. This wolf was re-collared and released back into the pack territory.

On January 25, the IFT captured and collared mp1453 from the Hawks Nest Pack. The wolf was processed and released back into the pack territory.

On January 25, the IFT captured m1383 from the Hawks Nest Pack, replaced the collar and released the wolf back into the pack territory.

On January 25, the IFT captured AM1341 from the Bluestem Pack. This wolf was fitted with a collar and released back into the pack territory.

On January 26, the IFT captured M1345 from the San Mateo Pack. The wolf was re-collared and released back into the pack territory.

On January 26, the IFT captured AF1115 from the Luna Pack. The wolf was re-collared and released back into the pack territory.

On January 26, the IFT captured AM1155 from the Luna Pack. The wolf was re-collared and released back into the Luna pack territory.

On January 26, the IFT captured m1354 from the Dark Canyon Pack. The wolf was re-collared and released on site.

On January 28, the IFT captured wolf M1249 from the Diamond Pack. The wolf was re-collared and released back into the pack territory.

On January 28, the IFT captured and collared mp1454 from the Diamond Pack. The wolf was released back into the pack territory.

On January 28, the IFT captured mp1442 from the Marble Pack. The wolf was evaluated for a foot injury and released back into the pack territory.

On January 28, the IFT captured AF1340 from the Marble Pack. The wolf died within minutes of being captured.

On January 28, the IFT captured AM1243 from the Marble Pack. The wolf was re-collared and released back in the pack territory.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared m1338 and f1335)

In January the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east-central

portion of the ASNF and the northeast portion of SCAR.

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, m1331, f1333, m1382, m1404, and f1443)

In January, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). Bluestem wolves' m1382 and f1443 have been located in their traditional territory during the month with at least two other uncollared wolves, while m1331, f1333, and f1405 have been located separate from the pack. Wolf m1331 has been located in the north-east portion of the GNF in New Mexico in January. Wolf f1333 has been traveling with the Hoodoo Pack. Wolf m1404 has been documented traveling with f1405 of the Buckalou pack.

Buckalou Pack (collared M1161 and f1405)

The collar on M1161 is non-functional. The wolf was not observed traveling with f1405 in January. Wolf m1404 was observed traveling with f1405 at the end of the month.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294 and M1342)

In January, the Elk Horn Pack continued to make broad movements within their traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF. On January 25, the IFT captured and replaced a non-functional radio collar on M1342. The wolf was released back into the Elk Horn territory.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, m1383, f1439 and mp1453)

In January, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. Wolf f1439 dispersed from the Hawks Nest Pack and has remained with M1296, of the Mangas Pack, in the northwestern portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF) in New Mexico. AF1280 was not observed with the Hawks Nest Pack in January. One uncollared wolf was documented traveling with the Hawks Nest Pack. On January 25 an uncollared wolf (now designated mp1453) and m1383 were captured, processed, and released back into the Hawks Nest Pack territory.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290 and mp1441)

In January, the Hoodoo Pack remained localized in the north-central portion of the ASNF. AM1290 has been located traveling with Bluestem f1333. Wolf mp1441 has rejoined AM1290 and f1333 and have been traveling together this month.

Marble Pack (collared AM1243, AF1340, mp1440, and fp1442)

In January, the Marble Pack was located in their traditional territory in the northwest-central portion of the ASNF. On January 28, the IFT captured AM1243, AF1340 and fp1442. AF1340 died within minutes of being captured. AM1243, formerly of the, Paradise Pack, was re-collared and released back into the Marble Pack territory. Wolf fp1442 was evaluated to assess a foot injury and released back into the Marble Pack territory.

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183 and AF1291)

During January, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and ASNF. The IFT has observed 2 uncollared wolves traveling with the pack this month.

Panther Creek Pack (F1339 and M1394)

During January, the Panther Creek Pack has been located in the east-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT observed 2 collared wolves with this pack in January.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared M1249, F1437, mp1447, and mp1454)

During January, the Diamond Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the north portion of the ASNF. Wolf mp1447 regularly traveled with the Diamond Pack and the IFT determined that this animal is a Diamond Pack member. On January 28, the IFT captured and re-collared M1249. On the same day, the IFT captured and collared mp1454. Both wolves were released back into the pack territory.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343, AF1283, fp1445)

During January, the Tsay o Ah Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR. The IFT documented 1 uncollared wolf traveling with the pack.

Single (mp1447)

During January, mp1447 was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR, traveling regularly and extensively with the Diamond Pack. The IFT determined that this animal is a Diamond Pack member.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Coronado Pack (collared AM1051)

During January, AM1051 of the Coronado Pack was documented on a trail camera traveling alone in the Gila Wilderness.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293, m1354, m1347, and fp1444)

During January, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). On January 26, the IFT captured and re-collared m1354. The wolf was processed, re-collared and released on site.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared m1396)

In January, the IFT documented the Fox Mountain Pack (m1396 and AM1158) outside of their traditional territory and traveling with f1397 of the Willow Springs Pack. Having been consistently located together for three months, f1397 is now considered a member of the Fox Mountain Pack.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240 and AF1278)

During January, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF.

Lava Pack (collared AF1295 and mp1446)

In January, the Lava Pack was located in its traditional territory between the Gila Wilderness and

the Elk Mountains. On January 23, the IFT captured AF1295. The wolf was re-collared, processed and released back into the packs territory. On January 27 the wolf died and was recovered. The cause of the death is pending due to necropsy being performed.

Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, and m1398)

During January, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT continues to document dispersal behavior of m1398 traveling between the east-central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and the north-central portion of the GNF in New Mexico. On January 26, the IFT captured via helicopter, both AM1155 and AF1115. The wolves were re-collared and released back into the pack territory.

Prieto Pack (collared m1386 and f1392)

During January, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. During January, f1392 has continued to be located with single wolf M1284 in the north-central portion of the GNF. Wolf m1386 displayed dispersal behavior in January, but was later located back within the packs territory.

San Mateo Pack (collared M1345)

During January, the San Mateo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portions of the GNF. F1399 was observed with M1345 in January.

Willow Springs Pack (collared f1397)

In January, the IFT located Willow Springs Pack f1397 in its traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF traveling with Fox Mountain m1396 and AM1158. Having been consistently located together for three months, f1397 is now considered a member of the Fox Mountain Pack.

M1284 (collared)

During January, the IFT located M1284 traveling with dispersing wolf f1392 from the Prieto Pack within the GNF in New Mexico.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296)

During January, M1296 was located traveling with dispersing wolf f1439 from the Hawks Nest Pack in north western portions of the GNF in New Mexico. On January 20, M1296 was captured during the helicopter population survey, re-collared and released back into the Mangas Pack territory.

MORTALITIES

Two wolf mortalities occurred in January:

On January 23, Lava Pack AF1295 was captured during the annual population survey, processed and released. The wolf was found dead on January 27. A necropsy will be conducted at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, to determine causes of death.

On January 28, Marble Pack AF1340 was captured, during the annual population survey. The wolf died within minutes of its capture. A necropsy will be conducted at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, to determine causes of death.

INCIDENTS

During January, there was 1 livestock depredation report involving wolves and no nuisance reports.

On January 16, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow north of the town of Luna in New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by a wolf.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

No significant activity to report

PROJECT PERSONNEL

No significant activity to report

REWARDS OFFERED

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

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



Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

February 1-29, 2016

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Field Code Changed

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Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

The Fish and Wildlife Service gave a presentation on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program to the US Forest Service's Region 3 Leadership Team in Tubac, AZ on February 4, 2016.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department met on February 8, 2016 with the Black Mesa and Lakeside Ranger Districts on the A/S National Forest and grazing permittees to discuss proposed release/translocation sites on the Sitgreaves National Forest, in Zone 1 of the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area. No initial releases of Mexican wolves are proposed on the Sitgreaves National Forest in 2016.

The Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team completed the 2015 Annual Count and Capture operation on February 6, 2016. The count resulted in a minimum of 97 Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico.

The IFT ceased the population count and capture operations on January 28, to review capture protocols and procedures after the deaths of two Mexican wolves (F1295 and F1340) which both died during the annual population count and capture operation this year. Both have been sent to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, which will conduct necropsies to determine causes of death for each wolf. The techniques, protocol, and drugs used were the same as those used throughout this year's count and last year's count. F1295 was darted and processed on January 23, released back into the wild and died four days later. F1340 was captured on January 28, and died within minutes of being darted. This year, 15 additional male and female wolves were successfully darted, processed, collared and released back into the wild. After completing the review, the Service determined that it was appropriate for the helicopter operations to continue on January 30. Due to this temporary suspension, some mechanical issues, and a few days of inclement weather, the helicopter operations were extended through the following week to ensure a complete population count for 2015. The 2015 population survey concluded on February 6.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department gave presentations at the USDA- Wildlife Service's Non-Lethal Predator Damage Management Workshop on February 18, 2016 at Hon Dah.

The Fish and Wildlife Service met with the Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife program In Window Rock, New Mexico on February 25, 2016 to discuss management of Mexican wolves.

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 concluded the end-of-year population count on February 6. As a result of survey and capture efforts associated with the count, the collared population at the end of February 2016 consisted of 50 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 18 packs and 2 single wolves. The overall minimum population estimate for the wolf population in 2015

was 97.

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 alive on December 31, as determined by the IFT;
3. Uncollared wolves confirmed by IFT personnel anytime during November, December and January.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared m1338 and f1335)

In February the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF and the northeast portion of SCAR.

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, m1331, f1333, m1382, m1404, and f1443)

In February, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). Bluestem wolves' AM1341, m1382 and f1443 have been located in their traditional territory during the month, while m1331, f1333, and f1405 have been located separate from the pack. Wolf m1331 has been located in the north-east portion of the GNF in New Mexico in January. Wolf f1333 has been traveling with the Hoodoo Pack. Wolf m1404 has been documented traveling with f1405 of the Buckalou pack. The IFT has been conducting a predation study on the Bluestem Pack during the month of February, visiting and analyzing potential kill sites and associated prey items.

Buckalou Pack (collared M1161 and f1405)

Wolf m1404 from the Bluestem pack was documented traveling with f1405 during this month. M1161 has a non-functional radio collar. The IFT has been unable to document M1161 traveling with the Buckalou Pack since m1404 began traveling with f1405.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294 and M1342)

In February, the Elk Horn Pack continued to make broad movements within their traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, M1383, and mp1453)

In February, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. Wolf f1439 has remained with M1296 of the Mangas Pack in the northwestern portion of the GNF in New Mexico and is now officially part of the Mangas pack. AF1280 died this month.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290 and mp1441)

In February, the Hoodoo Pack remained localized in the north-central portion of the ASNF.

AM1290 has been located traveling with Bluestem F1333. AM1290, F1333, and mp1441 have continued traveling together this month.

Marble Pack (collared AM1243, mp1440, and fp1442)

In February, the Marble Pack was located in their traditional territory in the northwest-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT has been conducting a predation study on the Marble Pack during the month of February.

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183 and AF1291)

During February, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and ASNF. The IFT has observed 2 uncollared wolves traveling with the pack this month.

Panther Creek Pack (F1339 and M1394)

During February, the Panther Creek Pack has been located in the east-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT observed 2 collared wolves with this pack in January.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared M1249, f1437, mp1447, and mp1454)

During February, the Diamond Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the north portion of the ASNF. M1249 and f1437 spent the majority of the month on the FAIR and mp1447 and mp1454 spent the majority of the month on the ASNF.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343, AF1283, fp1445)

During February, the Tsay o Ah Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Coronado Pack (collared AM1051)

AM1051 of the Coronado Pack was not located in February.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293, m1354, m1347, and fp1444)

During February, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). M1293 was not located in February and mp1444 displayed movements suggesting possible dispersal. M1347 was located outside the Dark Canyon Pack territory for most of February.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared m1396)

In February, the IFT documented the Fox Mountain Pack within their new territory in the north central portion of the GNF. Wolf m1396 was documented traveling with AF1115 of the Luna Pack in mid-February.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240 and AF1278)

During February, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion

of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF.

Lava Pack (collared mp1446)

In February, the Lava Pack was located in its traditional territory between the Gila Wilderness and the Elk Mountains

Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, and m1398)

During February, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT continues to document dispersal behavior of m1398 traveling mainly in portions of the GNF in New Mexico. In mid-February, AM1155 was documented separate from the Luna Pack and AF1115 was located traveling with m1396 of the Fox Mountain Pack. During February AF1115 and m1396 of the Fox Mountain were involved in the death of two cows; the IFT has initiated hazing efforts and established a diversionary food cache.

Prieto Pack (collared m1386, mp1445 and f1392)

During February, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. On February 4, during the annual population survey, an uncollared wolf was captured, collared, released and assigned studbook number mp1455. Wolf f1392 has continued to be located with single wolf M1284 in the north-central portion of the GNF during February.

San Mateo Pack (collared M1345)

During February, the San Mateo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portions of the GNF.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296, F1439)

During February, M1296 was located traveling with dispersing wolf f1439 from the Hawks Nest Pack in north western portions of the GNF in New Mexico. In February, f1439 became a member of the Mangas Pack, having been located traveling with M1296 for three months.

M1284 (collared)

During February, the IFT located M1284 traveling with dispersing wolf f1392 from the Prieto Pack within the GNF in New Mexico. On February 4, during the annual population survey, M1284 was captured and recollared.

MORTALITIES

In February, AF1280 from the Hawks Nest Pack was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During February, there were 8 livestock depredation reports involving wolves and no nuisance reports.

On February 8, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Cerro Montosa in Arizona. The investigation confirmed the cow was killed by wolves and assigned to uncollared wolves, or uncollared wolves associated with the Diamond Pack.

On February 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Cerro Montosa in Arizona. The investigation confirmed the cow was killed by wolves. The depredation was assigned to the Diamond Pack.

On February 20, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Y canyon in New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by wolves. The depredation was assigned to Luna Pack AF1115 and m1396 of the Fox Mountain Pack.

On February 23, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Y canyon in New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow died from calving complications.

On February 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Y canyon in New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by wolves. The depredation was assigned to Luna Pack AF1115 and m1396 of the Fox Mountain Pack.

On February 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Hard Castle Gap in New Mexico. The investigation determined that the calf died of natural causes.

On February 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Hard Castle Gap in New Mexico. The investigation determined that the cow died of unknown causes.

On February 29, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow near Y canyon in New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow died of unknown causes, but likely calving complications.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On February 11 project personnel gave a presentation as part of the University of California, Riverside, Deep Canyon Lecture Series in Palm Springs, CA. Approximately 250 people were in attendance.

On February 12, the IFT presented a Mexican Wolf Project update to 55 people at the McDowell Mountain Regional Park

On February 18, the IFT participated and presented at the Less than Lethal workshop set up by USDA Wildlife Services.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In February, Becca Thomas-Kuzilik, a USFWS volunteer left the program. Thanks for all your help Becca!

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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Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

The Fish and Wildlife Service, the Mexican government, the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah and independent scientists from both countries met in Wickenburg, Arizona for the second recovery planning workshop for the Mexican wolves. The participants continued to review demographic information for the Vortex model, which will evaluate extinction risk of various recovery scenarios, and explored availability of GIS layers that would enable modelling habitat in both the United States and Mexico.

The Fish and Wildlife Service met with the Mexican Wolf Tribal Working Group to discuss various issues regarding recovery planning and ongoing implementation of the revised 10j Rule.

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 March 2016, the wild Mexican wolf population consisted of 50 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 18 packs and one single wolf.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared m1338 and f1335)

In March the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF and the northeast portion of SCAR.

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, m1331, m1382, m1404, and f1443)

In March, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). Bluestem wolves AM1341, m1382 and f1443 have been located in their traditional territory during the month, while m1331 and f1405 have been located separate from the pack. Wolf m1331 has been located in the north-east portion of the GNF in New Mexico in March. Wolf f1333 has been traveling with the Hoodoo Pack for three months and is now considered a Hoodoo Pack member. Wolf m1404 has been documented traveling with f1405 of the Buckalou pack. The IFT conducted a predation study on the Bluestem Pack during the month of March.

Buckalou Pack (collared M1161 and f1405)

Wolf m1404 from the Bluestem Pack was documented traveling with f1405 during this month. M1161 has a non-functional radio collar. The IFT has been unable to document M1161 traveling with the Buckalou Pack since m1404 began traveling with f1405.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294 and AM1342)

In March, the Elk Horn Pack continued to travel within their traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, M1383, and mp1453)

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

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, F1333 and mp1441)

In March, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north-central portion of the ASNF. AM1290, F1333, and mp1441 have continued traveling together for three months. F1333 is now considered part of the Hoodoo Pack.

Marble Pack (collared AM1243, mp1440, and fp1442)

In March, the Marble Pack was located in their traditional territory in the northwest-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT has been conducting a predation study on the Marble Pack during the month of March.

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183 and AF1291)

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

Panther Creek Pack (F1339 and M1394)

During March, the Panther Creek Pack has been located in the east-central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared M1249, f1437, mp1447, and mp1454)

During March, the Diamond Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the north portion of the ASNF. M1249 and f1437 spent the majority of the month on the FAIR and mp1447 and mp1454 spent the majority of the month on the ASNF.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343, AF1283, fp1445)

During March, the Tsay O Ah Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Coronado Pack (collared AM1051)

AM1051 of the Coronado Pack was not located in March.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293, m1354, m1347, and fp1444)

During March, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). Wolf m1354 was not located in March, M1293 was located separate from other pack members but near the southern extent of the packs territory, and mp1444 continued to display dispersal behavior. Wolf m1347 was located outside the Dark Canyon Pack territory for most of March.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared f1397 and m1396)

In March, the IFT documented the Fox Mountain Pack within their new territory in in the north central portion of the GNF. Wolf m1396 continued to be documented traveling with AF1115 of the Luna pack.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240 and AF1278)

During March, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF.

Lava Pack (collared mp1446)

In March, the Lava Pack was located in its traditional territory between the Gila Wilderness and the Elk Mountains

Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, and m1398)

During March, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT continues to document dispersal behavior of m1398 traveling mainly in portions of the GNF in New Mexico. Wolf M1398 is not considered a single wolf. Wolf AF1115 was located traveling with m1396 of the Fox Mountain Pack again throughout March.

Prieto Pack (collared m1386, mp1445 and f1392)

During March, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. F1392 has been located traveling separate from the pack and with m1284 for three months; f1292 and m1284 have been designated the SBP pack.

San Mateo Pack (collared M1345)

During March, the San Mateo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portions of the GNF.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296, F1439)

During March, in the Mangas pack was located within their territory in north-western portions of the GNF in New Mexico.

M1284 (collared)

During March, the IFT located M1284 traveling with dispersing wolf f1392 from the Prieto Pack within the GNF in New Mexico. M1294 and f1392 have been consistently located together for three months and have been designated the SBP pack.

MORTALITIES

In March, fp1442 from the Marble Pack was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During March, there were 9 livestock depredation reports involving wolves and no nuisance reports.

On March 1, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow died of unknown causes.

On March 2, WMAT investigated a dead cow on the eastern portion of the FAIR. The investigation determined the cow died of unknown causes.

On March 4, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by a bear.

On March 9, WMAT investigated a dead cow and unborn calf on the eastern portion of the FAIR. The investigation determined the cow and calf died of illness/pregnancy complications.

On March 12, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by wolves.

On March 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was killed by wolves.

On March 15, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow died of unknown causes.

On March 15, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined that the calf died of unknown causes.

On March 25, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined that the cow died of unknown causes.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On March 2, project personnel gave a project update at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

On March 8, WMAT gave a wolf project/predator presentation at the Rainbow Treatment Center on the FAIR.

On March 15, WMAT gave a wolf project/predator presentation at the Alchesay Event Center on the FAIR.

On March 28, the Mexican Wolf Executives Management Team met in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

On March 29, the Mexican Wolf Management Team met in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In March, Rowan Converse, a USFWS volunteer left the program. Thanks for all your hard work Rowan!

In March, Kenneth Loonam, a USFWS volunteer left the program. Thanks for all your hard work Kenneth!

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 Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

April 1-30, 2016

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona, including the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), San Carlos Apache Reservation (SCAR), and New Mexico. 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 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 semi-monthly wolf telemetry flight location information please visit <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/RWL.cfm>

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.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

Fish and Wildlife Service staff participated in the Arizona Ecological Services Office's Tribal meeting on April 6, to discuss issues regarding the revised regulations for the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area and recovery planning.

The Service, the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah; the Mexican agencies SEMARNAT and CONANP; the U.S. Embassy; and independent scientists from the U.S. and Mexico met in Mexico City April 11 to 14 to continue discussions on Mexican wolf demographics and genetics and develop information for habitat modelling in the U.S. and Mexico for the development of a revised recovery plan for the Mexican wolf.

On April 26, 2016, the Service signed a settlement agreement with the State of Arizona and Defenders of Wildlife and other environmental groups to complete a new recovery plan for the Mexican wolf. The new recovery plan is scheduled to be published by the end of November 30, 2017. The Service also agreed to complete an independent peer review of the draft recovery plan, in accordance with the Service's Peer Review Policy and to solicit and consider all available scientific and commercial information from appropriate State agencies and other entities as specified in the Peer Review Policy. The Service will submit reports on the status of the recovery planning process to the Court and to the parties to the litigation at six month intervals.

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 2016, the wild Mexican wolf population consisted of 53 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 19 packs and two single wolves.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared M1338 and F1335)

In April the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior by the Bear Wallow Pack.

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, M1331, M1382, M1404, and F1443)

In April, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). Wolves AM1341 and F1443 have been located in the traditional Bluestem territory during the month. Wolf M1331 has been located in the north-east portion of the GNF in New Mexico in April.

Buckalou Pack (collared M1404, F1405 and M1161)

Wolf M1404, from the Bluestem Pack, was documented traveling with F1405 during this month. M1161 has a non-functional radio collar. The IFT has been unable to document M1161 traveling with the Buckalou Pack since M1404 began traveling with F1405.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294 and AM1342)

In April, the Elk Horn Pack continued to travel within their traditional territory in the northeast portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented denning behavior by this pack this month. On April 30, two pups were flown to Arizona from the Brookfield Zoo and cross-fostered into the Elk Horn litter.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, M1383, and mp1453)

In April, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The Hawks Nest Pack did not exhibit denning behavior during April.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333 and m1441)

In April, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented denning behavior by the Hoodoo Pack this month. On April 25, the IFT documented that the Hoodoo pack had killed a calf elk near Nutrioso Reservoir. After removing the elk carcass away from development and into the national forest, the Hoodoo Pack was reported near a residence and approaching some chickens. The home owner hazed the wolves away and no further incidents have occurred.

Marble Pack (collared AM1330 and m1440)

At the beginning of April, the Marble Pack consisted of three wolves: AM1330, mp1440, and one uncollared yearling. During April, these wolves split up and have been making broad dispersal movements. AM1330 dispersed onto the FAIR and the southern portion of the ASNF, and has remained in traditional Bluestem Pack territory. Beginning April 18, m1440 has been in New Mexico and traveling east. No denning behavior has been documented from this pack.

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183 and AF1291)

In April, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and ASNF. No denning behavior has been documented by this pack this month.

Panther Creek Pack (F1339 and M1394)

In April, the Panther Creek Pack has been located in the east-central portion of the ASNF. No denning behavior has been documented by this pack.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared M1249, f1437, mp1447, and mp1454)

During March, the Diamond Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR, the north portion of the ASNF, and non-public land in Arizona. Wolf f1437 was not heard or located during the month of April.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343, AF1283, fp1445)

During March, the Tsay O Ah Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Coronado Pack (collared AM1051)

AM1051 of the Coronado Pack was not located in April.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293, M1354, M1347, and m1444)

During April, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). Wolf M1354 was not located in April, M1293 was located separate from other pack members but near the southern extent of the packs territory, and m1444 continued to display dispersal behavior. Wolf m1347 was located outside the Dark Canyon Pack territory for most of March.

Fox Mountain Pack (collared F1397 and M1396)

In April, the IFT documented the Fox Mountain Pack within their new territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT continues to believe that AM1158 is traveling with F1397. Wolf M1396 continued to be documented traveling with AF1115 of the Luna pack.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240 and AF1278)

During April, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. The IFT documented denning behavior by the Iron Creek Pack in late April.

Lava Pack (collared m1446)

No evidence of the Lava Pack was documented by the IFT during the month of April.

Luna Pack (collared AM1155, AF1115, and M1398)

During April, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT continues to document dispersal behavior of M1398 traveling mainly in portions of the GNF in New Mexico. Wolf AF1115 was located traveling with M1396 of the Fox Mountain Pack again throughout April. The IFT has documented denning behavior by the Luna Pack in April.

Prieto Pack (collared M1386, m1445 and F1392)

During April, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has documented denning behavior by this pack in April.

San Mateo Pack (collared M1345 and F1399)

During April, the IFT documented M1345 and F1399 traveling together within their territory in the north-central portion of the GNF.

Sheepherder's Baseball Park Pack (AM1284 and AF1392)

On April 23 the IFT fostered two captive-born pups from the Endangered Wolf Center outside St. Louis, MO, into this pack in New Mexico.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296, F1439)

During April, in the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in north-western portions of the GNF in New Mexico.

MORTALITIES

No mortalities were documented during the month of April.

INCIDENTS

During April, there were three livestock depredation reports involving wolves and one nuisance report.

On April 2, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron county New Mexico. The cause of death was due to unknown causes.

On April 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow died of unknown causes.

On April 25, AM1290 and m1441 from the Hoodoo Pack were seen close to private property in Nutrioso. The wolves were seen going toward some chickens. The home owner scared the wolves away and no further incidences have occurred. The IFT investigated the report and confirmed it was the Hoodoo Pack.

On April 26, WMAT investigated an injured calf on the FAIR. The cause of injury was determined to be coyotes.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On April 14, WMAT conducted a wildlife presentation at Williams Creek Fish Hatchery on the FAIR.

On April 20, WMAT conducted a wildlife presentation at Whiteriver Elementary School on the FAIR.

On April 22, WMAT conducted a wildlife presentation at Fort Apache on the FAIR.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

No significant activity to report.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000; and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican

wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged an additional \$46,000 for a total reward amount of up to \$58,000, depending on the information provided.

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



Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

May 1-31, 2016

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona, including the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), San Carlos Apache Reservation (SCAR), and New Mexico. 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 www.azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at 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 www.azgfd.gov/signup. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The 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 semi-monthly wolf telemetry flight location information please visit www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/RWL.cfm

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.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

The Fish and Wildlife Service participated in the New Mexico Ecological Services Office's annual Tribal Workshop on Endangered Species on May 5, 2016, and gave a presentation on the status of the Mexican wolf and on-going recovery planning workshops. The Tribal Workshop was attended by several New Mexico Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations, who provided their perspectives on Mexican wolf recovery.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Fish and Wildlife Service participated in the annual Trilateral Committee meeting, which was held in Ottawa, Ontario the week of May 16, 2016. The FWS provided a joint presentation with Carlos Lopez from Mexico on the status of the Mexican wolf and on-going recovery planning workshops.

The FWS attended a court hearing in Federal District Court in Albuquerque on May 26, 2016, on the State of New Mexico's Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction against the FWS for further initial releases and cross-fostering of Mexican wolves in the State of New Mexico. The Judge will provide a ruling within 7-10 days of the hearing.

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 May 2016, the wild Mexican wolf population consisted of 53 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 19 packs and six single wolves.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In May the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. At the beginning of May the Bear Wallow Pack started making broad movements within their territory indicating they probably lost their den.

Bluestem Pack (collared AF1042, AM1341, M1331, M1382, M1404, and F1443)

In May, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the Apache-Sit greaves National Forest (ASNF). The IFT has not been able to locate AM1341 during the month. On May 21, an uncollared wolf was captured, collared and designated f1488. The wolf was then released on site. On May 23, an uncollared wolf was trapped collared and designated f1489. The wolf was then released on site. Wolves f1488 and f1489 have been located with F1443 from the Bluestem Pack after they were collared and released. At the end of May the IFT documented denning behavior in the Bluestem Pack. Wolf M1331 has been located

separate from the Bluestem Pack for three months and is now considered a single wolf.

Buckalou Pack (collared M1404 and F1405)

Wolf M1404, from the Bluestem Pack, was documented traveling with F1405 during this month. The IFT has been unable to document M1161 traveling with the Buckalou Pack since M1404 began traveling with F1405. M1161 has not been located for three months and is now considered fate unknown. M1404 has been located travelling with F1405 for three months and is now considered part of the Buckalou Pack. The IFT has not documented denning behavior in the Buckalou Pack for during the month of May.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294 and AM1342)

In May, the IFT continued to document denning behavior by this pack this month. The Elk Horn Pack has periodically used a food cache set up by the IFT to supplement the pack due to the two pups cross-fostered into the pack's litter in April.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, M1383, and m1453)

In May, the Hawks Nest Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The Hawks Nest Pack did not exhibit denning behavior during May.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333 and m1441)

In May, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to document denning behavior by the Hoodoo Pack this month. The IFT has documented the Hoodoo Pack utilizing the food cache set up for them this month to prevent potential depredation issues in the area.

Marble Pack (collared AM1330 and m1440)

At the beginning of May, the Marble Pack consisted of three wolves: AM1330, mp1440, and one uncollared yearling. AM1330 has traveled within the northwestern portion of the ASNF during the month of May. Wolf m1440 has been traveling separately from AM1330 in New Mexico. No denning behavior has been documented from this pack.

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183 and AF1291)

In May, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and ASNF. While the Maverick Pack has localized during the month of May, it is not known whether the pack is denning at this time.

Panther Creek Pack (F1339 and M1394)

In May, the Panther Creek Pack has been located in the east-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented denning behavior by this pack during the month of May. On May 9, the IFT cross-fostered two female pups into the Panther Creek Pack. The pack has utilized a food cache set up to supplement the extra pups in the litter and has been documented using the food cache.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared M1249, f1437, mp1447, and mp1454)

In May, the Diamond Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR, the north portion of the ASNF, and non-public land in Arizona. f1437 was not heard or located during the month of May. It is not yet known if the pack denned.

Tsay o Ah Pack (collared M1343, AF1283, fp1445)

In May, the Tsay-o-Ah Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR. Wolf fp1445 minimally traveled to the northwestern portion of the ASNF. The pack exhibited denning behavior and pups were documented.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Coronado Pack (collared AM1051)

AM1051 of the Coronado Pack was not located in May. M1051 has not been documented in 3 months and is considered fate unknown.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, AF923, M1293, M1354, M1347, and f1444)

During May, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). During May, M1293 continued to display dispersal behavior and is now considered a single wolf f1444 continued to display dispersal behavior, M1354 and M1347 have also not been located with the pack for three months and are now considered single wolves: however, neither M1354 nor M1347 were located during May. In May, AF923 was located dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

In May, the IFT documented the Willow Springs Pack within their new territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT documented that AM1158 of the Fox Mountain pack was actually traveling with the Luna Pack and therefore has re-designated F1397 the Willow Springs Pack.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240 and AF1278)

During May, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. The IFT documented denning behavior by the Iron Creek Pack in late May. The IFT was able to count a minimum of 5 pups produced by the Iron Creek Pack during the month.

Lava Pack (collared m1446)

No evidence of the Lava Pack was documented by the IFT during the month of May. The Lava Pack has not been documented for three months and is now considered defunct.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115, and AF1487)

During May, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. AM1158 of the Fox Mountain Pack was documented with the Luna Pack, and appeared to be pair-bonded with AF1115; indicating that it has been traveling with the Luna Pack for some time and is considered a member of the Luna Pack. On May 10, an uncollared

wolf was captured, collared and designated f1487. On May 21, f1487 was re-captured and it was determined it was a lactating female wolf. This is the first time the IFT has documented two wolves in the same pack having bred. The IFT believes AM1158 and AF1115 bred, and that M1396 and AF1487 may have bred based on behavioral observations. Genetic analysis of any pups captured later in the year will hopefully elucidate this. On May 24, M1396 was captured and removed from the wild in accordance with a USFWS removal order for repeated livestock depredation. The IFT is maintaining a diversionary and supplemental food cache in efforts to reduce potential for further livestock depredations and to assist the Luna pack while raising pups following the removal of M1396.

Prieto Pack (collared M1386, m1455, and f1456)

During May, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT has continued to document denning behavior by this pack. During May the IFT documented that AF1251 was lactating via remote camera.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1345 and AF1399)

During May, the IFT documented AM1345 and AF1399 traveling together within their territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT believes that AF1399 is denning due to evidence captured on a remote trail camera in the packs' home range.

SBP Pack (AM1284 and AF1392)

In May the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. In May, the IFT continued to document denning behavior and documented that AF1392 was still lactating via remote camera. A supplemental food cache has been maintained for the pack throughout May. As May progressed the SBP Pack began making broad movements suggesting that they are no longer denning.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296, F1439)

During May, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in north-western portions of the GNF in New Mexico. No denning behavior has been documented by this pack during the month of May.

Single M1398

During May, M1398 continued to make movements in Arizona and New Mexico.

Single AM1155

AM1155, formerly of the Luna pack was displaced by members of the Fox Mountain Pack in February and is now considered a Single wolf. During May, AM1155 was documented traveling in NM on the outskirts of its former territory.

MORTALITIES

In May, AF923 of the Dark Canyon Pack was located dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During May, there were nine livestock depredation reports involving wolves and no nuisance reports.

On May 1, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron county New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by a wolf.

On May 10, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County in Arizona. The investigation determined the calf died of unknown causes.

On May 13, Wildlife Services investigated three dead cows and 1 dead calf in Catron County New Mexico. The investigation determined all four animals were killed by wolves.

On May 21, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by a wolf or wolves.

On May 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County in Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was killed by a wolf.

On May 28, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was killed by a wolf or wolves.

On May 29, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County in New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was killed by a wolf or wolves.

On May 30, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County in Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was killed by a wolf.

On May 31, Wildlife Services investigated three dead calves in Apache County in Arizona. The investigation determined the calves died due to unknown causes.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On May 18, a member of the IFT gave a presentation to the Winslow elementary school at Bear Canyon Lake.

On May 30, a member of the IFT gave a presentation to a High School class from Corona Del Sol at the Alpine Divide Campground.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

During May, Elizabeth Karlake started a volunteer position with the USFWS. Welcome Elizabeth!

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 Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

June 1-30, 2016

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona, including the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), San Carlos Apache Reservation (SCAR), and New Mexico. 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 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 semi-monthly wolf telemetry flight location information please visit <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/RWL.cfm>

Please report any wolf sightings or suspected livestock depredations to: the Alpine wolf office (928) 339-4329, Pinetop wolf office (928-532-2391) 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.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

On June 2, the public information specialists from the Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Forest Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and Eastern Arizona Counties met with Biologists from these agencies to discuss ways that the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program can improve outreach and communication to communities and interested parties in Arizona and New Mexico.

The Forest Service convened a meeting/conference call on June 16 with the Farm Services Agency (FSA), Fish and Wildlife Service, and Arizona Game and Fish Department to seek

clarification on the implementation of the FSA Livestock Indemnity Program, which provides funding to livestock producers for wolf depredations.

On June 29, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced the request for proposals for the 2016 Livestock Demonstration grants, which are grants to states and tribes that are competitive at a national level. In the Southwest, these grants have been awarded in the past to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, and the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

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 June 2016, the wild Mexican wolf population consisted of 47 wolves with functional radio collars in 19 packs and 5 single wolves.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared M1338 and F1335)

In June the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. During this month, the Bear Wallow pack has re-localized and is once again showing denning behavior, suggesting that the den may not have been lost.

Bluestem Pack (collared M1382, F1443, f1488, f1489)

In June, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). Wolves F1443, f1488 and f1489 have been consistently located together near the Bluestem den. Two pups have been confirmed for Bluestem pack this year. M1382 continues to travel throughout Arizona and New Mexico.

Buckalou Pack (collared M1404 and F1405)

M1404 and F1405 continue to travel together between Arizona and New Mexico in both the Gila and Apache National Forests.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294 and AM1342)

In June, the IFT continued to document denning behavior by this pack this month. The Elk Horn Pack has periodically used a food cache set up by the IFT to supplement the pack due to the two pups cross-fostered into the pack's litter in April.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, M1383, and m1453)

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

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333 and m1441)

In June, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north-central portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to document denning behavior by the Hoodoo Pack this month. The Hoodoo Pack has continued to utilize the food cache put in place for them to prevent potential depredation issues in the area.

Marble Pack (collared AM1330)

In June, the Marble Pack consisted of two collared wolves: AM1330 and m1440. AM1330 has traveled within the northwestern portion of the ASNF during the month of June, has remained somewhat localized, and has been documented traveling alone. Wolf m1440 was found dead in New Mexico this month; the incident is under investigation.

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183 and AF1291)

In June, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and ASNF. The Maverick Pack has localized and is showing signs of denning.

Panther Creek Pack (F1339 and M1394)

In June, the Panther Creek Pack has been located in the east-central portion of the ASNF. This pack continues to show denning behavior and to utilize the food cache that the IFT has maintained for them.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared M1249, F1437, m1447, and m1454)

In June, the Diamond Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR, the northwest portion of the ASNF, and non-public land in Arizona. Following a period of not being heard, F1437 was heard in the northwest portion of the ASNF. It is not yet known if this pack denned.

Tsay-o-Ah Pack (collared AM1343, AF1283, f1445)

In June, the Tsay-o-Ah Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR. f1445 traveled to the northwestern portion of the ASNF.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, and f1444)

During June, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west-central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). During June, f1444 returned to its traditional territory.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240 and AF1278)

During June, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. A diversionary food cache is being maintained for the Iron Creek Pack to mitigate potential wolf-livestock conflicts.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115, AM1158, and F1487)

During June, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The IFT is maintaining a diversionary and supplemental food cache in efforts to reduce potential for further livestock depredations and assist other pack members feed pups following the removal of M1396.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296, F1439)

During June, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in north-western portions of the GNF in New Mexico.

Prieto Pack (collared M1386, AF1251, AM1387, m1455, and f1456)

During June, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. In June, the IFT documented a minimum of four pups produced with the Prieto pack. A diversionary food cache is being maintained for the Prieto Pack to reduce potential wolf-livestock conflicts.

San Mateo Pack (collared M1345 and F1399)

During June, the IFT documented M1345 and F1399 traveling together within their territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. In June, AF1399 was captured and recollared, it was determined that AF1399 was lactating confirming reproduction. The IFT has continued to document denning behavior by this pack. A diversionary food cache is being maintained for the San Mateo Pack to reduce potential wolf-livestock conflicts.

SBP Pack (AM1284 and AF1392)

In June the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north-central portion of the GNF. The supplemental food cache was discontinued following abandonment of use by the SBP Pack. In June, the IFT began predation-study on the SBP pack to assess native ungulate kill-rates; data collected during predation study suggests the survival of at least one pup.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

In June, the IFT documented the Willow Springs Pack within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single M1398

During June, M1398 continued to make movements in Arizona and New Mexico.

Single M1293

During June, M1293 was located within the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico.

Single AM1155

During June, AM1155 was documented traveling in NM on the outskirts of his former territory.

Single M1347

During June, M1347 was located in Arizona and documented traveling with F1445 of the Tsay O Ah Pack.

Single M1354

M1354 has not been located for three months and is now considered Fate Unknown.

MORTALITIES

In June, m1440 of the Marble Pack was located dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

In June, Single M1161 was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

In June, F1395 of the Hoodoo Pack was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During June, there were nine livestock depredation reports involving wolves and no nuisance reports.

On June 1, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron county New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On June 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron county New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On June 9, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows in Catron county New Mexico. The carcasses were old and the investigation could not determine if the cows were killed by wolves.

On June 12, Wildlife Services investigated a dead bull in Catron county New Mexico. The investigation determined the bull was a confirmed wolf kill.

On June 15, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County in Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On June 20, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow calf pair in Catron county New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill and the cow was a probable wolf kill.

On June 23, Wildlife Services investigated an injured calf in Catron county New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill, it died from its injuries.

On June 23, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Yavapai County in Arizona. The investigation determined the cow was not killed by wolves.

On June 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron county New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On June 8, WMAT presented to a group of WMAT Game and Fish Natural Resource Youth Interns in Whiteriver, AZ.

On June 15, WMAT presented to a Tribal natural resource/climate change youth program, from Cibecue, in Whiteriver, AZ.

On June 28, WMAT presented to a group of Tribal teens, as part of their summer science curriculum, at Alchesay Highschool, in Whiteriver, AZ.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In June, five Tribal youth interns joined the WMAT Mexican Wolf Tribal Youth Summer Conservation Program. Welcome, interns!

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 Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

July 1-31, 2016

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona, including the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), San Carlos Apache Reservation (SCAR), and New Mexico. 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 www.azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at 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 www.azgfd.gov/signup. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The 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 semi-monthly wolf telemetry flight location information please visit www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/RWL.cfm

Please report any wolf sightings or suspected livestock depredations to: the Alpine wolf office (928) 339-4329, Pinetop wolf office (928-532-2391) 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.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

On July 28, personnel from WMAT and USFWS presented to WMAT Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Tribal Council in Whiteriver, AZ.

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

Population monitoring requires year round effort documenting births, deaths, survival, total numbers, and distribution all culminating in the end of the year population counts. Currently, there are 19 packs and 4 single wolves, which include 44 wolves with functioning radio collars that are used by the IFT to collect this data.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared M1338 and F1335)

In July, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). During this month, the Bear Wallow pack ceased to show denning behavior.

Bluestem Pack (collared M1382, F1443, f1488, f1489)

In July, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Wolves F1443, f1488 and f1489 were consistently located together near the Bluestem den. Three pups have been confirmed for Bluestem pack this year. M1382 continued to travel throughout Arizona and New Mexico on its own for the first part of the month; however, it was found with the rest of the Bluestem pack during the latter part of the month.

Buckalou Pack (collared F1405)

In July, F1405 continued to travel between Arizona and New Mexico in both the Gila and Apache National Forests. M1404 was found dead in New Mexico; the incident is under investigation.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294 and AM1342)

In July, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to document denning behavior by this pack this month. The Elk Horn Pack has periodically used a food cache set up by the IFT to supplement the pack due to the two pups cross-fostered into the pack’s litter in April. A minimum of one pup was documented from the Elk Horn Pack in July.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038, M1383, and m1453)

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

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333 and m1441)

In July, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to document denning behavior by the Hoodoo Pack this month. The Hoodoo Pack has continued to utilize the food cache put in place for them to prevent potential depredation issues in the area. The Hoodoo Pack had a minimum pup count of two in July.

Marble Pack (collared AM1330)

In July, AM1330 made wide dispersal movements across the ASNF and the FAIR and has been documented as travelling alone. The Marble Pack consists of one collared wolf.

Maverick Pack (collared AM1183 and AF1291)

In July, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and ASNF. The Maverick Pack localized and continued to show signs of denning.

Panther Creek Pack (F1339 and M1394)

In July, the Panther Creek Pack has been located in the east central portion of the ASNF. The Panther Creek Pack continued to show denning behavior and utilize the food cache that the IFT has maintained for them.

Single M1398

During July, M1398 was located in Arizona within the southeast portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared M1249, F1437, m1447, and m1454)

In July, the Diamond Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the north central portion of the ASNF. m1454 made wide dispersal movements in the north central portion of the ASNF and north of the ASNF on private and state trust land. It is not yet known if the pack denned.

Tsay-o-Ah Pack (collared AM1343, AF1283, f1445)

In July, Tsay-o-Ah was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR. f1445 traveled into ASNF occasionally. f1445 was documented traveling with M1347.

Single M1347

During July, M1347 was located on the eastern portion of the FAIR and the east central portion of the ASNF. M1347 was documented traveling with f1445.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, and f1444)

During July, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). In late July, AM992 began making movements outside of its traditional territory.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240 and AF1278)

During July, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. A diversionary food cache is being maintained for the Iron Creek Pack to mitigate potential wolf-livestock conflicts. In July, a wildland fire burned near the pack's rendezvous site. Following the fire, the pack moved back toward the food cache. The IFT documented a minimum of 3 pups following the move and continues to monitor the pack for any negative impacts due to the fire.

Luna Pack (collared AF1115, AM1158, and F1487)

During July, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT is maintaining a diversionary and supplemental food cache in efforts to reduce potential for further livestock depredations.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296, F1439)

During July, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in north western portions of the GNF in New Mexico.

Prieto Pack (collared M1386, AF1251, AM1387, m1455, and f1456)

During July, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The diversionary food cache was removed in July.

San Mateo Pack (collared M1345 and F1399)

During July, the IFT documented M1345 and F1399 traveling together within their territory in the north central portion of the GNF and has continued to show denning behavior. A diversionary food cache is being maintained for the San Mateo Pack to reduce potential wolf-livestock conflicts.

SBP Pack (AM1284 and AF1392)

In July the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

In July, the IFT documented the Willow Springs Pack within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single M1293

During July, M1293 was located within the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico.

Single AM1155

During July, AM1155 was documented traveling in NM on the outskirts of its former territory.

MORTALITIES

In July, m1404 of the Buckalou Pack was located dead in New Mexico. This incident is under investigation.

In July, AF1115 of the Luna Pack was located dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During July there were ten livestock depredation reports involving wolves and no nuisance reports.

On July 2, Wildlife Services investigated an injured calf in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was injured by a wolf.

On July 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On July 6, Wildlife Services investigated an injured calf that later died from its injuries in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was not injured by wolves.

On July 11, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On July 15, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined both calves were not killed by wolves.

On July 16, Wildlife Services investigated an injured calf in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was injured by a wolf.

On July 19, Wildlife Services investigated an injured horse in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the horse was injured by a wolf. The horse was euthanized days later.

On July 20, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow and calf in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill and the cow was a probable wolf kill.

On July 23, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was not killed by wolves.

On July 26, Wildlife Services investigated an injured calf in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was injured by a wolf.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On July 21 and 22, the IFT completed annual chemical immobilization training.

On July 23 through July 25, the IFT completed bi-annual helicopter training.

On July 29, a member of the IFT gave a presentation to a group at the Big Lake campground in Arizona.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In July, Jeff Dolphin resigned from the AGFD. Jeff had worked with the IFT for 9 years, most recently as the Mexican Wolf Project Field Supervisor for the AGFD. Thank you Jeff for your dedication and commitment to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Project.

REWARDS OFFERED

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

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Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project Monthly Update - August 1-31, 2016

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Past updates may be viewed on either website, or interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically.

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To view semi-monthly wolf telemetry flight location information please visit www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/RWL.cfm.

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.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

The USFWS presented information on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program to a closed session of the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council on July 28, 2016.

The USFWS attended the annual Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan meeting held August 1-4 at Chico Hot Springs in Pray, MT. The meeting was also combined, for the first time, with the Red Wolf Program's Species Survival Plan meeting.

The USFWS held the 4th Mexican wolf recovery planning workshop in Albuquerque, NM August 22 and 23, 2016. The workshop was attended by staff from the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah, the Mexican government agencies CONANP (National Commission of Natural Protected Areas) and SEMARNAT (Secretariat of Environmental and Natural Resources) and independent scientists from both countries. The workshop focused on review of a habitat model across the border region and input parameters for the Vortex model, which will be used to evaluate extinction risk of various recovery scenarios.

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

Population monitoring requires year round effort documenting births, deaths, survival, total numbers, and distribution all culminating in the end of the year population counts. Currently, there are 19 packs and 4 single wolves, which include 47 wolves with functioning radio collars that are used by the IFT to collect this data.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared M1338, F1335 and fp1548)

In August, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). A female pup, fp1548, in the Bear Wallow Pack was captured, collared and released in the month of August. This confirmed that Bear Wallow

did produce pups, with a minimum count of one.

Bluestem Pack (collared M1382, F1443 and f1488)

In August, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Wolves F1443, f1488 and M1382 were consistently located together near the Bluestem den.

Buckalou Pack (collared F1405)

In August, F1405 continued to travel between Arizona and New Mexico in both the Gila and Apache National Forests.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, AM1342 and mp1474)

In August, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented rendezvous behavior by this pack during the month of August. The Elk Horn Pack has periodically used a food cache set up by the IFT to supplement the pack due to the two pups cross-fostered into the pack's litter in April. A male pup, mp1474, with the Elk Horn Pack was captured, collared and released in the month of August. This pup was not one of the two pups cross-fostered into the Elk Horn Pack in April.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

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

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1441, fp1549 and fp1550)

In August, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented rendezvous behavior by the Hoodoo Pack this month. The Hoodoo Pack has continued to utilize the food cache put in place for them to prevent potential depredation issues in the area. Two female pups, fp1549 and fp1550, with the Hoodoo Pack were caught, collared and released.

Marble Pack (collared AM1330)

AM1330 was not heard or located during the month of August. The Marble Pack consists of one collared wolf.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In August, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and

ASNF. Pup tracks were documented in Maverick territory during the month of August.

Panther Creek Pack (collared F1339 and M1394)

In August, the Panther Creek Pack was been located in the east central portion of the ASNF. The Panther Creek Pack continued to show denning behavior and utilize the food cache that the IFT has maintained for them to supplement the pack due to the two pups cross-fostered into the Panther Creek Pack in April.

Single collared M1398

During August, M1398 was not located.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared AM1249, m1447)

In August, the Diamond Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR, the northwest portion of the ASNF, and non-public land in Arizona. m1454 was found dead in Arizona, on non-Tribal land; the incident is under investigation. Pups were documented traveling with the pack.

Tsay-o-Ah Pack (collared AM1343, AF1283, f1445)

In August, Tsay-o-Ah was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR. f1445 traveled into ASNF occasionally. f1445 was documented traveling with M1347.

Single collared M1347

During August, M1347 was located on the eastern portion of the FAIR and the east central portion of the ASNF. M1347 was documented traveling with f1445.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992, and f1444)

During August, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). AM992 was documented back in its traditional territory.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240 and AF1278)

During August, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. A diversionary food cache is being maintained for the Iron Creek Pack to mitigate potential wolf-livestock conflicts.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, and F1487)

During August, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT is maintaining a diversionary and supplemental food cache in efforts to reduce potential for further livestock depredations.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296, F1439)

During August, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in north western portions of the GNF in New Mexico.

Prieto Pack (collared M1386, AF1251, AM1387, m1455, and f1456)

During August, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

San Mateo Pack (collared AM1345 and AF1399)

During August, the IFT documented AM1345 and AF1399 traveling together within their territory in the north central portion of the GNF and has continued to show denning behavior. A diversionary food cache is being maintained for the San Mateo Pack to reduce potential wolf-livestock conflicts.

SBP Pack (collared AM1284 and AF1392)

In August the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. AM1284 was not located during August.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

In August, the IFT documented the Willow Springs Pack within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared M1293

During August, M1293 was located within the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico.

Single collared AM1155

During August, AM1155 was documented traveling within New Mexico.

MORTALITIES

In August, m1454 of the Diamond Pack was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under

investigation.

INCIDENTS

During August there were seven livestock depredation reports and no nuisance reports. Five of the seven depredation reports were confirmed wolf kills.

On August 2, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On August 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On August 12, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On August 23, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On August 25, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the cow had died from unknown cause.

On August 25, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On August 31, Wildlife Services investigated a dead yearling cow in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the yearling cow had died from unknown causes.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On August 4, AGFD gave a presentation on the Mexican wolf reintroduction at the 2016 Southwest Wings Festival in Sierra Vista.

On August 10 and 11, WMAT presented at the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society – Southwest Region Conference on the Navajo Reservation.

On August 11, the USFWS gave a presentation on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program to the University of New Mexico's continuing education program.

On August 16, WMAT presented at a community meeting in Cibecue, AZ.

On August 30, the USFWS gave a presentation on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program to the Rio Rancho Rotary.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In August, WMAT Mexican Wolf Tribal Youth Conservation Interns: Hanna Kindelay, Tiexiera Clitso, Rosel Ethelbah, Marissa Gregg, and Hiram Lee concluded their internship. Thanks for all of your dedication and work!

In August, Steven Nagy began as a volunteer/intern with the USFWS. Welcome to the program Steven!

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 Reintroduction Project

Monthly Update - September 1-30, 2016

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona, including the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), San Carlos Apache Reservation (SCAR), and New Mexico. 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 www.azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website** at 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.

This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The Project is a multi-agency cooperative effort among the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS WS), and the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT).

To view semi-monthly wolf telemetry flight location information please visit <http://bit.do/mexicanwolf> or www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/RWL.cfm.

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.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

On September 1, The Mexican Wolf/Livestock Council met to approve payments for Mexican wolf presence for calendar year 2015. Checks from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will be sent out to livestock producers who qualified for the payments within the next few weeks.

On September 28, The Fish and Wildlife Service met with the Forest Service Southwestern Regional Office to discuss issues surrounding public communication, coordination on release sites, and data sharing.

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. Studbook numbers listed in the monthly updated denote wolves with functioning radio collars. The Interagency Field Team (IFT) recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

Population monitoring requires year round effort documenting births, deaths, survival, total numbers, and distribution all culminating in the end of the year population counts. Currently, there are 20 packs and 3 single wolves, which include 47 wolves with functioning radio collars that are used by the IFT to collect this data.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In September, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). The female pup, fp1548, captured in August in the Bear Wallow Pack slipped its collar in September, but is believed to be healthy and still with the Bear Wallow Pack.

Bluestem Pack (collared M1382, F1443 and f1488)

In September, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The pack continued to display rendezvousing behavior through the month.

Buckalou Pack (collared F1405)

In September, F1405 continued to travel between Arizona and New Mexico in both the Gila and Apache National Forests.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, AM1342, mp1474 and mp1471)

In September, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. A male pup, mp1471, with the Elk Horn Pack was captured, collared and released in the month of September. mp1471 is one of the two pups cross-fostered into the Elk Horn Pack in April 2016. The IFT documented rendezvous behavior by this pack during the month of September. The Elk Horn Pack has periodically used a food cache set up by the IFT to supplement the pack due to the cross-foster of two pups this spring.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

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

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1441, fp1549 and fp1550)

In September, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented rendezvous behavior by the Hoodoo Pack this month. The Hoodoo Pack has continued to utilize the food cache put in place for them to prevent potential depredation issues in the area.

Marble Pack (collared AM1330)

AM1330 was not heard or located during the month of September. The Marble Pack consists of one collared wolf.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

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

Panther Creek Pack (collared F1339 and M1394)

In September, the Panther Creek Pack was been located in the east central portion of the ASNF. The Panther Creek Pack continued to show rendezvousing behavior and utilize the food cache that the IFT has maintained for them to supplement the pack due to the two pups cross-fostered into the Panther Creek Pack in April. A male pup, mp1486, was captured, collared, and released in September. mp1486 is not one of the pups cross-fostered into the Panther Creek Pack.

Single collared M1398

During September, M1398 was located in Arizona and New Mexico. On September 16, M1398 was captured, processed and released.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared m1447)

In September, the Diamond Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the northwest portion of the ASNF. Visual observations by the IFT confirmed AM1249 was traveling with the pack in September.

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

In September, the Tsay-o-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

Baldy Pack (collared M1347 and f1445)

In September, M1347 and f1445 were documented maintaining a territory together for at least three months – therefore they are considered a pack. f1445 is formerly from the Tsay-o-Ah Pack and M1347 is formerly from the Dark Canyon Pack in New Mexico. The pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR and northern portion of the ASNF.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992 and f1444)

During September, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). f1444 was documented via trail camera traveling alone.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, mp1555 and mp1556)

During September, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. A diversionary food cache is being maintained for the Iron Creek Pack to mitigate potential wolf-livestock conflicts. On September 29, an uncollared male pup was captured, collared and assigned studbook number 1555. On September 30, an uncollared male pup was captured, collared, and assigned studbook number 1556. AM1240 and AF1278 were also captured and re-collared on September 30.

Luna Pack (collared AF1487 and mp1554)

During September, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT is maintaining a diversionary and supplemental food cache in efforts to reduce potential for further livestock depredations. On September 28, an uncollared male pup was captured, collared and assigned studbook number 1554.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and F1439)

During September, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in north western portions of the GNF in New Mexico.

Prieto Pack (collared M1386, m1455, f1456, M1552 and f1553)

During September, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. On September 14, an uncollared adult male was captured, collared and assigned studbook number 1552. On September 15, an uncollared yearling female was captured, collared and assigned studbook number 1553.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During September, the IFT documented AM1345 and AF1399 traveling together within their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. A diversionary food cache is being maintained for the San Mateo Pack to reduce potential wolf-livestock conflicts. On September 3, an uncollared female pup was captured, collared and assigned studbook number 1551. Unfortunately, the pup slipped its collar a few weeks later. Trapping efforts will continue this fall.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack

In September, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. AM1284 was not located during September. AF1392 was located dead in New Mexico in September; the incident is under investigation. The IFT is trying to secure good opportunities to re-collar AM1284 or any surviving pups.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

In September, the IFT documented the Willow Springs Pack within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared M1293

During September, M1293 was located within the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. A public sighting report suggests M1293 may be traveling with an uncollared wolf.

Single collared AM1155

During September, AM1155 was documented traveling within New Mexico.

MORTALITIES

In September, AF1392 of the SBP Pack was located dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During September there were ten livestock depredation reports and one nuisance report. Six of the ten depredation reports were confirmed wolf kills.

On September 3, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Navajo County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf had been hit by a vehicle and died from related causes.

On September 5, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined both cows were confirmed wolf kills.

On September 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On September 7, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the cow had died from unknown cause.

On September 9, AGFD and Wildlife Services investigated a report of two wolves fighting with dogs and acting aggressive toward people near Young, AZ. The investigation determined domestic dogs were involved in the reported incident, not Mexican wolves.

On September 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On September 15, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the cow had been killed by coyotes.

On September 16, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the cow died of unknown causes.

On September 25, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On September 26, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On September 29, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On September 15, WMAT presented at a community meeting in Cedar Creek, AZ.

On September 27, WMAT presented on KNNB radio in Whiteriver, AZ.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In September, Cyrenea Piper began her position in the IFT as a biologist with the USFWS. Welcome to the program Cyrenea!

In September, Rae Nickerson began as a volunteer/intern with the USFWS. Welcome to the program Rae!

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 Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

October 1 - 31, 2016

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona, including the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), San Carlos Apache Reservation (SCAR), and New Mexico. 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 www.azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at 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 www.azgfd.gov/signup. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The 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 semi-monthly wolf telemetry flight location information please visit <http://bit.do/mexicanwolf> or www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/RWL.cfm.

Please report any wolf sightings or suspected livestock depredations to: the Alpine wolf office (928) 339-4329, Pinetop wolf office (928-532-2391) 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.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

The USFWS assisted the Rio Grande Zoo with public education during Wolf Awareness Week on October 20, 2016.

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. Studbook numbers listed in the monthly updated denote wolves with functioning radio collars. 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

Population monitoring requires year round effort documenting births, deaths, survival, total numbers, and distribution. Mortality occurs throughout the year and is particularly high on young pups, so while the IFT has documented reproduction this year, the IFT will not have a complete idea of how many of these young pups and adults have died until the annual population survey which is conducted in the winter. Annual surveys are conducted in the winter because it is when the population is experiencing the least amount of natural fluctuation (i.e. in the spring the population increases dramatically with the birth of new pups and declines throughout the summer and fall as mortality is particularly high on young pups). Thus, the IFT summarizes the total number of wolves in the winter at a fairly static or consistent time of year. This allows for comparable year-to-year trends at a time of year that accounts for most mortality and survival of young pups. At this time, the IFT’s best estimate is that there was a minimum of 97 wolves in the wild as of December 31, 2015. At the current time there are 53 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT is actively monitoring.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In October, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Bluestem Pack (collared M1382, F1443, and f1488)

In October, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The pack continued to display rendezvousing behavior through the month and periodically used a diversionary food cache to prevent potential depredation issues in the area.

Buckalou Pack (collared F1405)

In October, F1405 dispersed from Arizona and localized in the east central portion of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, AM1342, mp1474, and mp1471)

In October, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented rendezvous behavior by this pack during the month of October. The Elk Horn Pack has periodically used a food cache set up by the IFT to supplement the pack due to the cross-foster of two pups this spring. A minimum of two uncollared pups were documented traveling with the Elk Horn pack this month.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

In October, the Hawks Nest Pack was typically located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented a dispersal movement by AM1038 west onto the FAIR.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1441, fp1549, and fp1550)

In October, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented rendezvous behavior by the Hoodoo Pack this month. The Hoodoo Pack has continued to utilize the food cache put in place for them to prevent potential depredation issues in the area. A minimum of three uncollared pups were documented traveling with the Hoodoo Pack this month.

Marble Pack (collared AM1330)

AM1330 was not heard or located during the month of October and is now considered fate unknown.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

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

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1394, mp1483, fp1484, fp1485, and mp1486)

In October, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. The Panther Creek Pack continued to show rendezvousing behavior and utilize the food cache that the IFT has maintained for them to supplement the pack due to the two pups cross-fostered into the Panther Creek Pack in April. One male pup (mp1483) and two female pups (fp1484 and fp1485) were captured, collared, and released in October. These pups were wild-born and were not one of two pups cross-fostered into the Panther Creek Pack. A minimum of six pups were documented traveling with the pack this month, confirming that at least one cross-fostered pup survived to October.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared m1447, f1557, mp1558, mp1559, and fp1560)

In October, the Diamond Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the northern portion of the ASNF. One female (f1557), one female pup (fp1560), and two male pups (mp1558 and mp1559) were captured, collared, and released in October. The IFT confirmed AM1249 was traveling with the pack in October.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared AM1343 and AF1283)

In October, the Tsay-o-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

Baldy Pack (collared M1347 and f1445)

In October, the Baldy Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR and northern portion

of the ASNF.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992 and f1444)

During October, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF).

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278 and mp1556)

During October, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. A diversionary food cache is being maintained for the Iron Creek Pack to mitigate potential wolf-livestock conflicts. During October, mp1555, a male pup that had been captured at the end of September, slipped its collar.

Luna Pack (collared AF1487 and mp1554)

During October, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT is maintaining a diversionary and supplemental food cache in efforts to reduce potential for further livestock depredations.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and F1439)

During October, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in north western portions of the GNF in New Mexico. On October 24, a private trapper captured F1439 and contacted the IFT. Members from the IFT responded immediately, processed, recollared and released the female wolf onsite.

Prieto Pack (collared M1386, m1455, f1456, M1552 and f1553)

During October, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. f1553 was documented traveling apart from the Prieto Pack with single male wolf M1398 in the west central portion of the GNF.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During October, the IFT documented AM1345 and AF1399 traveling together within their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The diversionary food cache that had been established and maintained since April was removed. No known wolf/livestock conflicts were documented for the San Mateo pack during the 2016 denning season.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack

During October, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. AM1284 was documented on trail camera traveling with pups. The IFT began trapping efforts in October to recollar AM1284 and collar any pups.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

During October, the IFT documented the Willow Springs Pack within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared M1293

During October, M1293 was located within the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. Trapping efforts were initiated in October to recollar M1293, along with any wolves traveling with him.

Single collared AM1155

During October, AM1155 was documented traveling within New Mexico.

Single collared M1398

During October, M1398 was documented traveling with f1553 of the Prieto Pack in the west central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

There were no mortalities documented in the month of October.

INCIDENTS

During October, there were seven livestock depredation reports and no nuisance reports. Six of the seven depredation reports were confirmed or probable wolf kills.

On October 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On October 8, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On October 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was a probable wolf kill.

On October 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On October 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by coyotes.

On October 15, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On October 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

In the end of September, USFWS personnel presented two informational talks on Mexican wolf recovery to around 250 Phoenix Zoo staff and patrons.

In October, USFWS gave two presentations on Mexican wolf recovery at The Wildlife Society National Conference in Raleigh, NC.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In October, USFWS volunteer Elizabeth Karslake completed her six month position to pursue other professional endeavors. Thank you Elizabeth for your hard work and dedication, and best wishes in your pursuits!

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 Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

November 1 - 30, 2016

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona, including the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), San Carlos Apache Reservation (SCAR), and New Mexico. 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 www.azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at 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 www.azgfd.gov/signup. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The 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 semi-monthly wolf telemetry flight location information please visit <http://bit.do/mexicanwolf> or www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/RWL.cfm

Please report any wolf sightings or suspected livestock depredations to: the Alpine wolf office (928) 339-4329, Pinetop wolf office (928-532-2391) 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.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service convened the 5th Mexican wolf recovery planning workshop November 2-4 in Tucson, AZ. Represented at the workshop were the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, the Mexican governmental agencies SEMARNAT and CONANP, the USDA Forest Service and independent scientists from the United States and Mexico. The workshop participants continued with review of scientific information for analyzing areas of suitable habitat and input variables for the VORTEX model.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service met on November 16 to discuss coordination of Mexican wolf recovery efforts, including outreach and NEPA analysis of proposed release sites in Zone 1 of the revised Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area.

In the month of November, The Fish and Wildlife Service sent letters inviting the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS) to become partners in the Mexican wolf recovery program. Both agencies have land management responsibilities within the boundaries of the revised Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area.

On November 30, the Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as members of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico State Game Commission, biologists from CONANP and the University of Queretaro, Mexico, biologists from the Turner Endangered Species Fund (TESF) and several volunteers captured a family of 11 wolves at the TESF Ladder Ranch Wolf Management Facility. The wolves were collared, crated, and transported to Chihuahua, Mexico for release into the wild.

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. Studbook numbers listed in the monthly updated denote wolves with functioning radio collars. 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

Population monitoring requires year round effort documenting births, deaths, survival, total numbers, and distribution. Mortality occurs throughout the year and is particularly high on young pups, so while the IFT has documented reproduction this year, the IFT will not have a complete idea of how many of these young pups and adults have died until the annual population survey which is conducted in the winter. Annual surveys are conducted in the winter because it is when the population is experiencing the least amount of natural fluctuation (i.e. in the spring the population increases dramatically with the birth of new pups and declines throughout the summer and fall as mortality is particularly high on young pups). Thus, the IFT summarizes the total number of wolves in the winter at a fairly static or consistent time of year. This allows for comparable year-to-year trends at a time of year that accounts for most mortality and survival of young pups. At this time, the IFT’s best population estimate is that there was a minimum of 97 wolves in the wild as of December 31, 2015. End of year counts for 2016 are currently ongoing and will be completed in February. At the end of November, there were 54 wolves with

functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In November, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Bluestem Pack (collared M1382, F1443, fp1562 and fp1563)

In November, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. They periodically used a diversionary food cache established by the IFT to prevent potential depredation issues in the area. Two female pups (fp1562 and fp1563) were captured, collared and released in early November. Some wolves from the Bluestem Pack displayed dispersal behavior during the month. AF1042 was documented in New Mexico traveling in the vicinity of the Shepherders Baseball Park Pack. F1433 was documented traveling with m1447, of the Diamond Pack, in New Mexico near the Arizona border.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, AM1342, mp1474 and mp1471)

In November, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented rendezvous behavior by this pack during the month of November. A minimum of two uncollared pups were documented traveling with the Elk Horn pack this month.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

In November, the Hawks Nest Pack was mostly located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented dispersal movements by AM1038.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1441, fp1549, and fp1550)

In November, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented rendezvous behavior by the Hoodoo Pack this month. A minimum of three uncollared pups were documented traveling with the Hoodoo Pack this month.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

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

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1394, mp1483, fp1484, and mp1486)

In November, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. The Panther Creek Pack continued to show rendezvousing behavior during the month of November. A female pup, fp1485, was located dead in November and the incident is under investigation.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared m1447, f1557, mp1558, mp1559 and fp1560)

In November, the Diamond Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the northern portion of the ASNF.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared AM1343 and AF1283)

In November, the Tsay-o-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

Baldy Pack (collared M1347 and f1445)

In November, the Baldy Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR and northern portion of the ASNF.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992 and f1444)

During November, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF).

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278 and mp1556)

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

Lava Pack (collared F1405)

During November, the IFT documented F1405 (formerly of the Buckalou Pack) traveling with M1285 of the Lava Pack. The IFT trapped and re-collared F1405 and this pack is traveling in the south eastern portion of the GNF.

Luna Pack (collared AF1487 and mp1554)

During November, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and F1439)

During November, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in north western portions of the GNF in New Mexico.

Prieto Pack (collared M1386, m1455, f1456, M1552, f1553 and fp1565)

During November, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. There has been dispersal behavior documented for M1386, m1455, f1456 and M1552 within the GNF. Sub-adult, f1553, continues to be documented apart from the Prieto Pack and traveling with single male wolf M1398 in the west central portion of the GNF.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During November, the IFT documented the San Mateo Pack within their territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284)

During November, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. AM1284 was captured, re-collared and released. The IFT has documented

the survival of pups with the SBP Pack.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

During November, the IFT documented the Willow Springs Pack within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and mp1561)

During November, the IFT documented that AM1293 had formed a pack and had pups. One of these male pups, mp1561, was captured, collared and released in November by the IFT. This is the first documented wolf pack that has formed naturally within the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico.

Single collared AM1155

During November, AM1155 was documented traveling within New Mexico.

Single collared M1398

During November, M1398 was documented traveling with f1553 of the Prieto Pack in the west central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

During November, a female pup, fp1485, of the Panther Creek Pack was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During November, there was one livestock depredation report and no nuisance reports. There were no confirmed or probable wolf kills.

On November 28, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was killed by coyotes.

On November 7, an uncollared sub-adult male wolf, M1564, was captured and removed to captivity due to previous depredations associated with a removal order. Genetic analysis confirmed M1564 dispersed from the Hawk's Nest Pack. The removal of M1564 completed the removal order, and the FWS will evaluate the potential for this wolf to contribute to recovery in the future.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On November 3, WMAT presented to a school group in Whiteriver, Arizona.

On November 14 and 15, the WMAT Mexican Wolf Program and the WMAT Rangeland Management Program met with the WMAT Tribal Cattle Associations regarding the Tribal Payment for Wolf presence application and funding for wolf/livestock mitigation measures.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

There are no personnel updates for the month of November.

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 Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

December 1 - 31, 2016

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) activities in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona, including the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), San Carlos Apache Reservation (SCAR), and New Mexico. 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 www.azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at 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 www.azgfd.gov/signup. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The 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 semi-monthly wolf telemetry flight location information please visit <http://bit.do/mexicanwolf> or www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/RWL.cfm

Please report any wolf sightings or suspected livestock depredations to: the Alpine wolf office (928) 339-4329, Pinetop wolf office (928-532-2391) 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.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

Genetic results from a male pup, mp1561, in the Leopold Pack indicate that the breeding female of the Leopold Pack is AF1346; a pup cross-fostered into the Dark Canyon Pack in 2014. This confirms the first instance of a Mexican wolf cross-fostered into a wild den surviving to and successfully reproducing offspring. This is a significant accomplishment in recovery efforts to increase genetic diversity in the wild population through cross-fostering efforts. M1347 of the Baldy Pack was also cross-fostered into the Dark Canyon pack in 2014. M1347 has survived to reproductive age and has paired with f1445 which was named the Baldy Pack by the IFT in September 2016.

On December 1, 2016, the Mexican Wolf/Livestock Council met to discuss requests for depredation compensation that varied from the depredation compensation guidelines. The Council also discussed how they would use estate funds that were provided to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for conservation of the Mexican wolf.

On December 6, 2016, the Fish and Wildlife Service gave a recovery award to Chairman Lupe of the White Mountain Apache Tribe for their exceptional contributions to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. The Mexican wolf population on the 1.6 million-acre Fort Apache Indian Reservation has grown and now contributes substantially to the overall recovery of the Mexican wolf. Over fifteen years ago, the White Mountain Apache Tribe became the first tribe to officially facilitate Mexican wolf recovery.

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. Studbook numbers listed in the monthly updated denote wolves with functioning radio collars. 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

Population monitoring requires year round effort documenting births, deaths, survival, total numbers, and distribution. Mortality occurs throughout the year and is particularly high on young pups, so while the IFT has documented reproduction this year, the IFT will not have a complete idea of how many of these young pups and adults have died until the annual population survey which is conducted in the winter. Annual surveys are conducted in the winter because it is when the population is experiencing the least amount of natural fluctuation (i.e. in the spring the population increases dramatically with the birth of new pups and declines throughout the summer and fall as mortality is particularly high on young pups). Thus, the IFT summarizes the total number of wolves in the winter at a fairly static or consistent time of year. This allows for comparable year-to-year trends at a time of year that accounts for most mortality and survival of young pups. At this time, the IFT’s best population estimate is that there was a minimum of 97 wolves in the wild as of December 31, 2015. End of year counts for 2016 are currently ongoing and will be completed in February 2017. At the end of December, there were 56 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In December, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Bluestem Pack (collared M1382, F1488, F1443, fp1562, and fp1563)

In December, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. M1382 and F1488 from the Bluestem Pack displayed dispersal behavior during the month. F1443 continued to travel with m1447, of the Diamond Pack, in New Mexico near the Arizona border.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, AM1342, mp1474, and mp1471)

In December, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

In December, the Hawks Nest Pack was mostly located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT documented movements by AM1038 outside of the normal pack territory. Two additional sets of wolf tracks with AM1038 and photos from a remote camera indicate male sub-adults M1383 and m1483 from the Hawks Nest Pack may still be traveling with AM1038.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1441, fp1549, and fp1550)

In December, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north central portion of the ASNF.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In December, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and ASNF. AM1183 was documented traveling with AF1291.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1394, mp1483, fp1484, and mp1486)

In December, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared m1447, f1557, mp1558, mp1559 and fp1560)

In December, the Diamond Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR, the northern portion of the ASNF and on private lands north of the ASNF. Sub-adult m1447 continued to be documented traveling with F1443, of the Bluestem Pack, in New Mexico near the Arizona border.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared AM1343 and AF1283)

In December, the Tsay-o-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

Baldy Pack (collared M1347 and f1445)

In December, the Baldy Pack was located in the eastern portion of the FAIR and northern portion of the ASNF.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992 and f1444)

During December, the IFT located this pack within its traditional territory in the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). During December, f1444 was often located near Eagle Peak in NM.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278 and mp1556)

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

Lava Pack (collared F1405)

During December, the IFT continued to document F1405 (formerly of the Buckalou Pack) traveling within the Lava Pack's traditional territory in the south eastern portion of the GNF.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and mp1561)

During December, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and southern portion of the GNF.

Luna Pack (collared AF1487 and mp1554)

During December, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and F1439)

During December, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in north western portions of the GNF in New Mexico.

Prieto Pack (collared M1386, m1455, f1456, M1552, f1553 and fp1565)

During December, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. There has been dispersal behavior documented for M1386, m1455, f1456, f1553 and M1552 within the GNF. Remote cameras documented f1553 and M1398 traveling with AF1251 and other uncollared wolves in the Prieto Pack. Photos from remote cameras taken later in the month revealed AF1251 traveling with M1398 and f1553 was traveling with AM1284 of the SBP Pack.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During December, the IFT documented the San Mateo Pack within their territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284)

During December, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. AM1284 was documented on remote cameras traveling with f1553 of the Prieto Pack.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

During December, the IFT documented the Willow Springs Pack within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared AM1155

During December, AM1155 was documented traveling within New Mexico.

Single collared M1398

During December, M1398 was documented traveling with AF1251 of the Prieto Pack in the west central portion of the GNF.

Single collared M1354

During December, M1354 was documented traveling in southern portions of the GNF and northern Gila Wilderness. M1354 has been documented traveling with members of the Leopold Pack; M1354 is a full sibling of AM1293.

MORTALITIES

There were no documented mortalities in the month of December.

INCIDENTS

During the month of December, there was one confirmed wolf depredation and no nuisance reports.

On December 14, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Apache County, Arizona. The investigations determined both of the calves were killed by coyotes.

On December 18, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On December 23, Wildlife Services investigated a dead adult cow in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the cow died from unknown causes.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On December 7, 2016, the Fish and Wildlife Service met with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the Chairman of the New Mexico State Game Commission to discuss issues regarding the recovery of the Mexican wolf.

On December 8, 2016, the Fish and Wildlife Service convened a meeting of the Mexican Wolf Tribal Working Group to discuss the status of recovery planning for the Mexican wolf.

On December 14, 2016, the Fish and Wildlife Service presented on Mexican wolves and the Mexican Wolf Recovery program for the Superstition Area Land Trust in Apache Junction.

On December 14, 2016 WMAT met with the USDA-Farm Service Agency regarding livestock

loss compensation options for Tribal cattle growers.

On December 15, 2016, the Fish and Wildlife Service held a community information meeting in Young, Arizona to discuss the status of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program and listen to issues and concerns raised by the public. The US Forest Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department were in attendance.

On December 20, 2016 the Fish and Wildlife Service met with the US Forest Service regarding coordination of Mexican wolf recovery efforts, including the status of NEPA review for release sites in Zone 1 of the expanded Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area.

On December 29, 2016 WMAT presented on Mexican wolf biology and recovery at a community event in Vermont.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

During December, USFWS volunteer Craig Zurek left the volunteer program for other professional opportunities. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication Craig!

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.