



Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

January 1 - 31, 2017

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

On January 18, 2017, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on the Preliminary Injunction on releases of Mexican wolves in New Mexico. The Court has not yet ruled.

The Mexican Wolf Executive Committee met January 25, 2017, at the Arizona Game and Fish Department office in Phoenix, Arizona.

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

The IFT completed the annual year-end population survey which started in November 2016 and concluded with helicopter count and capture operations conducted from January 26, 2017 through February 5, 2017. The IFT documented a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. In 2015, the minimum count was 97 wild wolves. At the end of the annual count and capture operation, there were 66 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Wolves with functioning radio collars during the month of January are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

Annual surveys are conducted in the winter as this 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.

IN ARIZONA:

January pack updates include the annual helicopter count and capture operation which occurred from January 26, through February 5, 2017.

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In January, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). During the annual count and capture operation, two uncollared wolves were documented traveling with AM1338 and AF1335. AF1335 was captured, re-collared, and released back into its territory.

Bluestem Pack (collared M1382, F1488, F1443, fp1562, fp1563, mp1568 and mp1573)

In January, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Some wolves 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. F1488 was documented traveling with another wolf near Alpine. M1382 was documented traveling with AF1339 of the Panther Creek Pack. During the annual count and capture operation, F1488 and two Bluestem pups (mp1568 and mp1573) were captured, collared, and released back into their territory.

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

In January, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. During the annual count and capture operation, a female Elk Horn pup was captured, collared, and released back into its territory. The IFT has yet to receive results from genetic analysis of a blood sample taken from the female Elk Horn pup that will reveal if the pup was wild born or a cross fostered animal from captivity.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

In January, the Hawks Nest Pack consisted of one collared wolf, AM1038. AM1038 made wide dispersal movements within the north central portion of the ASNF throughout the month and was located in New Mexico in the GNF toward the end of the month. During the annual count and capture operation, AM1038 was documented traveling alone.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1441, fp1549, fp1550 and f1567)

In January, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north central portion of the ASNF. During the annual count and capture operation, AF1333 was captured, re-collared, and released back into its territory. Subadult m1441 was documented traveling separately from the Hoodoo Pack in January. During the annual count and capture operation an uncollared female subadult wolf (f1567) traveling with m1441 was captured, collared, and released back into its territory.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In January, 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 January, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. During the annual count and capture operation, Bluestem M1382 was documented traveling with AF1339; AM1394 was not located during the month of January. AF1339 and a male pup were captured, collared, and released back into their territory. The IFT has yet to receive results from genetic analysis of a blood sample taken from the male Panther Creek pup that will reveal if the pup was wild born or a cross fostered animal from captivity.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared m1447, f1557, mp1559, fp1560, fp1570, mp1571 and mp1572)

In January, the Diamond Pack was located in the northern portion of the ASNF and on state lands north of the ASNF. Subadult m1447 continued to be documented traveling with F1443, of the Bluestem Pack, in New Mexico near the Arizona border. During the annual count and capture operation, AM1249 and mp1558 were captured and removed to captivity in response to repeated and confirmed cattle depredations. Three pups (fp1570, mp1571 and mp1572) were

captured, collared, and released back into their territory.

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

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

Baldy Pack (collared M1347 and f1445)

The Baldy Pack was not located during the month of January.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992)

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

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278 and mp1556)

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. During the annual count and capture operation, all members of the Iron Creek Pack were observed from helicopter traveling together along the northern edge of the Gila Wilderness.

Lava Pack (collared F1405 and AM1285)

During January, F1405 (formerly of the Buckalou Pack) was located within the Lava Pack's traditional territory in the south eastern portion of the GNF; F1405 is now considered a member of the Lava Pack. During the annual count and capture operation, AM1285 was captured, recollared, and released into the Lava Pack territory.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346 and mp1561)

During January, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness. During the annual count and capture operation, AF1346 was captured, collared, and released into the Leopold pack territory.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487 and mp1554)

During January, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. An independent trapper captured AM1158 in a coyote trap; the IFT responded immediately and recollared AM1158 (collar had failed in 2015) and released the animal on site into its territory. During the annual count and capture operation, AF1487 was captured, recollared, and released back into the Luna pack territory.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and F1439)

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

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, M1386, m1455, f1456, M1552, f1553, fp1565 and mp1569)

During January, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central

portion of the GNF. AF1251 continues to be located with M1398 and other members of the Prieto Pack. During the annual count and capture operation, AF1251, M1398, fp1565, and an uncollared pup were observed traveling together. Throughout January, including visual observation from the helicopter, f1553 was documented traveling with AM1285 of the SBP Pack. M1386, m1455, f1456, and M1552 continued to display dispersal behavior within the GNF. M1552 was documented making a large distance dispersal movement north of I-40 in early January before quickly returning to Mexican wolf occupied range within the GNF. M1455 was observed traveling alone. AF1251, f1456, and an uncollared pup (mp1569) were captured, collared and released during the annual count and capture operation.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During January, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. All members of the San Mateo Pack were observed from the helicopter traveling together during the annual population survey.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284)

During January, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. During the annual count and capture operation, AM1284 was observed traveling with f1553 of the Prieto Pack.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

During January, the IFT documented the Willow Springs Pack within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. During the annual count and capture operation, F1397 was documented traveling alone.

Single collared AM1155

During January, AM1155 was documented traveling within New Mexico. During the annual count and capture operation, AM1155 was documented traveling alone.

Single collared M1398

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

Single collared M1354

During January, M1354 was documented traveling in southern portions of the GNF and northern Gila Wilderness. M1354 was observed traveling alone during the annual count and capture operation and later observed traveling with a sibling wolf (f1444).

Single collared f1444

During January, f1444 was documented traveling mostly within west central portions of the Gila National Forest (GNF). Although f1444 continued to utilize portions of its natal pack's territory, it has not been located with other members of its pack and is now considered a single wolf. During the annual count and capture operations, f1444 was observed traveling with a sibling wolf (M1354).

MORTALITIES

During January, F1437 was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During the month of January, there were five confirmed wolf kills and one nuisance report.

On January 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf died from unknown causes.

On January 25, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was killed by coyotes.

On January 26, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was killed by coyotes.

On January 26, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Catron County, New Mexico. The investigation determined both calves were confirmed wolf kills.

On January 27, the IFT received a report of a collared wolf observed traveling into Alpine Heights in Arizona on the night of January 26. The IFT learned a homeowner in Alpine Heights had an animal get into an outside trash container that same night. The IFT responded on January 27 and found tracks from a domestic dog in the snow around the trash container.

On January 28, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On January 30, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Apache County, Arizona. The investigations determined both of the calves were confirmed wolf kills.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

January 10, the Fish and Wildlife Service attended the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council meeting to listen to concerns regarding funding and management of Mexican wolves on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

On January 25, the Fish and Wildlife Service attended the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council meeting to discuss funding and management of Mexican wolves on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

On January 26, the Fish and Wildlife Service presented in Albuquerque to members of Amigos, the Southwest Regional Forest Service Retirees club.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In January, Genevieve Fuller and Craig Zurek were hired as wolf biologists on the Arizona

Game and Fish Department contingent of the IFT. Genevieve will be based out of the Pinetop wolf office and will assume responsibility for the data collection and on-the-ground management of wolf packs in the northern region of occupied wolf range in Arizona. Craig will be based out of the Alpine wolf office and will assume responsibility for the data collection and on-the-ground management of wolf packs in the southern region of occupied wolf range in Arizona.

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 - 28, 2017

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Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

The Fish and Wildlife Service convened a Mexican wolf recovery planning workshop in Queretaro, Mexico February 7-10, 2017 to continue discussions on biological information for the Vortex model and habitat niche model. These models will inform the FWS' development of a revision to the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan. The workshop was attended by representatives from Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Mexican government agencies CONANP and SEMARNAT, the Forest Service and independent scientists from the U.S. and Mexico.

The Fish and Wildlife Service met with the New Mexico State Director of Wildlife Services on February 13, 2017, to discuss the Mexican wolf range maps on the Service's website, which inform the public on where due care is needed for trapping.

On February 21, 2017, the Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department met with the Arizona Cattle Growers Association in Phoenix, Arizona to discuss the status of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program, including the 2017 proposed initial release and translocation plan, status of revision to the 1982 recovery plan and depredation compensation programs.

The Fish and Wildlife Service met with the Forest Service in Albuquerque, NM on February 23, 2017 to discuss communication issues and the status of the Forest Service's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review for proposed release sites in Arizona and New Mexico.

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

The IFT completed the annual year-end population survey which started in November 2016 and concluded with helicopter count and capture operations conducted in late January through early February 2017. The IFT documented a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. At the end of February, there were 67 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Wolves with functioning radio collars are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

Annual surveys are conducted in the winter as this 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.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In February, 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, fp1562, fp1563, mp1568 and mp1573)

In February, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Some wolves from the Bluestem Pack continue to travel separate from the pack. F1443 continues to be documented with m1447, of the Diamond Pack, in New Mexico near the Arizona border. This pair has remained together for three months and is now considered a separate pack and will soon be given a name. F1488 was documented traveling with another wolf near Alpine. M1382 was documented traveling with AF1339 of the Panther Creek Pack. Bluestem male pup, mp1568, was found dead in Arizona and the incident is under investigation.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, mp1471, mp1474 and fp147X)

In February, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The temporary studbook number, fp147X, for the female pup that was captured, collared and released in January will be replaced with the correct studbook number once genetic analysis results are available to determine if the pup was wild born or a captive born pup that was cross-fostered into the Elk Horn Pack in April of 2016.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

In February, the Hawks Nest Pack consisted of one collared wolf, AM1038. AM1038 previously made wide dispersal movements within the north central portion of the ASNF and was then located in New Mexico in the GNF toward the beginning of the month. By the end of February, AM1038 was documented back in Arizona and traveling with the Diamond Pack.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1441, fp1549, fp1550 and f1567)

In February, the Hoodoo Pack remained in the north central portion of the ASNF. Sub-adult wolves m1441 and f1567 were documented traveling together and apart from the Hoodoo Pack. The IFT is conducting prey carcass investigations as part of a kill rate study for both the Hoodoo Pack and the new pair m1441 and f1567 during the month of February.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In February, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1394, mp1483, fp1484, mp1486, and mp148X)

In February, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. Bluestem M1382 continues to be located traveling with AF1339. AM1394 was not located during the month of February. Pups m1483, fp1484, mp1486, and mp148X have all been traveling separately from AF1339 and M1382 during the month of February. Male pups mp1483 and mp1486 have both been documented traveling in the Gila National Forest in NM. The temporary studbook number, mp148X, for the male pup that was captured, collared and released in January will be replaced with the correct studbook number once genetic analysis results are

available.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared f1557, mp1559, fp1560, fp1570, mp1571 and mp1572)

In February, the Diamond Pack was located in the northern portion of the ASNF and on state lands north of the ASNF. Sub-adult m1447 has been traveling with F1443, of the Bluestem Pack, in New Mexico near the Arizona border for three months and is no longer considered part of the Diamond Pack. AM1038 of the Hawks Nest Pack was documented traveling with wolves from the Diamond Pack this month.

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

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

Baldy Pack (collared M1347 and f1445)

The Baldy Pack was not located during the month of February.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM992)

AM992 was located dead in February, the incident is under investigation.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278 and mp1556)

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 Gila National Forest (GNF).

Lava Pack (collared F1405 and AM1285)

During February, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the south eastern portion of the GNF.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346 and mp1561)

During February, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158 and AF1487)

During February, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the Gila National Forest. The IFT has been unable to locate mp1554 and it is now considered fate unknown.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and F1439)

During February, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the north western portion of the GNF.

New Pack (F1443 and m1447)

F1443, from the Bluestem Pack, and m1447, from the Diamond Pack, have been documented traveling together for a minimum of three months and will receive a pack name. They have been using a territory south of Luna near the Arizona border.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, M1398, M1386, m1455, f1456, M1552, fp1565 and mp1569)

During February, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. After being located with the Prieto Pack for a month M1398 is now considered paired with AF1251 and the new breeding male. f1553 continued to be documented traveling with AM1285 of the SBP Pack and is now considered paired with AM1285 and the new breeding female. M1386, m1455, and M1552 continued to display dispersal behavior within the GNF. mp1569 is also displaying dispersal behavior and was documented traveling east as far as portions of the Cibola National Forest. On February 11, f1456 was documented traveling with M1354; they continued to travel together through the remainder of the month.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During February, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284 and f1553)

During February, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. f1553 continued to be documented traveling with the SBP Pack and is now considered paired with AM1285 and the new breeding female.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

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

Single collared AM1155

During February, AM1155 was documented traveling within New Mexico.

Single collared M1398

M1398 is now considered part of the Prieto Pack; see above.

Single collared M1354

During February, M1354 was documented traveling within its former natal pack territory (Dark Canyon Pack) with f1456 of the Prieto Pack.

Single collared f1444

During February, f1444 was documented traveling mostly within west central portions of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

During February, AM992 of the Dark Canyon Pack was located dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

During February, mp1568 of the Bluestem Pack was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During the month of February, there was one confirmed wolf kill and seven nuisance reports.

On February 3, a homeowner in Nutrioso, Arizona reported there were seven wolves on private property near a pen holding alpacas near a residence. The homeowner used a vehicle to scare the wolves away. IFT personnel responded and located wolf tracks on the property near the alpaca pen. IFT personnel used collar signals to confirm the Elk Horn Pack had been responsible for the nuisance report. IFT personnel pursued the Elk Horn Pack and hazed the wolves from the adjacent area. The homeowner advised that on the night of January 29, 2017 one of their dogs had been injured by what they thought was a coyote, but they were concerned a wolf could have injured it. Wildlife Services investigated the injuries on the homeowner's dog on February 7, and determined that it was probable that the injuries had been caused by a wolf. GPS points do not implicate the Elk Horn Pack in an incident in Nutrioso on January 29.

On February 7, F1488 and another wolf were observed in a residential area of Alpine, Arizona by a homeowner. The homeowner hazed the wolves to an adjacent property with a vehicle where a second homeowner shot a firearm which caused the wolves to leave. IFT personnel responded and confirmed F1488 was responsible for the report by radio collar signal in the area. On February 8, IFT personnel located the carcass of an elk near the residential area that had been killed by wolves. The carcass was moved and no further incidents were reported at the residence.

On February 10, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, Arizona. The investigation determined the calf was killed by coyotes.

On February 12, a collared wolf was observed in a residential area of Alpine interacting with a dog outside of a residence. IFT personnel responded and observed wolf tracks in the snow that corroborated the report. Radio collar signals of F1488 as well as AM1290 and fp1550 of the Hoodoo Pack were documented in the area.

On February 16, the Nutrioso homeowner with alpacas reported hearing wolves howling from the residence. IFT personnel responded, contacted the homeowner, and documented radio telemetry signals in the area from the Elk Horn Pack. The wolves were successfully hazed from the area using non-injurious explosive scare cartridges. IFT personnel discussed with the homeowner the option of deploying fladry fencing around the alpaca pen to provide a deterrent to wolves.

On February 17, a Nutrioso homeowner reported his teenage daughter had been chased by a pack of wolves while riding horseback on the National Forest. IFT personnel responded and interviewed the father and daughter about the incident. IFT personnel investigated the incident,

including interviewing the horseback rider and her father, and determined the rider and her dog were traveling on a trail on February 16, near Gobbler Peak when she rode into the Hoodoo Pack while the wolves were on an elk kill. The dog interacted with the wolves and was described as sniffing, chasing and playing with the wolves. The female indicated one wolf was approximately eight feet from her horse at one point and two or three other wolves were at a distance of 15 to 20 feet from her horse. Based on the description of these wolves, the IFT personnel determined these wolves were likely pups from the Hoodoo Pack. The female reportedly yelled at the wolves then rode away when the wolves did not leave. She indicated the wolves followed her and her dog for a distance of up to half of a mile while yipping and howling. She reported seeing a total of about six to eight wolves. The IFT personnel advised both individuals that though a wolf at distance of eight feet from a human is not desirable, interactions between wolves and dogs are not uncommon and can occur when people with dogs encounter wolves. Wolves vocalizing and following a perceived threat out of an area is a common territorial behavior exhibited by wolves.

On February 21, the Nutrioso homeowner with alpacas reported hearing wolves howling from the residence. IFT personnel responded and learned that the homeowner observed several wolves and had shot a firearm to scare them off. The IFT confirmed three sets of wolf tracks in the area and made plans to deploy fladry fencing on the following day. Faint signals were heard in the area from the Elk Horn Pack and one of the Panther Creek pups.

On February 22, the Nutrioso homeowner with alpacas reported observing three wolves traveling past their property and again shot a firearm in attempt to scare the animals away. IFT personnel deployed electric charged fladry fencing around the alpaca pens and later installed radio telemetry activated noise and strobe light units on the property that are triggered by signals from wolves with radio collars when they approach the area. The homeowner was aware of their legal right to take, including shooting and killing, any Mexican wolf in the act of attacking livestock or a dog on non-federal land. At the time this report was prepared, there have been no further nuisance reports from this homeowner or on the Elk Horn Pack.

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

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On February 28, the Fish and Wildlife Service gave a webinar on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program to the Western Regional Partnership.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

There are no project personnel updates for the month of February.

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

March 1 - 31, 2017

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 posted the 2017 Mexican Wolf Initial Release and Translocation Plan (Plan) on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Website and requested comments for 20 days. The USFWS provided all comments received in applications to New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for importation and release permits consistent with the Plan.

The USFWS hosted the Canid and Hyenid Taxon Advisory Group meeting in Albuquerque March 27 and 28, 2017. This meeting was part of the larger Association of Zoos and Aquarium's mid-year meeting hosted by the Albuquerque Biological Park.

The Division of Genomic Resources (DGR) of the Museum of Southwestern Biology at the University of New Mexico serves as the repository for Mexican wolf specimens including carcasses, pelts, and blood. On March 30, 2017, DGR celebrated migrating from maintaining specimens in -80°C freezers to new, more secure cryogenic nitrogen-vapor (-190°C).

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 update 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

The IFT completed the annual year-end population survey which started in November 2016 and concluded with helicopter count and capture operations conducted in late January through early February 2017. The IFT documented a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. At the end of March, there were 61 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Wolves with functioning radio collars are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

Annual surveys are conducted in the winter as this is when the population experiences 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.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In March, 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, fp1562, fp1563 and mp1574)

In March, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. F1488 continued to travel separate from the Bluestem Pack with another wolf near

Alpine. During March, M1382 continued to be documented traveling with AF1339 of the Panther Creek Pack. Genetic analysis from the male pup initially thought to be Panther Creek mp148X revealed that it was a Bluestem pup and has been assigned the studbook number mp1574.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, mp1471, mp1474 and fp1473)

In March, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The female pup assigned the temporary studbook number, fp147X, was identified as fp1473 through genetic analysis. This confirmed that the wolf was a wild born of the Elk Horn Pack and not a cross-fostered pup from 2016.

Frieborn Pack (collared F1443 and m1447)

In March, F1443 and m1447 received pack status and were named the Frieborn Pack. They have been holding a territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and into New Mexico.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

The Hawks Nest Pack consists of one collared wolf, AM1038. AM1038 previously made wide dispersal movements within the north central portion of the ASNF, but during March was consistently located in the northern portion of the ASNF in the territory of the Diamond Pack. By the end of March, AM1038 was documented traveling primarily with f1557 of the Diamond Pack.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1441, fp1550 and f1567)

In March, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. Sub-adult wolves m1441 and f1567 continued to travel together and apart from the Hoodoo Pack. The IFT concluded the prey carcass investigations that begun in February looking at the kill rates of both the Hoodoo Pack and the new pair: m1441 and f1567. In March, fp1549 was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In March, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF.

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

In March, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. Bluestem M1382 continued to be located traveling with AF1339. Pups mp1483, fp1484, and mp1486 have been traveling separately from the rest of the pack. Male pup 1486 has been documented traveling in the Gila National Forest (GNF) in New Mexico. Male pup 1483 was documented traveling between Arizona and New Mexico. The male pup assigned the temporary studbook number, mp148X, was identified through genetic analysis as a Bluestem animal, and has been given a new studbook number of mp1574.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared f1557, mp1559, fp1560, fp1570, mp1571 and mp1572)

In March, the Diamond Pack was located in the northern portion of the ASNF and on state lands

north of the ASNF. Near the beginning of the month, mp1572 was located lame and removed for veterinary care. Male pup 1572 has tested negative for diseases and has been transferred to the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico where it continues to receive rehabilitative care. Near the end of March, AM1038 of the Hawks Nest Pack and f1557 were documented traveling together and apart from the Diamond Pack.

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

In March, the Tsay-o-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory on the FAIR.

Baldy Pack (collared M1347 and f1445)

The Baldy Pack was not located during the month of March.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278 and mp1556)

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 Gila National Forest (GNF).

Lava Pack (collared F1405 and AM1285)

During March, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the south eastern portion of the GNF.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346 and mp1561)

During March, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158 and AF1487)

During March, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the Gila National Forest. The IFT set up a diversionary food cache to reduce potential for livestock depredations.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and F1439)

During March, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the north western portion of the GNF.

New Pair (collared F1444 and M1386)

During March, F1444 and M1386 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF.

New Pair (collared F1456 and M1354)

During March, F1456 and M1354 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, M1398 and fp1565)

During March, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central

portion of the GNF. M1386, m1455, f1456, M1552, and mp1569 have all displayed dispersal behavior for 3 months and are now considered single wolves or part of a “new pair”.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During March, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284 and f1553)

During March, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

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

Single collared AM1155

During March, AM1155 was documented traveling within New Mexico.

Single collared m1455

During March, m1455 traveled throughout east-central portions of the GNF and southern portions of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Single collared M1552

During March, M1552 traveled throughout northeastern portions of the GNF and central portions of the CNF.

Single collared mp1569

During March, mp1569 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the CNF and other areas west of I-25.

MORTALITIES

During March, fp1549 of the Hoodoo Pack was located dead in Arizona. The incident is under investigation.

During March, mp1573 of the Bluestem Pack was captured by the IFT for medical evaluation and attention. It died overnight under veterinary care. Disease testing confirmed mp1573 tested positive for canine distemper.

INCIDENTS

During the month of March, there were six confirmed wolf depredations on livestock and no nuisance reports.

On March 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation

determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On March 18, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On March 21, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On March 21, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was killed by coyotes.

On March 21, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Socorro County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On March 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Socorro County, NM. The investigation determined the cow had died from natural causes.

On March 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by dogs.

On March 25, Wildlife Services investigated seven dead cows in Cochise County, AZ. The investigations determined one cow was a confirmed wolf kill, four cows died from natural causes and one cow died from an unknown cause. One of the seven dead cows was unable to be investigated due to its deteriorated condition.

On March 26, female pup, 1530, originating from an ongoing reintroduction effort in Mexico was captured on private ranch land in southeastern Arizona by the IFT and relocated to the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility in New Mexico, where it is in good health. Management agencies in the United States and Mexico will determine the most appropriate long-term management action for this wolf.

On March 27, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Cochise County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow died from unknown cause.

On March 28, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On March 14, the USFWS met with the Santa Clara Pueblo to discuss the status of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program and development of the revised draft recovery plan.

On March 29, the USFWS provided a presentation on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program to the Inter-tribal, Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination meeting at Ak-Chin.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

There are no project personnel updates for the month of March.

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

April 1 - 30, 2017

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 (USFWS) met with the Southwestern Regional Office of the Forest Service on April 13 to discuss communication and the status of National Environmental Policy Act compliance for release sites in Zone 1 of the 2015 10j Rule.

On April 17, the USFWS met with the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah; Federal agencies in Mexico and the Forest Service to review model runs for population viability analysis of the Mexican wolf.

On April 18, the Department of Justice filed the 6-month progress report to the court in compliance with the Stipulated Settlement Agreement for revision of the Mexican wolf recovery plan.

On April 26, the USFWS attended the oral arguments before the District Court Judge in Tucson, Arizona regarding litigation on the revised 10j Rule and associated Environmental Impact Statement.

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

Annual surveys are conducted in the winter as this is when the population experiences 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.

During annual year-end population counts, the IFT documented a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. At the end of April, there were 61 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

Wolves with functioning radio collars are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In April, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). They have displayed localized behavior consistent with denning.

Bluestem Pack (collared fp1562, fp1563 and mp1574)

In April, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Male pup 1574, showed dispersal behavior and travelled outside of traditional Bluestem territory to the south. Female pup 1562 appears to be travelling alone. The IFT documented the breeding pair AF1042 and AM1341 together with F1489 and fp1563 using remote cameras. The Bluestem Pack displayed behavior consistent with denning within their traditional territory during April.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, mp1471, mp1474 and fp1473)

In April, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The pack displayed behavior consistent with denning during the month of April.

Frieborn Pack (collared F1443 and m1447)

In April, F1443 and m1447 were documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and into New Mexico. Localized movements and observations by the IFT indicate the pack initiated denning in April.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

The Hawks Nest Pack consists of one collared wolf, AM1038. AM1038 was not located during the month of April.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1441, fp1550 and f1567)

In March, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The pack displayed behavior consistent with denning during the month of April.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In April, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF. Localized movements from AF1291 during April were consistent with denning behavior.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1382, mp1483, fp1484 and mp1486)

In April, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. Bluestem M1382 continued to be located traveling with AF1339 and is now considered to be the alpha male of the pack. Pups mp1483, fp1484, and mp1486 have been traveling separately from the rest of the pack. Male pup 1486 has been documented traveling in the Gila National Forest in NM. Male pup 1483 has been traveling between Arizona and New Mexico and fp1484 has been travelling mostly alone in Arizona, occasionally meeting up with mp1483. Denning behavior was not documented for the Panther Creek Pack in April.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared F1488)

In April, F1488 and an unknown wolf continued to travel together within a territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. The pair has remained together for over three months and is now considered a pack. This pack did not display denning behavior in April.

Saffel Pack (collared F1567 and M1441)

In April, the pair 1567 and 1441 has been documented together for three months and is now considered the Saffel Pack. They have been holding territory in the north central portion of the ASNF, north of the traditional territory of the Hoodoo Pack. The pack has displayed behavior consistent with denning during the month of April.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared f1557, mp1559, fp1560, fp1570, mp1571 and mp1572)

In April, the Diamond Pack was located in the northern portion of the ASNF and on state lands north of the ASNF. Male pup 1572 was translocated back into the Diamond territory on the northern portion of the ASNF in Arizona after successful rehabilitation at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, and has been travelling alone in that same area. mp1572 was initially removed from the wild in March to be provided veterinary care after having been located lame.

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

In April, the Tsay-o-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory on the FAIR.

Baldy Pack

The Baldy Pack was not located during the month of April.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278 and mp1556)

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 Gila National Forest (GNF). The Iron Creek Pack did not display denning behavior during April.

Lava Pack (collared F1405 and AM1285)

During April, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the south eastern portion of the GNF. The Lava Pack displayed denning behavior in late April.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346 and mp1561)

During April, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness. The Leopold Pack did not display denning behavior during April.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158 and AF1487)

During April, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the Gila National Forest. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce potential for livestock depredations. In late-April the IFT documented denning behavior in the Luna Pack.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and F1439)

During April, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the north western portion of the GNF. In late-April, the Mangas pack displayed behavior consistent with denning.

Copper Creek (collared F1444 and M1386)

During April, F1444 and M1386 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF. This pair did not display denning behavior during April.

Dark Canyon (collared F1456 and M1354)

During April, F1456 and M1354 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF. This pair has shown signs of denning behavior towards the end of April.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, M1398 and fp1565)

During April, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Prieto Pack did not display denning behavior during April.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During April, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. In late-April the IFT documented denning behavior.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284 and F1553)

During April, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The SBP Pack has shown signs of denning behavior towards the end of April.

Willow Springs Pack (collared F1397)

During April, the IFT documented the Willow Springs Pack within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. F1397 slipped its collar in April.

Single collared AM1155

During April, AM1155 was documented traveling within New Mexico.

Single collared M1455

During April, m1455 traveled throughout east-central portions of the GNF and southern portions of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Single collared M1552

During April, M1552 traveled throughout northeastern portions of the GNF and central portions of the CNF.

Single collared m1569

During April, m1569 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the CNF.

MORTALITIES

There were no documented mortalities during the month of April.

INCIDENTS

During the month of April, there were three confirmed wolf depredations on livestock and no nuisance reports.

On April 11, Wildlife Services investigated a dead bull in Socorro County, NM. The investigation determined the bull was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 15, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 15, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 20, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Socorro County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was killed by coyotes.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On April 6, the Fish and Wildlife Service held a community meeting in Heber, Arizona on the status of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. The Forest Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department were also in attendance.

On April 7, the Fish and Wildlife Service held a community meeting in Young, Arizona on the status of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. The Arizona Game and Fish Department was also in attendance.

On April 7, the IFT gave a presentation on Mexican wolf biology, management and reintroduction efforts to a Becoming an Outdoors Woman Camp in the Prescott, AZ area.

On April 26, the Fish and Wildlife Service gave a presentation on the status of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program at the Tribal ESA meeting in Ak-Chin, Arizona.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In April, USFWS volunteer/intern Rachael Nickerson completed her commitment with the program to further her career and experience in Oregon. Thanks for all your help!

In April, Amy Fontaine began her position with the program as a USFWS volunteer/intern. Welcome to the program Amy!

In April, Nick Riso began his position with the program as a USFWS volunteer/intern. Welcome to the program Nick!

REWARDS OFFERED

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Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

May 1 - 31, 2017

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Definitions: A “wolf pack” is defined as two or more wolves that maintain an established territory. In the event that one of the two alpha (dominant) wolves dies, the remaining alpha wolf, regardless of pack size, retains the pack status. The packs referenced in this update contain

at least one wolf with a radio telemetry collar attached to it. Studbook numbers listed in the monthly update 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

Annual surveys are conducted in the winter as this is when the population experiences 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.

During annual year-end population counts, the IFT documented a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. At the end of May, there were 58 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

Wolves with functioning radio collars are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In May, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory on the SCAR and in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). They have displayed localized behavior consistent with denning.

Bluestem Pack (collared F1489, fp1562, fp1563 and mp1574)

In May, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Male pup 1574 showed dispersal behavior and has been traveling with the Panther Creek Pack. Female pup 1562 has shown dispersal behavior and is believed to be traveling alone. The IFT documented the breeding pair AF1042 and AM1341 together with F1489 and fp1563. The Bluestem Pack displayed behavior consistent with denning within their traditional territory during May.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, mp1471, mp1474 and fp1473)

In May, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The pack displayed behavior consistent with denning during the month of May.

Frieborn Pack (collared F1443 and m1447)

In May, F1443 and m1447 were documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and into New Mexico. Localized movements and observations by the IFT have been documented throughout May. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food

cache for the Frieborn Pack in an effort to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

The Hawks Nest Pack consists of one collared wolf, AM1038. AM1038 was located travelling alone in the traditional territory of the Diamond pack in the northern portion of the ASNF in May.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, and fp1550)

In May, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The pack displayed behavior consistent with denning during the month of May.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In May, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF. The Maverick Pack was not localized during May.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1382, mp1483, fp1484 and mp1486)

In May, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. Male pup 1574 from the Bluestem Pack has been traveling with Panther Creek. Male pup 1486 has been documented traveling in the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. Male pup 1483 has been traveling between Arizona and New Mexico and fp1484 has been traveling mostly alone in Arizona, occasionally traveling with mp1483. In May, two neonatal pups born in captivity at the California Wolf Center were cross-fostered by the IFT into the Panther Creek den and two wild-born pups were removed to captivity. The IFT initiated a supplemental food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared F1488)

In May, F1488 and an unknown wolf continued to travel together within a territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. This pack did not display denning behavior in May.

Saffel Pack (collared F1567 and M1441)

In May the Saffel Pack was located in the north central portion of the ASNF, north of the traditional territory of the Hoodoo Pack. The pack has displayed behavior consistent with denning during the month of May. A diversionary food cache was started by the IFT for this pack in effort to avoid conflict with cattle in the area.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared f1557, mp1559, fp1560, mp1571 and mp1572)

In May, the Diamond Pack was located in the northern portion of the ASNF and on state lands north of the ASNF. This month, fp1570 was located dead in Arizona; the incident is under investigation. Male pup 1572 has been documented traveling apart from the Diamond Pack. The IFT initiated a diversionary food cache on the ASNF for the Diamond Pack to reduce potential for further wolf-livestock conflict.

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

In May, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory on the FAIR.

Baldy Pack

The Baldy Pack was not located during the month of May. It has been more than three months since the Baldy Pack was located and they are now considered fate unknown.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278 and mp1556)

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 Gila National Forest (GNF). The IFT confirmed pups with the Iron Creek pack in May.

Lava Pack (collared F1405 and AM1285)

During May, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the south eastern portion of the GNF. The IFT set up a diversionary food cache in May to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts. The Lava pack continued to display behavior consistent with denning.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346 and mp1561)

During May, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness. The Leopold Pack did not display denning behavior during May.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158 and AF1487)

During May, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the Gila National Forest. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce potential for livestock depredations. The Luna Pack continued to display behavior consistent with denning.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296 and AF1439)

During May, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the north western portion of the GNF. The Mangas pack continued to display behavior consistent with denning.

Copper Creek (collared AF1444 and AM1386)

During May, F1444 and M1386 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF. The Dark Canyon Pack displayed denning behavior in May.

Dark Canyon (collared AF1456 and AM1354)

During May, F1456 and M1354 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF. This pair has shown denning behavior in May.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, AM1398 and fp1565)

During May, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Prieto Pack displayed denning behavior during May. A supplemental food cache was established in May to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During May, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. In early May, the IFT placed two genetically valuable pups, from the Brookfield Zoo, into the pack's den during a cross-foster operation in efforts to increase genetic diversity of wolves in the wild. A supplemental food cache was also set up to assist the pack care for the genetically diverse litter of pups.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284 and F1553)

During May, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT confirmed pups with the SBP pack in May.

Willow Springs Pack

No collared individuals remain in this pack.

Single collared AM1155

During May, AM1155 was documented traveling within New Mexico.

Single collared M1455

During May, M1455 traveled throughout central to east-central portions of the GNF.

Single collared M1552

During May, M1552 traveled throughout northeastern portions of the GNF and central portions of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Single collared m1569

During May, m1569 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the CNF.

MORTALITIES

Diamond fp1570 was found dead in Arizona during May; the incident is under investigation.

INCIDENTS

During the month of May, there were five confirmed wolf depredations on livestock and no nuisance reports.

On May 4, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by coyotes.

On May 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Socorro County, NM. The investigation determined the cause of death was unknown.

On May 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead bull and two dead cows in Socorro County, NM. The investigation determined the bull was a confirmed wolf kill and both of the cows were

probable wolf kills.

On May 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Socorro County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On May 12, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Socorro County, NM. The investigation determined the cow had been killed by a bear.

On May 14, Wildlife Services investigated three dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined the cause of death was unknown for all three cows.

On May 22, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined both calves were confirmed wolf kills.

On May 30, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On May 4 and 5, members from the IFT attended a ranching workshop hosted by the X Diamond Ranch in Arizona. The workshop provided a basic understanding of the principles and tools used in low stress livestock handling and stockmanship and a discussion of how these techniques have been used to reduce wolf depredations on cattle.

On May 17, the IFT gave a presentation on Mexican wolf biology, management and reintroduction efforts to a group of 6th grade children from Winslow at their annual camping trip in the ASNF.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In May, USFWS volunteer/intern Steven Nagy completed his commitment with the program to further his career and experience. Thanks for all your help!

In May, Maya Stahl and McKenna Zandarski joined the project as interns with AZGFD. Welcome to the program, Maya and McKenna!

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, 2017

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.com and clicking on the E-news Signup tab on the top left corner of the webpage. 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.

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Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

The Fish and Wildlife Service published the draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision for public review and comment and for peer review on June 30, 2017. The public comment period closes August 29, 2017. Comments must be submitted in writing by either of the following methods, or at the public meetings (see below):

Electronically: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and enter FWS-R2-ES-2017-0036

Or

Hard copy: Submit by US mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R2-ES-2017-0036, US Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

The Fish and Wildlife Service will hold information meetings to provide the public with information on the draft recovery plan. Written comments on the draft recovery plan may be submitted at these meetings (oral comments will not be recorded). The dates and times of these information meetings are as follows:

1. Flagstaff, AZ: July 18, 2017 (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.): Northern Arizona University, Prochnow Auditorium, South Knowles Drive, Flagstaff, AZ 86001.
2. Pinetop, AZ: July 19, 2017 (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.): Hon-Dah Resort, 777 AZ-260, Pinetop, AZ 85935.
3. Truth or Consequences, NM: July 20, 2017 (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.): Ralph Edwards Auditorium, Civic Center, 400 West Fourth, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901.
4. Albuquerque, NM: July 22, 2017 (2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.): Crowne Plaza Albuquerque, 1901 University Boulevard NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has also made available the Draft Biological Report and two supporting analyses – “Population Viability Analysis for the Mexican Wolf” and “Mexican Wolf Habitat Suitability Analysis in Historical Range in Southwestern US and Mexico,” to the public as supplemental background information during the public comment period. These documents, as well as the draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision are available at: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/MWRP.cfm>

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CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

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Wolves with functioning radio collars are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In June, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory on the SCAR and in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). They have displayed localized behavior consistent with denning. Pups were documented with the Bear Wallow Pack in June.

Bluestem Pack (collared F1489, f1562, and f1563)

In June, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Male 1574 is showing dispersal behavior and has been traveling with the Panther Creek Pack. Female 1562 has been traveling alone and is now considered a single animal. The IFT documented AF1042, AM1341, F1489, and f1563 localized in a den area during June.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, m1471, m1474, and f1473)

In June, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The pack displayed behavior consistent with denning during the month of June. Pups were documented with the Elk Horn Pack in June.

Frieborn Pack (collared F1443 and m1447)

In June, F1443 and m1447 were documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and into New Mexico. They have displayed localized behavior consistent with denning in June. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for this pack to reduce potential for livestock depredations.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

The Hawks Nest Pack consists of one collared wolf, AM1038. AM1038 was located traveling alone in the traditional territory of the Diamond pack in the northern portion of the ASNF in June.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, and f1550)

In June, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The pack displayed behavior consistent with denning during the month of June.

The IFT is conducting prey carcass investigations as part of a kill rate study for the Hoodoo Pack during the month of June. Pups were documented with the Hoodoo Pack in June.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In June, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1382, and m1574)

In June, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. Male yearling 1574 from the Bluestem Pack has been traveling with Panther Creek for three months and is now considered part of the pack. Male yearling 1486 has been documented traveling in the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. Male yearling 1483 has been traveling between Arizona and New Mexico, and female yearling 1484 has been traveling mostly alone in Arizona, occasionally traveling with mp1483. Yearlings m1483, f1484, and m1486 have been traveling separately from the rest of the pack for three months and are now each considered single animals. The breeding pair continues to display localized behavior consistent with denning. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for this pack to reduce potential for livestock depredations and supplement cross-fostered pups.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared F1488)

In June, F1488 and an unknown collared wolf continue to travel together within a territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF. This pack has not displayed denning behavior.

Saffel Pack (collared AF1567)

In June, the Saffel Pack was located in the north central portion of the ASNF, north of the traditional territory of the Hoodoo Pack. The pack has displayed behavior consistent with denning during the month of June. A diversionary food cache was maintained by the IFT for this pack in effort to avoid conflict with cattle in the area. Pups were documented with the Saffel Pack in June.

Single collared m1483

Male 1483 made wide dispersal movements between Arizona and New Mexico in June.

Single collared f1484

Female 1484 has been traveling alone in Arizona at the southern edge of Panther Creek territory during June.

Single collared f1562

Female 1562 has been making wide dispersal movements to the northeast of Bluestem's traditional territory.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared f1557, m1559, f1560, m1571, and m1572)

In June, the Diamond Pack was located in their traditional territory on the FAIR and in the northern portion of the ASNF. Male yearling 1572 has been documented traveling apart from the

Diamond Pack. The IFT initiated and maintained a diversionary food cache on the ASNF for the Diamond Pack to reduce potential for further wolf-livestock conflict.

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

In June, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, and m1556)

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 Gila National Forest (GNF). The IFT confirmed pups with the Iron Creek Pack in May and continued to observe denning behavior.

Lava Pack (collared F1405 and AM1285)

During June, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the south eastern portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts. The Lava Pack continued to display behavior consistent with denning.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346, and m1561)

During June, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158 and AF1487)

During June, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the Gila National Forest. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce potential for livestock depredations. The Luna Pack continued to display behavior consistent with denning. Pups were documented with the Luna Pack in June.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and F1439)

During June, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the north western portion of the GNF. The Mangas pack continued to display behavior consistent with denning.

Copper Creek (collared F1444 and M1386)

During June, F1444 and M1386 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF. The IFT continued to monitor for denning behavior in June.

Dark Canyon (collared F1456 and M1354)

During June, F1456 and M1354 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF. The IFT continued to monitor for denning behavior in June.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, M1398, and f1565)

During June, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Prieto Pack has continued to display denning behavior. A supplemental food cache was established in May to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts and was utilized by the Prieto Pack in June.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During June, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache to assist the pack's care for the genetically diverse litter of pups. Visual observations documented two adults and two pups; however, remote cameras have documented at least one uncollared yearling traveling with the alphas.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284 and F1553)

During June, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT confirmed pups with the SBP pack in May, and the pack continued to display denning behavior during the month of June. The IFT established a diversionary food cache in June to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts. The food cache has been utilized by the SBP pack.

Single collared AM1155

During June, AM1155 was documented traveling within New Mexico.

Single collared M1455

During June, M1455 traveled throughout central to east-central portions of the GNF.

Single collared M1552

During June, M1552 traveled throughout northeastern portions of the GNF and central portions of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Single collared m1569

During June, m1569 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the CNF.

Single collared m1486

During June, m1486, a yearling disperser from the Panther Creek Pack, traveled throughout northern and central portions of the CNF.

MORTALITIES

There were no mortalities documented during the month of June.

INCIDENTS

During the month of June, there was one confirmed wolf depredation on livestock and two nuisance reports.

On June 7, the IFT fielded three reports of wolves being observed in a residential area of Alpine, AZ. The reports stated that two collared wolves had been observed multiple times over a two day period beginning on June 6 in the Alpine Village East area near houses. The larger of the two wolves was described as exhibiting a lack of fear of humans. The IFT investigated the reports and determined the Prime Canyon Pack was responsible for the sightings. The IFT determined the Prime Canyon Pack had killed an elk in the area. No wolf interactions with pets

or livestock were suspected. On June 8, the IFT located the Prime Canyon Pack south of Alpine and hazed the male with less than lethal rubber bullets. The IFT attempted to haze the Prime Canyon pack again on multiple occasions from June 9 through June 13, and each time was unable to get close enough to haze with less than lethal due to the wolves moving off when the IFT approached.

On June 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by wolves.

On June 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cause of death was unknown.

On June 29, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf had been killed as a result of being struck by a vehicle.

On June 30, a collared wolf was observed near a residence in Alpine Village East. The wolf retreated when the homeowner walked outside. The IFT responded to the report, investigated and determined the sighting was of f1483, a yearling disperser from the Panther Creek Pack.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On June 10, the AGFD attended the annual Cochise Graham Cattle Growers Association meeting in Wilcox, AZ and provided an update on Mexican wolf reintroduction efforts in Arizona.

On June 10, a member of the IFT talked to a group of homeowners in Alpine about recent wolf sightings, Mexican wolf biology/behavior, allowable forms of take within the final 10j rule and IFT management actions for nuisance wolf behavior.

On June 20, the AGFD gave a presentation on IFT annual work activities and an overall reintroduction project update to the Apache County Board of Supervisors in St. Johns, AZ.

On June 23, the AGFD talked to a group at the Butterfly Lodge in Greer, AZ about routine field techniques used by biologists on the IFT to monitor and capture Mexican wolves.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In June, Ed Davis left the AGFD to continue his education. Thank you Ed for your dedication and contributions to wolf recovery efforts!

REWARDS OFFERED

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

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Electronically: Go to www.regulations.gov and enter FWS-R2-ES-2017-0036

Or

Hard copy: Submit by US mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R2-ES-2017-0036, US Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has also made available the Draft Biological Report and two supporting analyses – “Population Viability Analysis for the Mexican Wolf” and “Mexican Wolf Habitat Suitability Analysis in Historical Range in Southwestern US and Mexico,” to the public as supplemental background information during the public comment period. These documents, as well as the draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision are available at: www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/MWRP.cfm

The Fish and Wildlife Service held four public information meetings on the Draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revisions. The public information meetings were held July 18 in Flagstaff, AZ; July 19 at the Hon-Dah Resort, AZ; July 20 in Truth or Consequences, NM; and July 22 in Albuquerque, NM. All four meetings were well attended and provided the opportunity to ask questions about the draft recovery plan and the science that supports it.

On July 13 and 14, the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan held its annual binational planning meeting in Cananea, Sonora, Mexico. Discussions involved recommendations for captive breeding and transfers of Mexican wolves in 2017 and 2018, as well as research needs and results.

On July 27, AGFD and USFWS personnel conducted presentations at the Arizona Cattlemen's Association Annual meeting in Prescott, AZ about IFT activities and the Draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan.

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 update 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

Annual surveys are conducted in the winter as this is when the population experiences 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.

During annual year-end population counts, the IFT documented a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. At the end of July, there were 57 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

Wolves with functioning radio collars are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In July, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory on the SCAR and in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). They have displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing and use of rendezvous sites. A minimum of three pups were documented with the Bear Wallow Pack in July; however this number is subject to change as the IFT continues to document observations of this pack.

Bluestem Pack (collared F1489 and f1563)

In July, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Male 1574 showed dispersal behavior and was documented traveling with the Panther Creek Pack. The IFT documented AF1042, AM1341, F1489, and f1563 showing localized behavior consistent with pup rearing in July. The IFT conducted prey carcass investigations as part of a kill rate study of the Bluestem Pack during the month of July.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, m1471, m1474, and f1473)

In July, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The pack displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of July.

Frieborn Pack (collared F1443 and m1447)

In July, F1443 and m1447 were documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and into New Mexico. They displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing in July. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache during July for this pack to reduce potential for livestock depredations.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

In July, the Hawks Nest Pack consisted of one collared wolf, AM1038. AM1038 was located traveling alone in the traditional territory of the Diamond Pack in the northern portion of the ASNF.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, and f1550)

In July, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT confirmed pups with the Hoodoo Pack in July and continued to observe

localized behavior consistent with pup rearing. The IFT conducted prey carcass investigations as part of a kill rate study of the Hoodoo Pack during the month of July.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In July, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1382, and m1574)

In July, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. The breeding pair continued to display localized behavior consistent with pup rearing. The IFT maintained a food cache for this pack to reduce potential for livestock depredations and to supplement cross-fostered pups.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared F1488)

In July, F1488 and an unknown collared wolf continued to travel together within a territory in the east-central portion of the ASNF.

Saffel Pack (collared AF1567)

In July, the Saffel Pack was located in the north central portion of the ASNF, north of the traditional territory of the Hoodoo Pack. The IFT confirmed pups with the Saffel Pack in July and continued to observe behavior consistent with pup rearing. A diversionary food cache was maintained by the IFT for this pack in effort to avoid conflict with cattle in the area.

Single collared m1483

Male 1483 made wide dispersal movements in the northern portion of the ASNF in Arizona during July.

Single collared f1484

Female 1484 was documented traveling alone in Arizona at the southern edge of Panther Creek's traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF during July.

Single collared f1562

Female 1562 made wide dispersal movements to the northeast of Bluestem's traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF during July.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared f1557, m1559, f1560, m1571, and m1572)

In July, the Diamond Pack was located in their traditional territory on the FAIR and in the northern portion of the ASNF. The IFT initiated and maintained a diversionary food cache on the ASNF for the Diamond Pack to reduce potential for further wolf-livestock conflict.

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

In July, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, and m1556)

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 Gila National Forest (GNF). The IFT confirmed pups with the Iron Creek Pack in May and continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during July.

Lava Pack (collared F1405 and AM1285)

During July, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the south eastern portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts. The Lava Pack continued to display localized behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346, and m1561)

During July, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness. The IFT continued to monitor the pack for pup rearing behavior in July.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158 and AF1487)

During July, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the Gila National Forest. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce potential for livestock depredations. The Luna Pack continued to display behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Mangas Pack (collared M1296 and F1439)

During July, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the north western portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts. The Mangas Pack continued to display behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Dark Canyon (collared F1444 and M1386)

During July, F1444 and M1386 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF. Although the Dark Canyon Pack displayed behavior consistent with denning in late April, the IFT does not believe the pack is currently maintaining a den.

Copper Creek (collared F1456 and M1354)

During July, F1456 and M1354 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF. Although the Copper Creek Pack displayed behavior consistent with denning in early May, the IFT does not believe the pack is currently maintaining a den.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, M1398, and f1565)

During July, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT confirmed pups with the Prieto Pack in July and continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing. A diversionary food cache was established in May to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts and was utilized by the Prieto Pack in July.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During July, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache to assist the pack's care for the genetically diverse litter of pups. The San Mateo Pack continued to display behavior consistent with denning. Field observations documented two adults and a minimum of two pups during the month of July; however, there may be additional pups and uncollared wolves associated with this pack.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284 and F1553)

During July, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT confirmed pups with the SBP pack in May and observed the pack continued to display localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of July. The IFT established a diversionary food cache in June to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts. The food cache was utilized by the SBP pack during the month of July.

Single collared AM1155

During July, AM1155 was documented traveling within the GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared M1455

During July, M1455 traveled throughout east-central portions of the GNF and central portions of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Single collared M1552

During July, M1552 traveled throughout central portions of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Single collared m1569

During July, m1569 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the CNF.

Single collared m1486

During July, m1486 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the CNF.

MORTALITIES

There were no mortalities documented during the month of July.

INCIDENTS

During the month of July, there were 3 confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock and no nuisance reports.

On July 4, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a probable wolf kill.

On July 4, Wildlife Services investigated four dead horses in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the horses been killed by lightning.

On July 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow died from an unknown cause, but was not killed by wolves.

On July 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by coyotes.

On July 11, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a probable wolf kill.

On July 14, Wildlife Services investigated three dead calves in Apache County, AZ. The investigations determined all three calves were killed by wolves. Two of the calves were killed during a single depredation incident.

On July 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead bull in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the bull was a confirmed wolf.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On July 14, the IFT conducted an education and outreach presentation to a group of tribal high school students from New Mexico.

On July 20, the IFT gave an education and outreach presentation to a group from the Arizona Conservation Corps.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In July, Maya Stahl concluded her internship with the AGFD. Thank you Maya for your hard work and contribution to wolf recovery efforts!

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

August 1 - 31, 2017

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. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting www.azgfd.com and clicking on the E-news Signup tab on the top left corner of the webpage. 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://arccg.is/0iGSGH> 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 Fish and Wildlife Service met with the Mexican Wolf Tribal Working Group in Albuquerque, NM on August 16 to discuss the draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan.

The Mexican Wolf Recovery Program and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program met with the Natural Resource Conservation Service on August 17 to discuss conservation programs for the Mexican wolf.

The Fish and Wildlife Service met with Mexican wolf partner agencies in Springerville, AZ on August 22 to discuss the draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan Implementation Strategy.

The Fish and Wildlife Service held a conference call with Mexico's National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP by its Spanish acronym) on August 28 to discuss the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan Implementation Strategy.

The public comment period for the draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan closed August 29.

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 update 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

Annual surveys are conducted in the winter as this is when the population experiences 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.

During annual year-end population counts, the IFT documented a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. At the end of August, there were 60 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

Wolves with functioning radio collars are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In August, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory on the SCAR and in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). The pack displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing and use of rendezvous sites. A minimum of three

pups were documented with the Bear Wallow Pack in August; however this number may change as the IFT continues to document observations of this pack.

Bluestem Pack (collared F1489, f1563 and fp1665)

In August, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The pack continued to display localized behavior consistent with pup rearing. The IFT documented a minimum of four pups with use of remote camera during the month of August. A female pup, fp1665 was captured, collared and released and continued to travel with the pack.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, m1471, m1474, and f1473)

In August, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The pack continued to display localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of August.

Frieborn Pack (collared F1443 and m1447)

In August, the Frieborn Pack was documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and into New Mexico. The pack continued to display localized behavior consistent with pup rearing in August.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

In August, the Hawks Nest Pack consisted of one collared wolf, AM1038. AM1038 was located traveling alone in the traditional territory of the Diamond Pack in the northern and central portions of the ASNF.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, f1550 and f1663)

In August, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing. A yearling female, f1663, in the Hoodoo pack was captured, collared and released in August.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In August, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1382, and m1574)

In August, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. The breeding pair continued to display localized behavior consistent with pup rearing. A minimum of three pups were documented with the Panther Creek Pack during the month of August. The IFT maintained a food cache for this pack to reduce potential for livestock depredations and with the goal of increasing survival of genetically valuable pups that the IFT cross-fostered into the Panther Creek Pack in May.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared F1488)

In August, F1488 and an unknown collared wolf continued to travel together within a territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Saffel Pack (collared AF1567 and mp1661)

In August, the Saffel Pack was located in the north eastern portion of the ASNF, north of the traditional territory of the Hoodoo Pack. The IFT confirmed a minimum of four pups with the Saffel Pack in August and continued to observe behavior consistent with pup rearing. A male pup, mp1661, was captured, collared and released in August. A diversionary food cache was maintained by the IFT for this pack in effort to avoid conflict with cattle in the area.

Single collared m1483

Male 1483 made wide dispersal movements in the north eastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona during August.

Single collared f1484

Female 1484 was documented traveling alone in Arizona at the southern edge of Panther Creek's traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF during August.

Single collared f1562

Female 1562 remained outside of the Bluestem Pack's traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF during August.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared m1559, f1560, m1571, and m1572)

In August, the Diamond Pack was located in their traditional territory on the FAIR and in the central portion of the ASNF. F1557 was lethally removed by Wildlife Services due to repetitive confirmed depredations on livestock. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache on the ASNF for the Diamond Pack to reduce potential for further wolf-livestock conflict.

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

In August, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, and m1556)

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 Gila National Forest (GNF). The IFT confirmed pups with the Iron Creek Pack in May and continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during August.

Lava Pack (collared F1405 and AM1285)

During August, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the south eastern portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346, and m1561)

During August, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern

portion of the Gila Wilderness. The IFT continued to monitor the pack for pup rearing behavior in August.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158 and AF1487)

During August, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT captured, collared and released female pup, fp1662, in the Luna Pack. Near the end of the month, fp1662 slipped the collar it was wearing. The animal is alive and still traveling with the pack. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce potential for livestock depredations.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439 and fp1664)

During August, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the north western portion of the GNF. The Mangas Pack continued to display behavior consistent with pup rearing. The IFT captured, re-collared and released AF1439. The IFT also captured, collared and released a female pup, fp1664, with the Mangas Pack. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts.

Copper Creek (collared F1444 and M1386)

During August, F1444 and M1386 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF.

Dark Canyon (collared F1456 and M1354)

During August, F1456 and M1354 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, M1398 and f1565)

During August, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT confirmed pups with the Prieto Pack in July and continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing in August. A diversionary food cache was established in May to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts and was utilized by the Prieto Pack in August.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399)

During August, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache with the goal of increasing survival of the genetically diverse litter of pups.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284 and F1553)

During August, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT confirmed pups with the SBP Pack in May and observed the pack continued to display localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of August. The IFT established a diversionary food cache in June to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts. The food cache was utilized by the SBP Pack during the month of August.

Single collared AM1155

During August, AM1155 was documented traveling within the GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared M1455

During August, M1455 traveled throughout east-central portions of the GNF and central portions of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Single collared M1552

During August, M1552 traveled throughout central portions of the CNF

Single collared m1569

During August, m1569 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the CNF.

Single collared m1486

During August, m1486 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the CNF.

MORTALITIES

In August, F1557 of the Diamond Pack was lethally removed by Wildlife Services due to repetitive confirmed depredations on livestock.

INCIDENTS

During the month of August, there were four confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock and one nuisance report.

On August 2, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves and a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigations determined one calf had been killed by wolves, the second calf was a probable wolf kill during an earlier incident and the cow had died from ingesting twine.

On August 3, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by wolves.

On August 8, the IFT received a call from a hiker that described an encounter they had with a wolf pack on August 1, while hiking in the ASNF. GPS collar data was used by the IFT to determine the encounter reported by the hiker was with the Saffel Pack which consists of two adult wolves and their pups from this year. The hiker told the IFT they were hiking on the Apache Trail southeast of Mexican Hay Lake on August 1 at approximately 12:00pm, when they noticed a collared adult wolf standing approximately 15 feet away. The hiker stopped and looked at the wolf at which point the wolf ran to about 60 feet and then stopped. The hiker stated they observed a second collared adult wolf approximately 20 to 30 yards away and three uncollared pups approximately 50 to 60 yards away. The hiker yelled at the wolves and they did not run off. The closest wolf, which was apparent to the hiker as a male, defecated and then started jumping up and down on its front feet. The hiker fired a shot from a handgun into the ground to scare the wolves away. The closest wolf jumped at the sound of the gunshot but remained. The hiker began walking again and the closest wolf retreated to about 50 yards. The wolves then moved off into the woods to a distance of approximately 100 yards. The hiker stated that the two adult wolves paralleled the hiker and followed along the trail for a distance of

about 400 yards. The hiker stated the pups were only visible intermittently at a distance during this time. GPS collar data from the Saffel Pack showed in the days following the hiker's encounter, the Saffel Pack had moved out of the location where the encounter had occurred and by the day the IFT received the report, the Saffel Pack had begun traveling in another area to the east.

The IFT concluded the encounter the hiker had with the Saffel Pack was a result of the hiker walking into a rendezvous site where the alpha wolves exhibited behaviors to protect the pups present. At the time of the incident, the wolf pups in the Saffel Pack would have been four months old. The behavior of the adult male jumping up and down on its front feet is often observed of Mexican wolves in captive breeding facilities with young pups in response to human presence. Wolves vocalizing and following a perceived threat out of an area is a common territorial behavior exhibited by wolves. At the time this report was prepared, there have been no further nuisance reports on the Saffel Pack.

The public is encouraged to report all wolf interactions to the IFT using the contact information provided at the beginning of this document. Any person may take (which includes killing as well as nonlethal actions such as harassing or harming) a Mexican wolf in self-defense or defense of the lives of others. Any form of take must be reported within 24 hours to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by telephone 505-346-2525; or fax 505-346-2542.

On August 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by a wolf.

On August 14, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by a wolf.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On August 24, the USFWS attended the New Mexico State Game Commission meeting where the draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan was discussed.

On August 29, the USFS attended a Coronado National Forest Permittee meeting in Sonoita, AZ and provided a wolf program update.

On August 29, the USFWS met with the Western Landowners Alliance in Albuquerque, NM to discuss conservation programs.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In August, Erika Sertyl started a volunteer position with the USFWS. Welcome to the program Erika!

In August, McKenna Zandarski concluded a summer internship on the IFT with the AGFD. Thank you McKenna for your hard work and commitment to Mexican wolf recovery efforts!

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, 2017

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. Interested parties may **sign up** to receive this update electronically by visiting www.azgfd.com and clicking on the E-news Signup tab on the top left corner of the webpage. 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://arcg.is/0iGSGH> 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

Dr. Benjamin Tuggle is the new USFWS Assistant Director for Science Applications. The new USFWS Southwest Regional Director is Amy Lueders, formerly the Bureau of Land Management State Director for New Mexico.

On September 7, the USFWS met with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the Chairman of the New Mexico State Game Commission to discuss Mexican wolf recovery issues.

The USFWS met September 29 with Arizona Game and Fish Department to discuss matching funds for Livestock Demonstration Grants for depredation compensation and payments for presence.

The USFWS convened a conference call on September 20 with staff from Congressman Pearce's office to discuss Mexican wolf recovery issues.

On September 27, a symposium entitled “Mexican Wolf Conservation: Two Decades of Reintroduction and the Future of Recovery” was held at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The symposium featured speakers covering a variety of topics from the USFWS , AGFD, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, Wolf Haven International, biologists leading the recovery effort in Mexico, and a local rancher.

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 update 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

Annual surveys are conducted in the winter as this is when the population experiences 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.

During annual year-end population counts, the IFT documented a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. At the end of September, there were 64 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

Wolves with functioning radio collars are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and AF1335)

In September, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory on the SCAR and on the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). A minimum of three pups were documented with the Bear Wallow Pack in late summer; however this number may change as the IFT continues to document observations of this pack.

Bluestem Pack (collared F1489, f1563, and fp1665)

In September, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, m1471, f1473, and fp1668)

In September, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. A female pup, fp1668, was captured, collared and released in September. The pack continued to display localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of September.

Frieborn Pack (collared F1443 and m1447)

In September, the Frieborn Pack was documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and into New Mexico.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

In September, the Hawks Nest Pack consisted of one collared wolf, AM1038. AM1038 was located traveling alone in the traditional territory of the Diamond Pack in the northern and central portions of the ASNF.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, f1550, f1663, and mp1666)

In September, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing. A male pup, mp1666, in the Hoodoo pack was captured, collared and released in September.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

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

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1382, and m1574)

In September, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. Single yearling female 1484 and a minimum of three pups were documented traveling with the pack during the month of September. The IFT continued to maintain a food cache for this pack to reduce potential for livestock depredations and with the goal of increasing survival of genetically valuable pups that the IFT cross-fostered into the Panther Creek Pack in May.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared F1488)

In September, F1488 and an unknown collared wolf continued to travel together within a territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. F1488 was captured, recollared and released in late September.

Saffel Pack (collared AF1567 and mp1661)

In September, the Saffel Pack was located in the north eastern portion of the ASNF, north of the traditional territory of the Hoodoo Pack. The IFT continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Single collared m1483

Yearling male 1483 was documented traveling alone in the north eastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona during September.

Single collared f1484

Female 1484 was documented traveling with the Panther Creek Pack in the Panther Creek's traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF during September.

Single collared f1562

Female 1562 was localized in the north central portion of the ASNF during September and has been documented traveling with an unknown collared wolf.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared m1559, f1560, m1571, and m1572)

In September, the Diamond Pack was located in their traditional territory on the FAIR and in the north central portion of the ASNF. At the end of September m1571 was documented traveling separate from the pack. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache on the ASNF for the Diamond Pack to reduce potential for further wolf-livestock conflict.

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

In September, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Dark Canyon (collared F1456 and M1354)

During September, F1456 and M1354 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF.

Copper Creek (collared F1444 and M1386)

During September, F1444 and M1386 were documented traveling together within the west central portions of the GNF.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, and m1556)

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 Gila National Forest (GNF). The IFT continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during September.

Lava Pack (collared F1405 and AM1285)

During September, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the south eastern portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346, and m1561)

During September, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness. The IFT continued to monitor the pack for pup rearing behavior in September.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158 and AF1487)

During September, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce potential for livestock depredations.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439 and fp1664)

During September, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the north western portion of the GNF. The Mangas Pack continued to display behavior consistent with pup rearing. A diversionary food cache established in May to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts was removed by the IFT at the end of September. The Mangas Pack was not involved in any wolf-livestock conflicts during that time period.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, M1398, f1565, and mp1669)

During September, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing in September. The IFT captured, collared, and released mp1669 of the Prieto Pack during routine collaring efforts in September. A diversionary food cache established in May to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts was removed by the IFT at the end of September. The Prieto pack was not involved in any wolf-livestock conflicts during that time period.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and mp1582)

During September, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache with the goal of increasing survival of the genetically diverse litter of pups. The IFT captured, collared, and released mp1582 during collaring efforts in September. Male pup 1582 is a wild born pup, not one of the pups cross-fostered this spring.

Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284, F1553, and mp1667)

During September, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of September. The IFT captured, collared, and released mp1667 of the SBP pack during routine collaring efforts in September. A diversionary food cache established in June to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts was removed at the end of September. The SBP pack was not involved in any wolf conflicts during that time period.

Single collared AM1155

During September, AM1155 was documented traveling within the GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared M1455

M1455 was not located by the IFT during September.

Single collared m1486

During September, m1486 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the CNF.

Single collared M1552

During September, M1552 traveled throughout central portions of the Cibola National Forest (CNF) and eastern portions of the GNF.

Single collared m1569

During September, m1569 traveled throughout central portions of the CNF and eastern portions of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

There were no documented mortalities in September. From January 1 to September 30, 2017 there have been a total of eight documented wolf mortalities.

INCIDENTS

During the month of September, there were two confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock and no nuisance incidents. From January 1 to September 30, 2017 there have been a total of 16 confirmed depredation incidents in New Mexico and 15 confirmed depredation incidents in Arizona.

On September 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by coyotes.

On September 7, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf died from a vehicle strike.

On September 7, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf died of unknown causes.

On September 10, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf died of respiratory illness.

On September 20 Wildlife Services investigated a dead bull in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the bull died from a vehicle strike.

On September 17, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf died of unknown causes.

On September 18, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf died of unknown causes.

On September 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by a wolf.

On September 28, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by a wolf.

On September 28, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow had been killed by a bear.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On September 9, the IFT assisted with the annual calf branding at the Deadman Ranch in New Mexico.

On September 16, the IFT gave a talk on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program to a group of students studying habitat ecology from Arizona State University.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In September, two new personnel joined the field team in temporary volunteer positions with the USFWS.

In September, the White Mountain Apache Tribe field personnel returned to the Interagency Field Team working on the FAIR.

REWARDS OFFERED

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

Individuals with information they believe may be helpful are urged to call one of the following agencies: USFWS special agents in Mesa, Arizona, at (480) 967-7900, in Alpine, Arizona, at (928) 339-4232, or in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at (505) 346-7828; the WMAT at (928) 338-

1023 or (928) 338-4385; AGFD Operation Game Thief at (800) 352-0700; or NMDGF Operation Game Thief at (800) 432-4263. Killing a Mexican wolf is a violation of the Federal Endangered Species Act and can result in criminal penalties of up to \$50,000, and/or not more than one year in jail, and/or a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.



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Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

The USFWS met with Phil Miller, of Conservation Planning Specialist Group, in the week of October 2 to discuss public and peer review comments on the draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, Biological Report and appendices.

The Department of Justice submitted the 6-month status report to the court on October 18, in compliance with the Stipulated Settlement Agreement to complete the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan by the end of November 2017.

Southwest Regional Director Amy Lueders met with the WMAT Tribal Council on October 18 to discuss several USFWS issues, including the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program.

The USFWS convened a conference call with Mexico's National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP by its Spanish acronym) to discuss actions and costs necessary to achieve recovery of Mexican wolves in Mexico.

The USFWS met with the AGFD and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish on October 25 to discuss issues regarding the final Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan.

On October 27, 2017, Peter Siminski retired from the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in Palm Desert, California, and as the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan Coordinator and Studbook Keeper. The USFWS expresses its gratitude for the more than 30 years that Peter Siminski has devoted to the recovery of the Mexican wolf.

Regional Director Lueders convened a conference call on October 30 with the Mexican Wolf Tribal Working Group to discuss Tribal perspectives on Mexican wolf recovery.

On October 31, Regional Director Lueders contacted the leaders of several Tribes and Pueblos directly affected by Mexican wolf recovery in Arizona and New Mexico to discuss concerns, process and communication.

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

Annual surveys are conducted in the winter as this is when the population experiences 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.

During annual year-end population counts, the IFT documented a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. At the end of October, there were 69 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

Wolves with functioning radio collars are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338, AF1335, and m1673)

In October, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory on the SCAR and on the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). A yearling male, m1673, travelling with the Bear Wallow Pack was captured, collared, and released. A minimum of three pups were documented; however, minimum pup numbers may change as the IFT continues to document observations of wolf packs.

Bluestem Pack (collared F1489, f1563, and fp1665)

In October, the Bluestem Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Two pups were documented with the pack in October.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, m1471, f1473, m1477, fp1668, and mp1671)

In October, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. A male pup, mp1671, and a yearling male, m1477, were captured, collared and released in October. Two pups were documented traveling with the pack in October.

Frieborn Pack (collared F1443 and m1447)

In October, the Frieborn Pack was documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and into New Mexico. No pups have been documented traveling with F1443 and m1447.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038)

In October, the Hawks Nest Pack consisted of one collared wolf, AM1038. AM1038 was located traveling alone in the traditional territory of the Diamond Pack in the northern and central portions of the ASNF.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, f1550, f1663, and mp1666)

In October, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north eastern portion of the ASNF. Hoodoo f1663 dispersed from her natal territory and has localized in the eastern portion of the FAIR and north central portion of the ASNF with Diamond m1571.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In October, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF. AF1291 was observed traveling with another wolf. No pups have been documented with this pack.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1382, and m1574)

In October, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. Single yearling female, f1484, was documented occasionally traveling with the pack. The IFT continued to maintain a food cache for this pack to reduce potential for livestock depredations and with the goal of increasing survival of pups that the IFT cross-fostered into the Panther Creek Pack in May.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared F1488)

In October, F1488 was documented traveling within a territory in the east central portion of the ASNF with an uncollared male. The unknown collared wolf that F1488 had been traveling with was not documented in October.

Saffel Pack (collared AF1567 and mp1661)

In October, the Saffel Pack was located in the north eastern portion of the ASNF, north of the traditional territory of the Hoodoo Pack. Four pups were documented traveling with the Saffel Pack in October.

Single collared m1483

Male 1483 continued to travel alone in the north eastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona during October.

Single collared f1484

Female 1484 was documented traveling alone and occasionally with the Panther Creek Pack in the Panther Creek's traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF during October.

Single collared f1562

Female 1562 was localized in the north central portion of the ASNF during October and has been documented traveling with an unknown collared wolf.

Single collared mp1672

A male pup, mp1672, with unknown parentage and affiliation was caught, collared, and released in the north central portion of the ASNF during the month of October.

ON THE FAIR:

Diamond Pack (collared m1559, f1560, m1571, and m1572)

In October, the Diamond Pack was located in their traditional territory on the FAIR and in the north central portion of the ASNF. Yearling males m1559 and m1572 were documented occasionally dispersing into new areas in the eastern portion of the FAIR. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache on the ASNF for the Diamond Pack to reduce potential for further wolf-livestock conflict. Yearling male, m1571, made a large dispersal movement north of the ASFS onto the Navajo Nation. The IFT captured m1571, translocated and released the

wolf back within the MWEPA. Following the translocation, m1571 has localized in the eastern portion of the FAIR and north central portion of the ASNF and has paired with Hoodoo f1663.

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

In October, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Copper Creek (collared F1444 and M1386)

During October, M1386 was documented traveling within the west central portion of the GNF. F1444 was not located during October due to a collar malfunction, but is believed to still be traveling with M1386.

Dark Canyon (collared F1456 and M1354)

During October, F1456 and M1354 were documented traveling together within the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF).

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, m1555, m1556, and f1670)

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. The IFT continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during October. The IFT captured, collared, and released sub-adult wolves m1555, m1556 and f1670. Sub-adult m1555 had its radio collar slip off after it was collared as a pup in 2016.

Lava Pack (collared F1405 and AM1285)

During October, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the south eastern portion of the GNF. In October, the IFT discontinued the diversionary food cache that had been maintained for the Lava Pack as a result of the pack making larger movements within their territory during the fall.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346, and m1561)

During October, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158 and AF1487)

During October, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT discontinued the diversionary food cache in October which had been maintained for the Luna Pack to reduce potential for wolf livestock conflict.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, and fp1664)

During October, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the north western portion of the GNF.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, M1398, and f1565)

During October, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup

rearing in October. Male pup 1669, which was collared in early September, had its radio collar slip off in October.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and fp1578)

During October, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT captured, collared and released fp1578, which is one of two pups from the Brookfield Zoo that were placed into the pack's den during a cross-foster operation this past May in effort to increase genetic diversity of wolves in the wild. The IFT continued to maintain a supplemental food cache with the goal of increasing survival of the genetically diverse litter of pups. Male pup 1582, which was collared by the IFT in September, had its radio collar slip off in October.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284, F1553, and mp1667)

During October, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to observe localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of October.

Single collared AM1155

During October, AM1155 was documented traveling within the GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared M1455

M1455 was not located by the IFT during October.

Single collared m1486

During October, m1486 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Single collared M1552

During October, M1552 traveled throughout central portion of the CNF and eastern portion of the GNF.

Single collared m1569

During October, m1569 traveled throughout central portion of the CNF and eastern portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

There were no documented wolf mortalities during the month of October. From January 1 to October 31, there have been a total of eight documented wolf mortalities in 2017.

INCIDENTS

During the month of October, there were no confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock and there were no nuisance incidents. From January 1 to October 31, 2017 there have been a total of 16 confirmed depredation incidents in New Mexico and 15 confirmed depredation incidents in Arizona.

On October 16, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf died of unknown causes.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

There were no communication and coordination updates for the month of October.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

There were no personnel updates for the project in October.

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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To view semi-monthly wolf telemetry flight location information please visit <http://arcg.is/OiGSGH> 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. For sightings or suspected depredations on the FAIR, please call the FAIR wolf office in Whiteriver at (928) 338-4385 ext. 226. 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 Updates

On November 29, 2017, the USFWS posted on its website the finalized Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision. The goal of the plan is to provide guidance to recover the subspecies within the subspecies' historical range in the Southwestern United States and Mexico. The recovery plan provides measurable and objective criteria which, when met, will enable the USFWS to remove the Mexican wolf from the list of endangered species and turn its management over to

the appropriate states and tribes. To review the recovery plan and related documents, visit the USFWS Mexican wolf website at: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/>

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) are used to indicate wolves younger than 24 months. A lower case letter “p” preceding the number is used to indicate a wolf pup born in the most recent spring. The capital letter “A” preceding the letter and number indicates 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 update 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

Annual surveys are conducted in the winter as this is when the population experiences 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.

During annual year-end population counts, the IFT documented a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. At the end of November, there were 66 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

Wolves with functioning radio collars are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338, AF1335, and m1673)

In November, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory on the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). The pack had several infrequent locations on the SCAR during November. Yearling m1673 made a wide dispersal movement into southwestern New Mexico.

Bluestem Pack (collared F1489, f1563, and fp1665)

In November, f1489 made dispersal movements around the northern and western edges of the

Bluestem Pack's traditional territory in the central ASNF. Yearling f1563 and fp1665 were found dead; the incidents are under investigation.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, m1471, f1473, m1474, m1477, fp1668, and mp1671)

In November, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. Two yearling wolves, m1477 and f1473, each made wide dispersal movements, traveling separately, from their natal territory. Two pups were documented traveling with the pack in November.

Frieborn Pack (collared F1443 and m1447)

In November, the Frieborn Pack was documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and into New Mexico.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, f1550, f1663, and mp1666)

In November, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. Hoodoo f1663 was found dead in November; the incident is under investigation. Two pups were documented traveling with the pack in November.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

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

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1382, and m1574)

In November, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache for this pack with the goal of increasing survival of genetically valuable pups that the IFT cross-fostered into the Panther Creek Pack in May.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared F1488)

In November, F1488 was documented traveling within a territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Saffel Pack (collared AF1567 and mp1661)

In November, the Saffel Pack was located in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. Four pups were documented traveling with the Saffel Pack in November.

Single collared AM1038

In November, AM1038 of the old Hawks Nest Pack was located traveling in the north central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared m1483

Male 1483 was found dead in November; the incident is under investigation.

Single collared f1484

In November, f1484 was documented traveling alone and occasionally with the Panther Creek Pack in the Panther Creek's traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared f1562

Female 1562 was localized in the north central portion of the ASNF during November and has been documented traveling with an unknown collared wolf. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache on the ASNF for this pair to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared mp1672)

In November, mp1672, previously captured, collared and released in October, was determined via genetic analysis to be offspring of AF1445 and AM1347 of the Baldy Pack. Male pup 1672 was located traveling alone in the eastern portion of the FAIR and northern portion of ASNF during November. AF1445 and AM1347 have not been located by the IFT this year and remain fate unknown.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared AM1343, AF1283, and fp1674)

In November, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory on the FAIR. A female pup, fp1674, was captured, collared, and released.

Diamond Pack (collared m1559, f1560, m1571, and m1572)

In November, f1560 was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and north central portion of the ASNF. Male 1571 continued to travel apart from other Diamond Pack members and made wide dispersal movements to the eastern portion of the FAIR and the central portion of the ASNF. Male 1572 dispersed from traditional Diamond territory through the western portion of the ASNF into the Coconino National Forest during the month of November. Male 1559 was not located during the month of November.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Copper Creek Pack (collared M1386)

During November, M1386 was documented traveling within the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). F1444 was not located during November due to a collar malfunction, but is believed to still be traveling with M1386.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared F1456 and M1354)

During November, F1456 and M1354 were documented traveling together within the west central portion of the GNF.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, m1555, m1556, and f1670)

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 and AM1285)

During November, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion of the GNF.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346, and m1561)

During November, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158 and AF1487)

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

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, and fp1664)

During November, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, AM1398, f1565, and mp1669)

During November, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT re-collared mp1669 during trapping efforts in November.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and fp1578)

During November, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT captured, re-collared, and released AF1399 in November. The supplemental food cache maintained by the IFT to increase survival of cross-fostered pups was discontinued due to reduced use and increased movements of the pack throughout its territory.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284, AF1553, and mp1667)

During November, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared AM1155

During November, AM1155 of the old Morgart's Pack was documented traveling within the GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared M1455

M1455 was not located by the IFT during November and is now considered fate unknown.

Single collared m1486

During November, m1486 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Single collared M1552

During November, M1552 traveled throughout central portion of the CNF and eastern portion of the GNF.

Single collared m1569

During November, m1569 traveled throughout central portion of the CNF and eastern portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

During November, Bluestem f1563 and fp1665, Hoodoo f1663, and single m1483 were located dead in Arizona. These incidents are under investigation. From January 1 to November 30, 2017 there have been a total of 12 documented wolf mortalities.

INCIDENTS

During the month of November, there were no confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock. There was one nuisance incident investigated. From January 1 to November 30, 2017 there have been a total of 16 confirmed depredation incidents in New Mexico and 15 confirmed depredation incidents in Arizona.

On November 1, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a probable wolf kill.

On November 4, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was killed by a coyote.

On November 6, the IFT investigated a report of wolves acting aggressively toward campers at the Hannagan Campground located near Hannagan Meadow. Based on interviews of the campers involved and evidence gathered from an investigation of the scene, the IFT determined domestic dogs were responsible for the incident.

On November 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by coyotes.

On November 28, WMAT investigated a dead steer on the FAIR. The investigation determined the steer died of illness.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On November 4, WMAT personnel presented at the White Mountain Apache Wildlife Fair at the Hon dah Conference Center on the FAIR.

On November 14, WMAT personnel presented on a radio show on KNNB radio in Whiteriver, AZ.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

WMAT welcomed a temporary employee this month. We are glad to have her on board!

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, 2017

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. For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit www.wmatoutdoors.org. Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting www.azgfd.com and clicking on the E-news Signup tab on the top left corner of the webpage. 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://arcg.is/OiGSGH> 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. For sightings or suspected depredations on the FAIR, please call the FAIR wolf office in Whiteriver at (928) 338-4385 ext. 226. 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 Updates

The USFWS published the 2018 Mexican Wolf Release and Translocation Plan on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program website from December 4 to 29, in order to comply with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish regulations for permits. Over 100 public comments were received and will be forwarded to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for their review and consideration.

The USFWS attended the December 20, 2017 meeting of the New Mexico State Game Commission. The Commission voted to 1) approve the Final Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan as written including comments as discussed at the August 24, 2017 and December 20, 2017 Commission Meetings; 2) allow the USFWS to import Mexican wolf pups born in the wild in Arizona to the Ladder Ranch in coordination with the 2018 cross-fostering events (in addition, no wolves shall be released from the Ladder Ranch into the wild without prior approval); 3) direct the Director to allow for the importation of one female adult wolf in Arizona into captivity for artificial insemination, for breeding and then release back into the wild in Arizona; 4) direct the Director to allow for the release of up to 12 wolf pups into the wild in New Mexico with the approval of the Chairman of the State Game Commission.

At the end of November, 2017, the USFWS posted on its website the finalized Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision. The goal of the plan is to provide guidance to recover the subspecies within the subspecies' historical range in the Southwestern United States and Mexico. The recovery plan provides measurable and objective criteria which, when met, will enable the USFWS to remove the Mexican wolf from the list of endangered species and turn its management over to the appropriate states and tribes. To review the recovery plan and related documents, visit the USFWS Mexican wolf website at:

<https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/>

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) are used to indicate wolves younger than 24 months. A lower case letter “p” preceding the number is used to indicate a wolf pup born in the most recent spring. The capital letter “A” preceding the letter and number indicates 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 update 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

Annual surveys are conducted in the winter as this is when the population experiences 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.

During annual year-end population counts, the IFT documented a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. At the end of December, there were 66 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. The year-end population count for 2017 will be available sometime in mid-February.

Wolves with functioning radio collars are listed by studbook number in the pack updates below.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338, AF1335, and m1673)

In December, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory on the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF), occasionally using the SCAR. Yearling m1673 continued to make dispersal movements in December.

Bluestem Pack (collared F1489)

In December, F1489 continued making dispersal movements around the northern and western edges of the Bluestem Pack's traditional territory in the central ASNF.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, m1471, f1473, m1477, fp1668, and mp1671)

In December, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. Three yearling wolves, m1471, m1473 and f1477, each made dispersal movements, traveling separately, from their natal territory. Yearling m1477 was documented traveling with an uncollared wolf and maintaining a territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Hazing efforts were conducted this month by the IFT in order to address wolf-livestock conflict with the Elk Horn Pack.

Frieborn Pack (collared F1443 and m1447)

In December, the Frieborn Pack was documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and into New Mexico.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, f1550, and mp1666)

In December, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291)

In December, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory both on the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1382, and m1574)

In December, the Panther Creek Pack was located in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache for this pack with the goal of increasing survival of genetically valuable pups that the IFT cross-fostered into the Panther Creek Pack in May.

Pine Spring Pack (collared f1562)

In December, yearling f1562 was localized in the north central portion of the ASNF and has been

documented traveling with an unknown collared wolf. This pair has been documented traveling together for over three months and thus have been named the Pine Spring Pack. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache on the ASNF for this pair to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared F1488)

In December, F1488 was documented traveling within a territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. During December, Elk Horn disperser m1471 began traveling in the same territory in proximity to F1488.

Saffel Pack (collared AF1567 and mp1661)

In December, the Saffel Pack was located in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared AM1038

In December, AM1038 of the old Hawks Nest Pack was located traveling in the north central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared f1484

In December, f1484 was documented traveling alone and occasionally with the Panther Creek Pack in the Panther Creek's traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared mp1672)

In December, mp1672 was documented traveling occasionally with Diamond f1560 in the eastern portion of the FAIR. Male pup 1672 was also located in the northern portion of ASNF. AF1445 and AM1347 were not located by the IFT during 2017 and remain fate unknown.

Diamond Pack (collared m1559, f1560, m1571, and m1572)

In December, yearling m1559 was located on the FAIR. Yearling f1560 was documented traveling occasionally with Baldy mp1672 in the eastern portion of the FAIR and on the north central portion of the ASNF. Yearling m1571 continued to travel apart from other Diamond Pack members and made wide dispersal movements to the eastern portion of the FAIR and the central portion of the ASNF. Yearling m1572 remained dispersed from traditional Diamond territory on the Coconino National Forest during the month of December.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared AM1343, AF1283, and fp1674)

In December, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory on the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Copper Creek Pack (collared M1386)

During December, M1386 was documented traveling in the northeast portion of the Gila Wilderness, outside of Copper Creek Pack territory. F1444 was not located during December.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared F1456 and M1354)

During December, F1456 and M1354 were documented traveling together within the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF).

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, m1555, m1556, and f1670)

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. Sub-adult m1556 showed dispersal behavior in December, and was located in the east portion of the Gila Wilderness.

Lava Pack (collared F1405 and AM1285)

During December, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion of the GNF.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293, AF1346, and m1561)

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

Luna Pack (collared AM1158 and AF1487)

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

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, and fp1664)

During December, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, AM1398, f1565, and mp1669)

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

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and fp1578)

During December, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284, AF1553, and mp1667)

During December, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared AM1155

During December, AM1155 of the old Morgart's Pack was documented traveling within the GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared m1486

During December, m1486 traveled throughout northern and central portions of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Single collared M1552

During December, M1552 traveled throughout central portion of the CNF and eastern portion of the GNF.

Single collared m1569

During December, m1569 traveled throughout central portion of the CNF and eastern portion of the GNF. In December, m1569 was captured by a private trapper in the western portion of the CNF. The IFT responded and processed, recollared, and released the animal on site.

Single collared M1453

On December 27, M1453 (previously fate unknown), was captured by a private trapper in the western portion of CNF. The IFT processed, collared, and released the animal on site.

MORTALITIES

During December, a previously uncollared wolf, f1675, was located dead in Arizona. This incident is under investigation. From January 1 to December 31, 2017 there have been a total of 12 documented wolf mortalities and one lethal removal (F1557).

INCIDENTS

During the month of December, there were 3 confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock and one confirmed wolf depredation on a domestic dog. There was one nuisance incident investigated. From January 1 to December 31, 2017 there have been a total of 19 confirmed depredation incidents in New Mexico and 15 confirmed depredation incidents in Arizona.

On December 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cause of death was unknown.

On December 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead heifer in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cause of death was unknown.

On December 18, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On December 26, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On December 27, Wildlife Services investigated a domestic dog attacked in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the incident was confirmed wolf.

On December 28, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

There are no communication and coordination updates to report for the month of December.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

There are no updates to project personnel for the month of December.

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.