



Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

April 1 - 30, 2018

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 (AZGFD), 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 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. 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

In April 2018, the U.S. District Court of Arizona issued an adverse decision on the revised 10(j) rule litigation, remanding the 2015 10(j) rule to the USFWS. The 2015 10(j) rule will remain in effect for the foreseeable future until the completion of this litigation.

On April 5, staff from the USFWS presented at the Arizona tribal/FWS coordination meeting. Management of Mexican wolves on tribal land was discussed.

From April 9-12, staff from USFWS, AGFD and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish attended the annual Trilateral committee meeting for wildlife and ecosystem conservation between the United States, Mexico and Canada. Staff presented to the Committee and attended management sessions that were held on Mexican wolf recovery.

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

The IFT completed the annual year-end population survey which started November 1, 2017 and concluded with helicopter count and capture operations conducted from January 24, 2018 through February 3, 2018. The year-end minimum population count for 2017 was 114 wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico. 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. At the end of April, there were 75 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338, AF1335, M1676, and f1683)

In April, the Bear Wallow Pack was located within their traditional territory on the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF), and occasionally documented on the SCAR. Yearling female 1683 continued to make dispersal movements north and east of Bear Wallow’s traditional territory, but frequently rejoined the pack. Alpha female 1335 exhibited behavior and movements consistent with denning.

Bluestem Pack (collared f1686)

In April, the IFT documented Bluestem in the pack's traditional territory in the central portion of the ASNF. Yearling female 1686 has been exhibiting localized behavior and movements suggesting that AF1042, which has a non-functioning collar, may have denned.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, f1668, and m1671)

In April, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. This month, two neonatal pups born in captivity at the Endangered Wolf Center were cross-fostered by the IFT into the Elk Horn den. The IFT initiated a supplemental food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort and to reduce the potential for livestock-related conflict. The Elk Horn Pack continued to display behavior consistent with denning after the cross-foster operation was conducted.

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443 and AM1447)

In April, the Frieborn Pack was documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona and New Mexico. This month, two neonatal pups born in captivity at the Endangered Wolf Center were cross-fostered by the IFT into the Frieborn den. The IFT initiated a supplemental food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort and to reduce the potential for livestock-related conflict. The Frieborn Pack exhibited behavior and movements consistent with denning after the cross-foster operation was conducted.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1666, m1677, and m1681)

In April, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT hazed the Hoodoo Pack several times this month in the Nutrioso area to deter them from frequenting areas with residences. At the end of the month, the IFT initiated a diversionary food cache to reduce potential for conflict. The Hoodoo Pack displayed behavior consistent with denning within their traditional territory during 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.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AF1339, AM1382, and M1574)

In April, the Panther Creek Pack was located in their traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Alpha Female 1339 and AM1382 have joined up and have been documented traveling as a pair. Sub-adult M1574 has been traveling separately from the pack.

Pine Spring Pack (collared AF1562 and AM1394)

In April, the Pine Spring Pack was located within their territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache on the ASNF for this pair to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The Pine Spring Pack displayed behavior consistent with denning within their territory during April.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AF1488 and AM1471)

In April, the Prime Canyon Pack was documented traveling within a territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Alpha female 1488 has been exhibiting behavior and movements consistent with denning behavior.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, m1661, and m1680)

In April, the Saffel Pack was located in their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The Saffel Pack displayed behavior consistent with denning within their traditional territory during April.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared M1571 and F1550)

In April, F1550 of the Hoodoo Pack had localized in the east central portion of the ASNF and has been consistently documented traveling with M1571 formerly of the Diamond Pack. This pair has been documented traveling together and maintaining a territory for over three months and have been named the Sierra Blanca Pack.

Single collared M1477

In April, M1477 was documented in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1489

In April, F1489 was documented traveling in the north central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared AM1347, F1560, and m1672)

In April, the Baldy Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the north central portion of the ASNF.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared AM1343, AF1283, and f1674)

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

Tu dil hil Pack (collared M1559 and F1679)

In April, M1559 and F1679 were assigned a pack name (Tu dil hil) after three months of traveling together. They were documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Copper Creek Pack

During April, the Copper Creek Pack was not located. Currently there are no functioning collars in this pack. Single M1673 was documented traveling within the Copper Creek territory in April. The IFT is monitoring this to determine if it has joined the pack.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AF1456 and AM1354)

During April, the Dark Canyon Pack was documented traveling together within their traditional territory, in the west central portion of the GNF.

Datil Mountain Pack (collared M1453 and F1685)

During April, F1685 has continued to travel with M1453 in the western portion of the CNF for a period of three months, and the pair is now considered the Datil Mountain Pack.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038 and F1473)

During April, AM1038, formerly of the Hawks Nest Pack, has continued to travel with F1473 in north central portions of the GNF for a period of three months. The pair is now considered the Hawks Nest Pack. The IFT documented behavior consistent with denning in mid-April.

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

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

Lava Pack (collared AF1405 and AM1285)

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

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

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

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and fp1684)

During April, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a food cache for the Luna Pack to reduce potential for livestock conflict. In late-April, the Luna pack displayed behavior consistent with denning.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, and f1664)

During April, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. The Mangas Pack displayed behavior consistent with denning within their traditional territory. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential for livestock conflict.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, AM1398, F1565, m1669, and m1678)

During April, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Prieto Pack displayed behavior consistent with denning within their traditional territory.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and f1578)

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

Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AM1284, AF1553, mp1667, and fp1682)

During April, the SBP Pack continued to use their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. AM1284, mp1667 and fp1682 were not located in April. In late-April, the SBP Pack displayed behavior consistent with denning.

Single collared AM1155

During April, AM1155 of the old Morgart's Pack was not located by the IFT.

Single collared M1486

During April, M1486 traveled throughout the northern and central portions of the CNF.

Single collared M1561

During April, M1561 dispersed into Arizona and continued to make wide dispersal movements on both the ASNF and Coconino National Forests.

Single collared M1673

During April, M1673 traveled throughout the southern portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

There were no mortalities documented in April.

INCIDENTS

During the month of April, there were 12 confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock. There were 5 nuisance incidents investigated in April. From January 1 to April 30, 2018 there have been a total of 29 confirmed wolf depredation incidents in New Mexico and 11 confirmed wolf depredation incidents in Arizona.

On April 2, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 2, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was stillborn.

On April 4, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow died of natural causes.

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

On April 5, the IFT took a report of wolves located near an occupied dwelling and livestock in Catron County, NM. The IFT and Wildlife Services investigated the incident. The IFT provided less than lethal training and rounds to the reporting party.

On April 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 7, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 9 and 10, the IFT received reports of two elk killed by wolves in the Nutrioso, AZ area. Both of the elk carcasses were removed by the IFT to eliminate any further attractant to wolves returning to areas with a concentration of residences. The IFT resumed efforts to haze wolves that entered the Nutrioso area and focused hazing efforts during nighttime hours. The IFT provided less than lethal training and rounds to five residents in Nutrioso to use to haze wolves if wolves were observed near residences on private property.

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

On April 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead bull in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the bull was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 17, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 18, Wildlife Services investigated a dead bull in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the bull was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 19, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 19, Wildlife Service investigated a dead calf in Socorro County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was killed by a coyote.

On April 21, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 21, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 23, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a coyote kill.

On April 24, the IFT received a report of an elk killed by wolves in Auger Canyon near a residence and that three wolves were observed feeding on the carcass. The IFT determined from GPS points that the Hoodoo Pack had location points on the elk kill.

On April 27, the IFT received a report of an elk having been killed by wolves approximately 250 yards from the nearest residence in Nutrioso. The elk was removed from the location. A diversionary food cache was started near the Hoodoo Pack den to mitigate wolves hunting and killing elk in proximity to houses. Members of the Hoodoo Pack have been using the diversionary food cache regularly. The IFT maintained a presence in the Nutrioso area in effort to haze wolves if they returned to the valley and to visit with residents to provide self-help information on what to do if a wolf was encountered. The IFT has taken management action in

this situation due to the wolves' repeated use of areas in close proximity to homes. It is important to note that the wolves have not been remaining in the community during the day and on the few occasions when encountered by people, the wolves have run away.

On April 27, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On April 27, Wildlife Services investigated an injured calf in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was injured by a bear.

On April 30, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined that the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On April 5, WMAT presented to Arizona health professionals in Hon-Dah, AZ

On April 10, WMAT presented on KNNB radio in Whiteriver, AZ.

On April 14, USFWS personnel presented to a group at the Phoenix Zoo.

On April 25, USFWS and AGFD presented at a meeting held in Springerville hosted by Apache County.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

The USFWS welcomed two new volunteers in March and two in April to the program. During this time, three other volunteers completed their volunteer commitment with the USFWS, moving on to other career opportunities and experiences. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication!

REWARDS OFFERED

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

Individuals with information they believe may be helpful are urged to call one of the following agencies: USFWS special agents in Mesa, Arizona, at (480) 967-7900, in Alpine, Arizona, at (928) 339-4232, or in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at (505) 346-7828; the WMAT at (928) 338-1023 or (928) 338-4385; AGFD Operation Game Thief at (800) 352-0700; or NMDGF

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



Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project Monthly Update

July 1 - 31, 2018

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.wmatoutdoor.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 (AZGFD), 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 location information please visit <http://arcg.is/0iGSGH>.

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 July 12 and 13, the annual meeting of the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) was hosted by the Brookfield Zoo in Illinois. The SSP oversees management of the Mexican wolf captive breeding program for the USFWS and meets annually with the primary purpose to discuss population demographics, management and research needs, as well as to make breeding and transfer recommendations for the upcoming year. The meeting was attended by USFWS, AZGFD and representatives from captive breeding facilities from the United States and Mexico. The next SSP meeting will be held in Mexico during summer of 2019.

On July 18, the USFWS advertised the job announcement for the Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator position. The application period closed on August 2, 2018.

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 lowercase 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

The year-end minimum population count for 2017 was 114 wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico. 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. Counting the population at the end of each year allows for comparable year-to-year trends at a time of year that accounts for most mortality and survival of young pups. At the end of July, there were 71 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338, M1676, and f1683)

In July, the IFT documented the Bear Wallow Pack in their territory on the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF) and occasionally on the SCAR. Yearling f1683, M1676, and AM1338 were documented traveling separately. Male1676 made dispersal movements across the central and western portion of the ASNF and on the Coconino National Forest.

Bluestem Pack (collared f1686)

In July, the IFT documented the Bluestem Pack in the pack’s traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Yearling f1686 made dispersal movements from the pack’s

territory this month within the eastern portion of the ASNF.

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In July, M1477 continued to be documented with an uncollared wolf. The pair has been holding a territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, f1668, and m1671)

In July, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort and to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The pack displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of July.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1666, m1677, and m1681)

In July, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for the pack to reduce potential for conflict. The pack displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of July.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AM1382)

In July, the IFT documented AM1382 traveling alone in the pack's traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Pine Spring Pack (collared F1562 and AM1394)

In July, the Pine Spring Pack was located within their territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for this pack to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The pack displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of July.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared F1488 and M1471)

In July, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. F1488 and M1471 exhibited behavior and movements consistent with pup rearing. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for this pack in a proactive attempt to reduce the potential for human-wildlife interactions near residences.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, m1661, and m1680)

In July, the Saffel Pack was located in their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The pack displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of July.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared M1571 and F1550)

In July, the Sierra Blanca Pack was located in their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1489

In July, the IFT documented F1489 traveling in the north and east central portion of the ASNF and in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

Single collared M1574

In July, the IFT documented M1574 traveling in the east central portion of the ASNF, the SCAR, and the eastern portion of the FAIR.

ON THE FAIR:**Baldy Pack (collared AM1347, F1560, and m1672)**

In July, the Baldy Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the north central portion of the ASNF.

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.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared AM1343, AF1283, and f1674)

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

Tu dil hil Pack (collared M1559 and F1679)

In July, the Tu dil hil Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:**Copper Creek Pack**

During July, the Copper Creek Pack was not located. Currently there are no functioning collars in this pack.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AF1456 and AM1354)

During July, the Dark Canyon Pack was documented traveling together within their traditional territory, in the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). The Dark Canyon Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with rearing pups during July.

Datil Mountain Pack (collared M1453 and F1685)

During July, the Datil Mountain Pack continued to travel in the western portion of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443 and AM1447)

In July, the Frieborn Pack was documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in New Mexico and Arizona. The IFT maintained a food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort and to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The Frieborn Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with rearing pups during July.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038 and F1473)

During July, the Hawks Nest Pack began traveling separately. Alpha male 1038 continued to travel in the north central portion of the GNF, while F1437 has consistently been located with its natal pack (Elk Horn) in Arizona.

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

During July, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. The Iron Creek Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with rearing pups during July.

Lava Pack (collared AF1405 and AM1285)

During July, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion of the GNF. The IFT discontinued the supplemental food cache. The Lava Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with rearing pups during July.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

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

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and fp1684)

During July, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Luna Pack continued to display behavior consistent with rearing pups during July.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, f1664 and f1705)

During July, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential for livestock conflict. The Mangas Pack continued to display behavior consistent with denning within their traditional territory during July.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251, AM1398, F1565, m1669, and m1678)

During July, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for the Prieto Pack and implemented continuous hazing efforts to reduce potential for livestock conflict. The Prieto Pack continued to display behavior consistent with denning within their traditional territory during July.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and f1578)

During July, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for the San Mateo Pack to reduce potential for livestock conflict. The San Mateo Pack continued to display behavior consistent with rearing pups during July.

Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553)

During July AF1553, of the SBP Pack and single M1561 continued to use the traditional territory of the SBP pack in the north central portion of the GNF. The wolves continued to exhibit behavior consistent with rearing pups.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788)

In July the IFT documented an uncollared male wolf traveling with F1788. The IFT has continued efforts to determine reproductive status of this pack and to reduce potential for further

conflict with cattle by maintaining a diversionary food cache and conducting intensive hazing efforts.

Single collared M1486

During July, M1486 traveled throughout the northern and central portions of the CNF.

Single collared M1561

During July, M1561 has been traveling and rearing pups with AF1553 of the Shepherd's Baseball Park Pack.

Single collared M1673

During July, M1673 traveled throughout the southern portion of the GNF, largely within the Dark Canyon Pack territory.

MORTALITIES

There were no mortalities documented in July. From January 1, 2018 to July 31, 2018 there have been a total of 6 documented wolf mortalities.

INCIDENTS

During the month of July, there were 7 confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock. There was one nuisance incident during July. From January 1, 2018 to July 31, 2018 there have been a total of 55 confirmed wolf depredation incidents in New Mexico and 23 confirmed wolf depredation incidents in Arizona.

On July 1, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow and calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow and calf were killed by a bear.

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

On July 4, a horseback range rider working cattle on the ASNF south of Greer had between 4 to 5 wolves approach to within 30 to 40 yards of the range rider and his dogs. The rider stated the wolves' attention was focused on his dogs that were barking at cattle. The rider made aggressive movements toward the wolves and yelled which caused the wolves to immediately retreat out of sight. The wolves were not seen again by the rider. After the incident occurred the rider called and reported the event to the IFT.

On July 7, Wildlife Services investigated an injured calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a probable wolf injury.

On July 7, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On July 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On July 11, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined both cows were killed by a bear.

On July 15, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On July 16, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On July 16, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, NM. The investigation concluded the calf had died from unknown causes.

On July 17, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a probable wolf kill.

On July 17, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

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

On July 19, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by a bear.

On July 20, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf had been killed by coyotes.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On July 10 through July 12, the IFT completed bi-annual helicopter training.

On July 11 the USFWS participated in an SSP Management Group meeting in Brookfield, Illinois.

On July 17, WMAT presented to Turkey Creek Livestock Association in East Fork, AZ.

On July 18, WMAT presented to BIA Forestry in Whiteriver, AZ.

On July 27, WMAT presented to the Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project at Big Lake Recreation Area, AZ.

On July 28, AZGFD personnel presented to the Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project at Big Lake Recreation Area, AZ.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In July, Craig Zurek left the IFT to continue his professional career. Thank you Craig for your dedication and contribution to Mexican wolf recovery.

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, 2018

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.wmatoutdoor.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 (AZGFD), 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 location information please visit <http://arcg.is/0iGSGH>.

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

Brady McGee has been selected for the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator position. Brady will start in his new position October 1st. For the last four years, Brady has served as the USFWS Southwest Region's Chief for the Branch of Recovery and Restoration. Overall, he has worked in the Southwest Region since 2001 and has extensive experience with the Endangered Species Act, Mexican wolves and the challenges of wolf recovery in the Southwest. Brady has a

Masters in Wildlife Biology from Texas State University and a Doctorate degree in Wildlife Science from Texas Tech University.

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 lowercase 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

The year-end minimum population count for 2017 was 114 wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico. 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. Counting the population at the end of each year allows for comparable year-to-year trends at a time of year that accounts for most mortality and survival of young pups. At the end of August, there were 70 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338, M1676, and f1683)

In August, the IFT documented the Bear Wallow Pack in their territory on the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF) and occasionally on the SCAR. Yearling f1683, M1676, and AM1338 were documented traveling separately. Subadult male 1676 made dispersal movements across the central and western portion of the ASNF and on the Coconino National Forest.

Bluestem Pack (collared f1686)

In August, the IFT documented the Bluestem Pack in the pack’s traditional territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Yearling f1686 made dispersal movements from the pack’s territory this month within the eastern portion of the ASNF.

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In August, M1477 continued to be documented traveling with an uncollared wolf. The pair has been holding a territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, f1668, and m1671)

In August, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT discontinued a supplemental food cache that had been established for the pack as part of the cross-foster effort in April. The pack displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of August.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1666, m1677, and m1681)

In August, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT discontinued a diversionary food cache that had been established for the pack in May. The pack displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of August. The IFT documented a minimum of three pups in the Hoodoo Pack this month.

Panther Creek Pack (collared AM1382)

In August, the IFT documented AM1382 traveling alone and making dispersal movements throughout the north central portion of the ASNF.

Pine Spring Pack (collared AM1394 and AF1562)

In August, the Pine Spring Pack was located within their territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for this pack to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The pack displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of August.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471 and AF1488)

In August, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. AM1471 and AF1488 exhibited behavior and movements consistent with pup rearing. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for this pack in a proactive attempt to reduce the potential for human-wildlife interactions near residences.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, m1661, and m1680)

In August, the Saffel Pack was located in their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The pack displayed localized behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of August. The IFT documented a minimum of five pups in the Saffel Pack this month.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared M1571 and F1550)

In August, the Sierra Blanca Pack was located in their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1489

In August, the IFT documented F1489 traveling in the north and east central portion of the ASNF and in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

Single collared M1574

In August, the IFT documented M1574 traveling in the east central portion of the ASNF, the SCAR, and the eastern portion of the FAIR.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared AM1347, F1560, and m1672)

In August, the Baldy Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the north central portion of the ASNF.

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.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared AM1343, AF1283, and f1674)

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

Tu dil hil Pack (collared M1559 and F1679)

In August, the Tu dil hil Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Copper Creek Pack

During August, the Copper Creek Pack was located via a remote camera traveling in the western portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). Currently there are no functioning collars in this pack. Single M1673 was documented traveling with F1444 in August. The IFT is monitoring this to determine if M1673 has joined this pack.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354 and AF1456)

During August, the Dark Canyon Pack was documented traveling together within their traditional territory, in the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). The Dark Canyon Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with rearing pups during August.

Datil Mountain Pack (collared M1453 and F1685)

During August, the Datil Mountain Pack continued to travel in the western portion of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Frieborn Pack (collared AM1447 and AF1443)

In August, the Frieborn Pack was documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in New Mexico and Arizona. The IFT maintained a food cache near the den as part of

the cross-foster effort and to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The Frieborn Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with rearing pups during August.

Hawks Nest Pack (collared AM1038 and F1473)

During August, the Hawks Nest Pack continued to travel separately. AM1038 continued to travel in the north central portion of the GNF, while F1437 was consistently located with its natal pack (Elk Horn) in Arizona.

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

During August, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. The Iron Creek Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with rearing pups during August.

Lava Pack (collared AM1285 and AF1405)

During August, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion of the GNF. The Lava Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with rearing pups during August.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

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

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and fp1684)

During August, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Luna Pack continued to display behavior consistent with rearing pups during August.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, f1664 and f1705)

During August, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential for livestock conflict. The Mangas Pack continued to display behavior consistent with rearing pups within their traditional territory during August.

Prieto Pack (collared AM1398, AF1251, F1565, m1669, and m1678)

During August, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for the Prieto Pack and implemented continuous hazing efforts to reduce potential for livestock conflict. The Prieto Pack continued to display behavior consistent with rearing pups within their traditional territory during August.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and f1578)

During August, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for the San Mateo Pack to reduce potential for livestock conflict. The San Mateo Pack continued to display behavior consistent with rearing pups during August.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553 and M1561)

During August AF1553, of the SBP Pack and single M1561 continued to use the traditional territory of the SBP pack in the north central portion of the GNF. The wolves continued to exhibit behavior consistent with rearing pups.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788)

In August the Squirrel Springs pack continued to travel in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared M1486

During August, M1486 traveled throughout the northern and central portions of the CNF.

Single collared M1673

During August, M1673 was located via a remote camera traveling in the western portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF) with F1444 in August. The IFT is monitoring to determine if M1673 has joined the Copper Creek Pack.

MORTALITIES

In August, AM1343 of the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located dead in Arizona. This mortality is under investigation.

In August, fp1691 of the Elk Horn Pack was located dead in New Mexico. The mortality is currently under investigation.

From January 1, 2018 to August 31, 2018 there have been a total of eight documented wolf mortalities.

INCIDENTS

During the month of August, there were two confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock. There were two nuisance incidents during August. From January 1, 2018 to August 31, 2018 there have been a total of 56 confirmed wolf depredation incidents in New Mexico and 24 confirmed wolf depredation incidents in Arizona.

On August 3, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Coconino County, AZ. The investigation concluded the cow died from unknown causes.

On August 7, Wildlife Services investigated an injured dog in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined it was probable the injuries were caused by another dog.

On August 8, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On August 13, WMAT investigated a dead calf on the FAIR. The investigation determined the calf was a probable dog kill.

The IFT received information from a property manager who stated on August 16, a woman was sitting on a porch at a cabin located off Highway 191 north of Hannagan Meadow when a collared wolf approached the cabin and started to walk up the porch steps. The woman stood up and yelled at the wolf which caused the wolf to run off. The wolf reportedly was seen trying to enter a barn before leaving the property. The property manager told the IFT that on the following day, a single collared wolf was again observed on the property. The manager walked outside and yelled at the wolf from a distance of approximately 50 yards, causing the wolf to run away. The manager told the IFT that the property had been unoccupied for months prior to the week in mid-August when these incidents occurred. At the time of preparing this report, the property manager told the IFT there had been no further sightings of wolves at the property.

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

The IFT took a report from a hunter who reported an encounter with a wolf pack on August 29, while hunting in the ASNF south of Alpine. The hunter told the IFT that he was deer hunting on foot in the early morning when he was surrounded by wolves approximately 100 yards away. The hunter reported that the wolves were growling, barking and moving back and forth. The hunter stated there were as many as nine to ten wolves. The hunter left the area to return to his vehicle and indicated the wolves followed him out. GPS collar data was used by the IFT to determine the encounter reported by the hunter was with the Prime Canyon Pack which consists of two adult wolves and a minimum of six pups from this year. The IFT concluded the hunter's encounter with the Prime Canyon Pack was a result of the hunter walking into a rendezvous site where the alpha wolves exhibited behaviors to protect the pups that were present. Wolves vocalizing and following a perceived threat out of an area where young pups are present is a behavior often exhibited by wolves.

After taking the report, the IFT posted informational signs and has maintained a presence in the area. At the time this report was prepared, there have been no additional incidents reported to the IFT involving interactions with the Prime Canyon 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, USFWS by telephone 505-346-2525; or fax 505-346-2542.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On August 15, WMAT presented at the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference in Ignacio, CO.

On August 11, AGFD personnel had an informational booth about wolves at the Show Low Chamber of Commerce Outdoor Expo in Show Low, AZ.

On August 27 and 28, the IFT and a group of wildlife program personnel from the Navajo Nation completed annual capture and immobilization training in Springerville, AZ.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In August, WMAT welcomed a temporary employee.

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 state law and 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.