



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

January 1-31, 2019

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 Program 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 azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf. For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit wmatoutdoor.org. Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting 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 Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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://arag.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 AZGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

Due to the Federal government shutdown that lasted from December 22, 2018 until January 28, 2019, the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update for December did not include any project information for the State of New Mexico. The January Monthly Update will include project information from New Mexico for December and January. The shutdown also resulted in a delay of the annual helicopter count and capture operation by 18 days, however; the count will be conducted in February within the appropriate timeframe.

During the month of December, USFWS met with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and Zuni Departments of Game and Fish.

The captive reared Mexican wolf that escaped from a wildlife center in Divide, Colorado, on Nov 11, 2018, was captured near the center on December 12, 2018 and is being held for veterinary care at the Rio Grande Zoo in Albuquerque, 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) 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. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable. Year-end population counts for 2018 continued during the month of January.

At the end of January, there were 25 packs (11 in AZ and 14 in NM) and seven single collared wolves. There were 76 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wild wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338 and f1683)

In January, 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 and the FAIR.

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In January, the IFT continued to document M1477 traveling with an uncollared wolf in a territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, f1668, m1671, mp1695, fp1696, and fp1697)

In January, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1677, m1681, and mp1789)

In January, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. Hoodoo m1677 was documented making dispersal movements in New Mexico and the central portion of the ASNF.

Pine Spring Pack (collared AM1394, AF1562, fp1794, and fp1825)

In January, 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.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, mp1790, fp1791, and fp1823)

In January, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, and fp1792)

In January, the Saffel Pack was located within their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared M1571 and F1550)

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

Single collared F1489

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

Single collared M1574

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

Single collared AM1382

In January, the IFT documented AM1382, of the Panther Creek Pack, traveling in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared f1686

In January, the IFT documented yearling f1686 continued to make dispersal movements within the eastern portion of the ASNF.

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

In January, 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 and fp1828)

In January, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559, AF1283, and f1674)

In January, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR.

Single collared F1679

In January, F1679 of the Tu dil hil Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR. F1679 was occasionally documented on the SCAR.

Single collared M1824

In January, M1824 was documented traveling in the northwestern portion of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico.

IN NEW MEXICO:**Copper Creek Pack (F1444)**

During December and January, F1444, the only wolf with a functioning collar in the Copper Creek Pack, was documented making wide dispersal movements outside the pack's traditional range.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354 and AF1456)

During December and January, the Dark Canyon Pack was documented traveling together within their traditional territory, in the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF).

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

During December, the Datil Mountain Pack traveled within their traditional territory. In January, the Datil Mountain Pack male, M1453, was confirmed dead. The incident is currently under investigation. F1685 continued to travel in the western portion of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443 and fp1702)

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

Hawks Nest Pack

During early December F1473 traveled within their traditional territory. In late December, the Hawks Nest Pack female, F1473, was confirmed dead. The incident is currently under investigation. With the death of F1473 and the death of AM1038 in November, the Hawks Nest pack is considered defunct and will not be reported on in future updates.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1555, M1556, f1670, m1821, fp1721, and mp1710)

During December and 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. M1556 was captured by a private trapper, processed and released.

Lava Pack (collared AM1285 and AF1405)

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

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

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

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and f1684)

During December and January, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. Sub-adult female, f1684, continued to travel in the southeastern portion of the GNF.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, and f1705)

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

Prieto Pack (collared AM1398, AF1251, m1678, and mp1827)

During December and January, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. In December, the IFT was notified that two wolves were potentially traveling with traps from a private trapper on their feet. A helicopter capture was immediately initiated and F1565 and m1669 were captured. F1565 and m1669 were placed under veterinary care. Unfortunately, F1565 died the first night under veterinary care. This case is under investigation. Male 1669 was transferred to the Rio Grande Zoo Veterinary Clinic for continued care, but the injuries sustained required the amputation of the leg. On January 23, M1669 was moved to Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility. The IFT has also documented m1678 traveling with the SBP pack in December and January. The IFT established a diversionary food cache for the Prieto Pack to reduce potential for conflict with livestock in January.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399, f1578, and fp1822)

During December and January, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. Collared female f1578 has been traveling with single m1824 in the north central portion of the GNF.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553)

During December and January, AF1553 was confirmed traveling with Prieto m1678 in the traditional territory of the SBP pack in the north central portion of the GNF.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

During December and January, the Squirrel Springs pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT responded to a male wolf caught by a private trapper in December within the Squirrel Springs territory. The IFT confirmed the wolf was M1349, a formerly missing wolf from 2014, and successfully collared and released the wolf. M1349 is now considered a member of the Squirrel Springs pack.

Single collared M1673

During December and January, M1673 was not located.

MORTALITIES

During the month of December, the following wolves in New Mexico were confirmed mortalities: F1565 of the Prieto Pack and F1473 of the Hawks Nest Pack. Both incidents are under investigation by USFWS Law Enforcement.

During the month of January, M1453 of the Datil Mountain Pack was located dead in New Mexico; the incident is under investigation.

From January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018, there were a total of 21 documented wolf mortalities.

INCIDENTS

During the month of December 2018, there were two confirmed depredation incidents on livestock. In January 2019, there were 18 confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock. There was one nuisance incident in January.

From January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 there were a total of 68 confirmed wolf depredation incidents in New Mexico and 31 confirmed wolf depredation incidents in Arizona.

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

On December 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

On January 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On January 14, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf kill.

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

On January 20, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill.

On January 24, the IFT took a report of an elk calf killed by wolves near a residence in Nutrioso, AZ. The reporting party saw two uncollared wolves on the elk carcass. The animals ran off when the reporting party drove a vehicle toward them. The IFT removed the carcass from the property to eliminate further attractant to wolves.

On January 27, Wildlife Services investigated separately a dead cow and a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined both were confirmed wolf kills.

On January 28, Wildlife Services conducted six investigations: three dead cows and three dead calves in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined four were confirmed wolf kills, one calf was a coyote kill and one died of unknown causes.

On January 30, Wildlife Services investigated separately five dead calves in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined all five calves were confirmed wolf kills.

On January 31, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf and an injured cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation concluded the calf was a probable dog kill and the injuries caused to the cow were confirmed to have been caused by dogs.

On January 31, Wildlife Services investigated separately two dead cows and a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined all three were confirmed wolf kills.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On January 8, WMAT presented an update on KNNB radio in Whiteriver, AZ.

In January, WMAT provided an article on the WMAT Mexican Wolf Tribal Youth Conservation Program in the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society newsletter.

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; AZGFD 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.



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Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

The Federal government shutdown resulted in a delay of the annual helicopter count and capture operation by 19 days; however, the count was conducted in February within the appropriate time frame.

USFWS Regional Director Amy Lueders and Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator Brady McGee attended the WMAT Council Meeting on February 13.

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. 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

Year-end population counts for 2018 concluded during the month of February. The year-end minimum population count for 2018 will be released by the USFWS in March. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of February, there were 32 packs (15 in AZ and 17 in NM) and seven single collared wolves. There were 82 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wild wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Bear Wallow Pack (collared AM1338)

In February, the IFT documented AM1338 traveling with F1679 of the Tu dil hil Pack in the eastern portion of the FAIR.

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In February, the IFT continued to document M1477 traveling with an uncollared wolf in their usual territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, f1668, m1671, mp1695, fp1696, and fp1697)

In February, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1677, m1681, mp1789, and f1830)

In February, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. During the annual helicopter count and capture, f1830 was captured, collared, and released.

New Pair (collared M1829 and F1489)

In February, the IFT documented F1489 traveling with M1829 in the north and east central portion of the ASNF. During the annual helicopter count and capture, M1829 was captured, collared and released. If this pair continues to travel together in March a new pack name will be determined before the March update is posted.

Pine Spring Pack (collared AM1394, fp1794, and fp1825)

In February, 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. AF1562 died in AZ after being captured by the IFT to replace a nonfunctioning GPS collar during the annual helicopter count and capture.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, mp1790, fp1791, and fp1823)

In February, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, f1792 and fp1833)

In February, the Saffel Pack was located within their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. During the annual helicopter count and capture fp1833 was captured, collared and released.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared M1571 and F1550)

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

Single collared f1683

In February, f1683, a yearling from Bear Wallow Pack, was documented traveling with AM1382 of the Panther Creek Pack in the east central portion of the ASNF and occasionally on the FAIR.

Single collared AM1382

In February, M1382 of the Panther Creek Pack was documented travelling with f1683 of the Bear Wallow Pack in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF) and occasionally on the FAIR.

Single collared M1574

In February, the IFT documented M1574 traveling with an uncollared wolf in the east central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR.

Single collared f1686

In February, the IFT documented yearling f1686 continuing to make dispersal movements within the eastern portion of the ASNF and most recently in the north central portion of the Gila

National Forest in New Mexico.

Single collared m1677

In February, Hoodoo m1677 was documented making wide dispersal movements in New Mexico and the central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared AM1347 and F1560)

In February, 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 and fp1828)

In February, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF. During the annual helicopter count and capture, a new collar was deployed on AF1291.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559, AF1283, and f1674)

In February, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR. Additionally, f1674 was documented on the SCAR. During the annual helicopter count and capture, a new collar was deployed on f1674.

Single collared F1679

In February, F1679 of the Tu dil hil Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR. F1679 was occasionally documented on the SCAR. During the annual count and capture, F1679 and Bear Wallow AM1338 were documented traveling together.

Single collared M1824

In February, M1824 was documented traveling with San Mateo f1578 in the northwestern portion of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Copper Creek Pack (F1444)

During February F1444, the only wolf with a functioning collar in the Copper Creek Pack, was documented making wide dispersal movements in New Mexico outside the pack's traditional range.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354, AF1456, and mp1717)

During February, the Dark Canyon Pack was documented traveling together within their traditional territory, in the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). During the annual helicopter count and capture operation, mp1717 was captured, collared and released. In May 2018, mp1717 was cross-fostered by the IFT from the wild Lava Pack litter into the Dark Canyon Pack litter to reduce litter size and increase the chance of survival of two genetically valuable pups from captivity fostered into the Lava Pack.

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

During February, the Datil Mountain Pack traveled within their traditional territory in the western portion of the Cibola National Forest (CNF), as well as portions of the ASNF in Arizona.

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443 and fp1702)

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

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1555, M1556, f1670, m1821, fp1721, mp1710 and fp1712)

During February, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. During the annual helicopter count and capture operation, fp1712 was captured, collared and released. Female pup 1712 was cross-fostered by the IFT in May of 2018 from the Endangered Wolf Center into the Iron Creek den.

Lava Pack (collared AM1285, AF1405, and mp1715)

During February, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion of the GNF. During the annual helicopter count and capture, mp1715 was captured, collared, and released.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

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

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and mp1831)

During February, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. Also during February, a private trapper captured mp1831. The IFT was notified and processed, collared and released the animal on site.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, f1705 and m1832)

During February, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. During the annual helicopter count and capture operation, m1832 was captured, collared and released. The IFT established a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential conflict with livestock in February.

Prieto Pack (collared AM1398, AF1251, and mp1827)

During February, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. During February, M1678 was located dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Prieto Pack to reduce potential for conflict with livestock in February.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399, f1578, fp1822, and fp1834)

During February, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. Collared female f1578 has continued to travel with single M1824 in the north central portion of the GNF. During the annual helicopter count and capture fp1834 was

captured, collared, and released.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553)

During February, AF1553 was confirmed traveling in the traditional territory of the SBP pack in the north central portion of the GNF.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

During February, the Squirrel Springs pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared M1673

During February M1673 was located dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

Single F1684

During February F1684 was located traveling in the north central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

During the month of February, AF1562 of the Pine Spring Pack died in AZ after being captured by the IFT to replace a nonfunctioning GPS collar during the annual helicopter count and capture. M1678 of the Prieto Pack was located dead in New Mexico. Single M1673 was located dead in New Mexico. All of the incidents are under investigation.

From January 1, 2019 to February 28, 2019, there have been a total of 4 documented wolf mortalities.

INCIDENTS

During the month of February, there were eight confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock; determination of one investigation in NM is still pending. There was one nuisance incident investigated in February. From January 1, 2019 to February 28, 2019 there have been a total of 18 confirmed wolf depredation incidents in New Mexico and two confirmed depredation incidents in Arizona.

On February 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On February 11, WMAT investigated a dead cow. The investigation determined the cow died of unknown illness.

On February 12, the IFT took a nuisance report involving wolves in Catron County, NM. The reporting party told the IFT he was on horseback with hounds and that six wolves came within 50 yards. The outfitter yelled and ran at the wolves and the wolves left the area.

On February 12, Wildlife Services investigated an injured horse in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation concluded the cause of the injuries were unknown.

On February 13, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined that one cow was a confirmed wolf depredation, the determination on

the second cow is still pending.

On February 15, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined both cows were confirmed wolf depredations.

On February 19, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined both cows were confirmed wolf depredations.

On February 19, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On February 19, Wildlife Services investigated an injured cow in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation concluded the cause of the injuries were unknown.

On February 25, WS investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On February 8, WMAT presented an update on KNNB radio in Whiteriver, AZ.

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 Recovery Program Monthly Update

March 1- 31, 2019

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 Program 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 azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf. For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit wmatoutdoor.org. Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting 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 Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 AZGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

As part of the March 29, 2018 appropriations bills, the U.S. Congress directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to obtain an independent assessment on the taxonomic validity of the Mexican gray wolf. The National Academy of Science's report was published in March, 2019. The report confirmed the taxonomy of Mexican wolves as a valid subspecies and further determined that there is no evidence that the Mexican gray wolf genome include introgression from domestic dogs.

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. 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 end of year census for 2018 was a minimum of 131 Mexican wolves in the wild (64 in AZ and 67 in NM). This was about a 12% increase in the population from a minimum of 117 wolves counted at the end of 2017. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of March, there were 27 packs (13 in AZ and 14 in NM) and six single collared wolves. There were 80 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In March, the IFT continued to document M1477 traveling with an uncollared wolf in their usual territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, f1668, m1671, mp1695, fp1696, and fp1697)

In March, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, m1681, mp1789, and f1830)

In March, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The Hoodoo Pack was hazed by the IFT on multiple occasions during the month of March to mitigate wolf-livestock conflict on private land. The IFT also established a diversionary

food cache to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict with this pack.

Pine Spring Pack (collared AM1394, fp1794, and fp1825)

In March, 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.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, mp1790, fp1791, and fp1823)

In March, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Rocky Prairie Pack (collared F1489)

In March, the IFT documented F1489 traveling separately from M1829 in the north and east central portion of the ASNF.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, fp1792 and fp1833)

In March, the Saffel Pack was located within their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The Saffel Pack was hazed on multiple occasions to mitigate wolf-livestock conflict near private land.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared M1571 and F1550)

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

Single collared f1683

In March, f1683 was documented traveling in the east central portion of the ASNF and occasionally on the FAIR.

Single collared AM1382

In March, AM1382 of the Panther Creek Pack was not located. AM1382 was last documented in February, travelling with f1683 of the Bear Wallow Pack in the east central portion of the ASNF and occasionally on the FAIR.

Single collared M1574

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

Single collared f1686

In March, the IFT documented yearling f1686 continuing to make dispersal movements within the north central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF) in New Mexico and the eastern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared M1829

In late March, M1829 was documented making large movements into the western portion of the GNF in New Mexico.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared AM1347 and F1560)

In March, the Baldy Pack was documented traveling in the north central portion of the ASNF.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291 and fp1828)

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

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559 and AF1283)

In March, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR.

Tu dil hil Pack (collared F1679 and AM1338)

In March, the Tu dil hil Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR. AM1338, formerly of the Bear Wallow Pack, has been documented consistently traveling with F1679 and now meets criteria for being considered part of the Tu dil hil Pack.

Poker Pack (collared F1674)

In March, F1674 was documented traveling separately from Tsay-O-Ah pack on the eastern FAIR and occasionally on the SCAR. F1674 was documented traveling with an uncollared wolf for a period of time that meets the criteria for being consider a new pack.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Copper Creek Pack (F1444)

During March F1444, the only wolf with a functioning collar in the Copper Creek Pack, was documented making wide dispersal movements in New Mexico outside the pack's traditional range.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354, AF1456, and mp1717)

During March, the Dark Canyon Pack was documented traveling together within their traditional territory, in the west central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF).

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

During March, the Datil Mountain Pack traveled within their traditional territory in the western portion of the Cibola National Forest (CNF), as well as portions of the ASNF in Arizona. F1685 was documented traveling with Iron Creek M1821 for most of March.

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443 and fp1702)

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

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1555, f1670, m1821, fp1721, mp1710 and fp1712)

During March, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. In March, M1556 was located dead in New Mexico; the incident is under investigation.

Lava Pack (collared AM1285, AF1405, and mp1715)

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

Leon Pack (single collared M1824 and f1578)

In March, M1824 was documented traveling with San Mateo f1578 in the northwestern portion of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. They have been named the Leon Pack.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

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

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and mp1831)

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

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, f1705 and m1832)

During March, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential conflict with livestock in March.

Prieto Pack (collared AM1398, AF1251, and mp1827)

During March, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. During March, fp1835 and fp1836 were captured and removed to captivity as part of a management order. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Prieto Pack to reduce potential for conflict with livestock in March.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399, fp1822, and fp1834)

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 AF1553)

During March, AF1553 was confirmed traveling in the traditional territory of the SBP Pack in the north central portion of the GNF.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

During March, the Squirrel Springs Pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single F1684

During March F1684 was located traveling with M1827 of the Prieto Pack in the north central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

During the month of March, M1556 of the Iron Creek Pack was located dead in New Mexico. Single M1677 was also located dead in Arizona during March. Both incidents are under investigation.

From January 1, 2019 to March 31, 2019, there have been a total of six documented wolf mortalities.

INCIDENTS

During the month of March, there were 20 confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock and one confirmed wolf depredation on a dog. There was one nuisance incident investigated in March. From January 1, 2019 to March 31, 2019 there have been a total of 42 confirmed and three probable wolf depredation incidents in New Mexico and five confirmed depredation incidents in Arizona.

On March 3, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On March 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On March 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead dog in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the dog was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On March 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf and two dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined that the calf and one cow were confirmed wolf depredations. The cause of death for the second cow was unknown.

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

On March 12, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On March 14, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined both cows were confirmed wolf depredations.

On March 19, Wildlife Services investigated four dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined three cows were confirmed wolf depredations, one cow died from unknown cause.

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

On March 22, the IFT took a report of an elk killed by wolves next to a house near Alpine, AZ. The IFT investigated the report and determined wolves from the Hoodoo Pack had killed a cow elk overnight within 50 feet of the residence. The carcass was removed to eliminate any attractant

to wolves returning to the area.

On March 23, Wildlife Services investigated an injured horse that later died from injuries in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the horse was a confirmed wolf depredation.

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

On March 25, Wildlife Services investigated a dead bull and a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined the bull and calf were both confirmed wolf depredations.

On March 27, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a probable wolf depredation.

On March 27, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow and calf in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the two animals were confirmed as having been killed by wolves and classified as one depredation incident.

On March 28, Wildlife Services investigated three dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined one cow was a confirmed wolf depredation and two were probable wolf depredations.

On March 28, Wildlife Services investigated a colt that was injured and later euthanized in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the colt was a confirmed wolf depredation.

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

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

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

The USFWS attended a USFS Forest Leadership Team meeting in Reserve, NM.

The USFWS and AZGFD attended the Mexican Wolf Livestock Council meeting in Springerville, AZ.

In March, WMAT contributed an article to “Nature’s Newsletter”, a publication of the Delaware Valley Eagle Alliance, on the WMAT Mexican Wolf Tribal Youth Conservation Program.

On March 6, 2019, the Alpine Conservation Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) provided outreach training to students from the University of the Southwest in Hobbs, New Mexico. The Alpine CLEO spoke to criminal justice and vertebrate zoology students providing an overview of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and endangered species to include the Mexican gray wolf.

On March 11, WMAT presented to Canyon Day Cattle Association in Whiteriver, AZ.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Sara Eno started with USFWS at the end of March. Sara was a part of the IFT as the WMAT Field Team Leader and will be transitioning into the role of the Pinetop biologist for the USFWS. Sara did an outstanding job as the WMAT Field Team Leader and will continue to work with the WMAT and AGFD in her new role. Congratulations Sara!

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AZGFD 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; AZGFD 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.



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

April 1- 30, 2019

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Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

On March 30, 2019, a court ruling from the District Court of Arizona regarding several alleged violations of the Endangered Species Act and the Administrative Procedures Act of the 2017 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision, were denied while the court accepted one element for review; therefore, USFWS will provide an administrative record to the court for further review of the basis for the recovery plan's criteria and actions.

USFWS staff presented Mexican wolf updates and future recovery recommendations at the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee meeting in Victoria, British Columbia from April 8 through 12. Also participating were representatives from the Arizona and New Mexico Game and Fish Departments.

On April 17, the 25-month timeline to revise the 10(j) rule for the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area was initiated by the District Court of Arizona, resulting in a deadline of May 1, 2021 for the revised final 10(j) rule. The 2015 10(j) rule will stay in effect until the new revision is finalized.

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. 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 end of year census for 2018 was a minimum of 131 Mexican wolves in the wild (64 in AZ and 67 in NM). This was about a 12% increase in the population from a minimum of 117 wolves counted at the end of 2017. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of April, there were 27 identified wolf packs (13 in AZ and 14 in NM) and three single collared wolves. There were 80 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In April, the IFT continued to document M1477 traveling with an uncollared wolf in the pack's territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, F1668, M1671, m1695, f1696, and f1697)

In April, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona and New Mexico. A male yearling, m1693, was captured by Wildlife Services in New Mexico and transported to captivity for veterinary care. Yearling m1693, was cross-fostered as a neonatal pup from captivity into the Elk Horn Pack in 2018.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, M1681, F1830, and m1789)

In April, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The Hoodoo Pack was hazed by the IFT on one occasion during the month of April to mitigate wolf-livestock conflict. This month, three neonatal pups, born in captivity at the Mesker Park Zoo, were cross-fostered by the IFT into the Hoodoo Pack den. One wild born pup was removed to reduce the Hoodoo Pack litter number and subsequently cross-fostered into the Panther Creek Pack den. The IFT maintained a food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort and to reduce the potential for livestock-related conflict. The Hoodoo Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with denning after the cross-foster operation was conducted.

Panther Creek Pack (AM1382 and AF1683)

In April, AM1382 and AF1683 were documented traveling together in the east central portion of the ASNF and are now considered Panther Creek Pack. This month the IFT cross-fostered one wild-born neonatal pup taken from the Hoodoo Pack into the Panther Creek den subsequent to a cross-foster event of genetically valuable pups from captivity into the Hoodoo Pack den. The IFT initiated a supplemental food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort. The Panther Creek Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with denning after the cross-foster operation was conducted.

Pine Spring Pack (collared AM1394, f1794, and f1825)

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 for this pack to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, m1790, f1791, and f1823)

In April, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. In April, the IFT cross-fostered one neonatal pup, born in captivity at the Endangered Wolf Center into the Prime Canyon den. The IFT initiated a supplemental food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort and to reduce the potential for conflict. The Prime Canyon Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with denning after the cross-foster operation was conducted.

Rocky Prairie Pack (collared F1489)

In April, the IFT documented F1489 in the east central portion of the ASNF. The Rocky Prairie Pack began to exhibit behavior consistent with denning at the end of April.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, f1792 and f1833)

In April, the Saffel Pack was located within their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The Saffel Pack exhibited behavior consistent with denning at the end of April.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared M1571 and F1550)

In April, the Sierra Blanca Pack was located in their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The Sierra Blanca Pack exhibited behavior consistent with denning in April.

Single collared M1574

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

Single collared F1686

In April, the IFT documented subadult F1686 continuing to make dispersal movements within the north central portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF) in New Mexico and the eastern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared M1829

In April, M1829 was documented making wide dispersal movements in the GNF and in the east central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared AM1347 and F1560)

In April, the Baldy Pack was located in their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and north central portion of the ASNF.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291 and f1828)

In April, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF. Maverick Pack showed behavior consistent with denning in April.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559 and AF1283)

In April, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR.

Tu dil hil Pack (collared F1679 and AM1338)

In April, the Tu dil hil Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR. Tu dil hil Pack showed behavior consistent with denning in April.

Poker Pack (collared F1674)

In April, the Poker Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the SCAR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Copper Creek Pack

During April, F1444 was captured by a private trapper. The IFT was notified and subsequently removed the wolf to captivity due to livestock depredations. F1444 was the only remaining wolf in the Copper Creek Pack, which is now considered defunct. F1444 subsequently died in captivity.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354, AF1456, and m1717)

During April, 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 showed behavior consistent with denning in April.

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

During April, the Datil Mountain Pack traveled within their traditional territory in the western portion of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443, f1701, and f1702)

During April, the Frieborn Pack was documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in New Mexico and Arizona. This month, five neonatal pups born in captivity at the Endangered Wolf Center were cross-fostered by the IFT into the Frieborn Pack den. Three wild pups were transported back to captivity. 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. A female subadult, f1701, was captured, collared and released in April.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1555, F1670, M1821, f1721, m1710 and f1712)

During April, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. The Iron Creek Pack showed behavior consistent with denning in April.

Lava Pack (collared AM1285, AF1405, and m1715)

During April, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion of the GNF. The Lava Pack showed behavior consistent with denning in April.

Leon Pack (single collared M1824 and F1578)

In April, the Leon pack was documented within the northwestern portion of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico.

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. The Leopold Pack exhibited behavior consistent with denning in April.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and m1831)

During April, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Luna Pack showed behavior consistent with denning in April.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, F1705 and M1832)

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

Prieto Pack (collared AM1398, AF1251, and m1827)

During April, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Prieto Pack to reduce potential for conflict with livestock in April.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and f1822)

During April, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. In mid-April, f1834 slipped free of its radio collar. The San Mateo Pack showed behavior consistent with denning in April.

Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553)

During April, AF1553 was confirmed traveling in the traditional territory of the SBP Pack in the north central portion of the GNF.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

During April, the Squirrel Springs Pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF. The Squirrel Springs Pack showed behavior consistent with denning in April.

Whitewater Canyon Pack (F1684 and M1827)

During April F1684 and M1827 continued to be documented traveling together in the north central portion of the GNF and are now considered the Whitewater Canyon Pack.

MORTALITIES

There were no documented mortalities during the month of April. From January 1, 2019 to April 30, 2019, there have been a total of six documented wolf mortalities.

INCIDENTS

During the month of April, there were 37 confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock. From January 1, 2019 to April 30, 2019 there have been a total of 77 confirmed and five probable wolf depredation incidents in New Mexico and 11 confirmed depredation incidents in Arizona.

On April 3, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On April 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On April 5, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows and two dead calves in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined all four were confirmed wolf depredations.

On April 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation

determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On April 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead bull and two dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the all three were confirmed wolf depredations.

On April 8, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined that both cows were confirmed wolf depredation.

On April 8, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On April 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On April 10, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On April 12, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined both cows were confirmed wolf depredations.

On April 14, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On April 14, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

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

On April 15, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow and a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined both were confirmed wolf depredations.

On April 16, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows and three dead calves in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined both cows and all three calves were confirmed wolf depredations.

On April 18, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined both calves were confirmed wolf depredations.

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

On April 20, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined both calves were confirmed wolf depredations.

On April 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead yearling bull in Catron County, NM. The

investigation determined the yearling bull was a confirmed wolf depredation.

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

On April 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined calf was a probable wolf depredation.

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

On April 27, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a probable wolf depredation.

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

On April 30, Wildlife Services investigated a dead yearling bull in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the yearling bull was a confirmed wolf depredation.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On April 2, IFT staff attended a livestock grazing workshop in Alpine, Arizona, hosted by Defenders of Wildlife.

On April 17, IFT staff attended a ranching workshop hosted by the X Diamond Ranch in Arizona and provided a Mexican Wolf Recovery Program update.

On April 26, WMAT staff hosted an educational booth in coordination with the Tribal Environmental Protection Office, for Earth Day.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Tracy Melbihess was re-hired by the USFWS as the Classification, Recovery, and Litigation Coordinator for the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program from her position as a Conservation and Consultation Branch Chief at the Idaho Ecological Services Field Office.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AZGFD 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; AZGFD 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.



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

May 1- 31, 2019

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 Program 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 azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf. For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit wmatoutdoor.org. Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting 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 Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 AZGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

In May, USFWS staff attended a Catron County Commissioner's Meeting in Reserve, NM to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Mexican Wolf Recovery and Management. The Commission agreed to submit a request to become a Cooperating Entity under the MOU. An entity requesting Signatory status shall submit its request to the MOU Signatories in the form of a document defining the requesting agency's proposed responsibilities pursuant to this MOU. Inclusion of additional Signatories shall be approved by majority voice concurrence of current Signatories. On approval, the new Signatory must comply with all aspects of the MOU as it was structured when its request for Signatory status was approved.

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. 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 end of year census for 2018 was a minimum of 131 Mexican wolves in the wild (64 in AZ and 67 in NM). This was about a 12% increase in the population from a minimum of 117 wolves counted at the end of 2017. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of May, there were 28 identified wolf packs (14 in AZ and 14 in NM) and four single collared wolves. There were 81 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In May, the IFT continued to document M1477 traveling with an uncollared wolf in the pack’s territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, F1668, M1671, m1695, f1696, and f1697)

In May, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona and New Mexico.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, M1681, F1830, and m1789)

In May, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort and to reduce the potential for livestock-related conflict. The Hoodoo Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with denning in May.

Panther Creek Pack (AM1382 and AF1683)

In May, the IFT documented the Panther Creek Pack in their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to maintain a supplemental food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster efforts. The Panther Creek Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning in May.

Pine Spring Pack (collared AM1394, f1794, and f1825)

In May, 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.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, m1790, f1791, and f1823)

In May, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central 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 conflict. The Prime Canyon Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning in May.

Rocky Prairie Pack (collared F1489)

In May, the IFT documented F1489 in the east central portion of the ASNF. The Rocky Prairie Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning in May.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, f1792 and f1833)

In May, the Saffel Pack was located within their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. This month, one neonatal pup, born in captivity at the Wolf Conservation Center in New York, was cross-fostered by the IFT into the Saffel Pack den. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort and to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The Saffel Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning after the cross-foster operation.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared M1571 and F1550)

In May, the Sierra Blanca Pack was located in their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The Sierra Blanca Pack exhibited behavior consistent with denning in May.

Single collared M1574

In May, the IFT documented M1574 traveling in the east central portion of the ASNF and the SCAR. M1574 was documented traveling with F1959 during the month of May.

Single collared F1686

In May, the IFT documented subadult F1686 in the east central portion of the ASNF and on the FAIR.

Single collared M1829

In May, M1829 was documented making wide dispersal movements in the GNF in New Mexico and in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1959

In May, an uncollared female wolf F1959 was caught, collared and released in the east central portion of the ASNF. F1959 was documented travelling with M1574 during the month of May.

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

In May, the Baldy Pack was located in their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and north central portion of the ASNF. The Baldy Pack was not documented as denning this season.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291 and f1828)

In May, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559 and AF1283)

In May, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR. The Tsay-O-Ah Pack was documented localizing during the denning season, but no den was found in the area of the localization.

Tu dil hil Pack (collared F1679 and AM1338)

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

Poker Pack (collared F1674)

In May, the Poker Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the SCAR.

IN NEW MEXICO:**Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354, AF1456, and m1717)**

In May, 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 show behavior consistent with denning in May.

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

In May, the Datil Mountain Pack traveled within their traditional territory in the western portion of the Cibola National Forest (CNF) and the western portion of the ASNF.

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443, f1701, and f1702)

In May, 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 supplemental food cache near the den. The Frieborn Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with denning in May.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1555, F1670, M1821, f1721, m1710, and f1712)

In May, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. The Iron Creek Pack exhibited behavior consistent with denning in May.

Lava Pack (collared AM1285, AF1405, and m1715)

In May, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion of the GNF. The Lava Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with denning in May. The IFT did not locate m1715 during May.

Leon Pack (collared M1824 and F1578)

In May, the Leon Pack was documented within the northwestern portion of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

In May, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness. The Leopold Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with denning in May.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and m1831)

In May, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Luna Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with denning in May.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, F1705, and M1832)

In May, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential conflict with livestock. The Mangas Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning in May.

Prieto Pack (collared AM1398, AF1251, and m1827)

In May, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Prieto Pack to reduce potential for conflict with livestock in May. The Prieto Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning in May.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and f1822)

In May, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. This month, two pups, born in captivity at the Sedgwick Zoo in Kansas, were cross-fostered by the IFT into the San Mateo Pack den. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort and to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The San Mateo Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with denning in May.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553)

In May, AF1553 was confirmed traveling in the traditional territory of the SBP Pack in the north central portion of the GNF. During May, AF1553 exhibited behavior consistent with denning.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

In May, the Squirrel Springs Pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF. The Squirrel Springs Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with denning in May.

Whitewater Canyon Pack (F1684 and M1827)

In May, the Whitewater Canyon Pack continued to travel in the north central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

There were no documented mortalities during the month of May. From January 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019, there have been a total of six documented wolf mortalities.

INCIDENTS

During the month of May, there were nine confirmed and one probable wolf depredation incidents on livestock. There were two nuisance incidents in May. From January 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019 there have been a total of 79 confirmed and six probable wolf depredation incidents in New Mexico and 19 confirmed wolf depredation incidents in Arizona.

On May 1, Wildlife Services investigated a dead bull in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the bull was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On May 1, the IFT took a report of three wolves in the town of Alpine, AZ. The IFT responded and removed an old elk carcass from the property. No wolves were present when the IFT arrived at the location of the sighting. Collar data indicated wolves from the Prime Canyon Pack had been in the area of the sighting.

On May 2, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On May 4, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On May 4, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On May 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On May 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On May 8, the IFT took a report of five wolves chasing elk in an open meadow and feeding on an elk carcass in the town of Alpine, AZ. The IFT responded and removed the elk carcass from the property to eliminate further attractant of wolves returning to the area. The wolves had left by the time the IFT arrived. Collar data indicated the wolves observed in town were from the Prime

Canyon Pack.

On May 16, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Greenlee, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On May 16, Wildlife Services investigated an injured cow that was later put down in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a probable wolf depredation.

On May 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On May 23, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On May 7, AZGFD staff provided a Program update to the Apache County Board of Supervisors in Saint Johns, AZ.

On May 7, WMAT staff gave an update on the KNNB Radio Show in Whiteriver, AZ.

On May 13, USFWS staff and residents of Catron County met with Congressional Representative Xotchil Torres-Small in Las Cruces, NM, to discuss livestock depredations by wolves and compensation.

On May 17, AZGFD staff provided a Program update to the Gila County Cattle Growers in Miami, AZ.

On May 21, USFWS staff met with USFS staff in the USFS R3 Regional Office, Albuquerque, NM.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

In May, Ed Davis rejoined the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program to work for the USFWS as a Mexican Wolf Biologist. Welcome back Ed.

In May, WMAT welcomed a seasonal Tribal Youth Intern to the Program.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AZGFD 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 Recovery Program Monthly Update

June 1- 30, 2019

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 Program 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 azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf. For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit wmatoutdoor.org. Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting 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 Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 AZGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

On June 3, Margaret Everson, Principle Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Barbara Wainman, Assistant Director of External Affairs, visited the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility and assisted with the vaccination and health checks of 6-week old Mexican wolf pups.

On June 12, USFWS staff met with staff from AZGFD and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to discuss the upcoming process for revising the 2015 10j rule for the Mexican wolf (80 FR 2512-2567, January 16, 2015). The rule was remanded by the Arizona District Court in 2018, with a deadline to complete a revised rule by May 1, 2021. The 2015 10j rule can be found on the Service's Mexican wolf

website: https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/pdf/Mx_wolf_10j_final_rule_to_OFR.pdf. Additional information about the revision process will be forthcoming to the public this summer.

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. 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 end of year census for 2018 was a minimum of 131 Mexican wolves in the wild (64 in AZ and 67 in NM). This was about a 12% increase in the population from a minimum of 117 wolves counted at the end of 2017. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of June, there were 30 identified wolf packs (14 in AZ and 16 in NM) and six single collared wolves. There were 79 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In June, the IFT continued to document M1477 traveling with an uncollared wolf in the pack’s territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, F1668, m1695, f1696, and f1697)

In June, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona and New Mexico. M1671 was found dead in New Mexico; the incident is under investigation.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, M1681, F1830, and m1789)

In June, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster effort and to reduce the potential for livestock-related conflict. The Hoodoo Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with denning in June.

Panther Creek Pack (AM1382 and AF1683)

In June, the IFT documented the Panther Creek Pack in their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to maintain a supplemental food cache near the den as part of the cross-foster efforts. The Panther Creek Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning in June.

Pine Spring Pack (collared AM1394, f1794, and f1825)

In June, 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.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, m1790, f1791, and f1823)

In June, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central 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 conflict. The Prime Canyon Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning in June.

Rocky Prairie Pack (collared F1489)

In June, the IFT documented F1489 in the east central portion of the ASNF. The Rocky Prairie Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning in June.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, f1792 and f1833)

In June, the Saffel Pack was located within their 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 potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The Saffel Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning during the month of June.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared M1571 and F1550)

In June, the Sierra Blanca Pack was located in their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The Sierra Blanca Pack exhibited behavior consistent with denning in June.

Single collared M1574

In June, M1574 was lethally removed by Wildlife Services on the SCAR due to repetitive confirmed depredations on livestock.

Single collared F1686

In June, the IFT documented subadult F1686 in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared f1792

In June, yearling f1792 (from the Saffel Pack) was documented traveling in the northeastern

portion of the ASNF.

Single collared M1829

In June, M1829 was documented making wide dispersal movements in the GNF in New Mexico and in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1959

In June, F1959 was documented travelling with M1574 in the east central portion of the ASNF and on the SCAR.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared AM1347 and F1560)

In June, the Baldy Pack was located in their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and north central portion of the ASNF.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291 and f1828)

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

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559 and AF1283)

In June, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR.

Tu dil hil Pack (collared F1679 and AM1338)

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

Poker Pack (collared F1674)

In June, the Poker Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the SCAR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Colibri Pack (collared AM1555)

In June, the Colibri Pack was documented traveling together within their traditional territory, in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. The Colibri Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning in June.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354, AF1456, and m1717)

In June, 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 show behavior consistent with denning in June.

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

In June, the Datil Mountain Pack traveled within their traditional territory in the western portion of the Cibola National Forest (CNF) and the western portion of the ASNF.

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443, f1701, and f1702)

In June, 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 supplemental food cache near the den. The Frieborn Pack continued to exhibit behavior and movements consistent with denning in June.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1821, f1721, m1710, and f1712)

In June, the Iron Creek Pack continued to utilize their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. The Iron Creek Pack exhibited behavior consistent with denning in June.

Lava Pack (collared AM1285, AF1405, and m1715)

In June, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion of the GNF. The Lava Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with denning in June. The IFT did not locate m1715 during June.

Leon Pack (collared M1824 and F1578)

In June, the Leon Pack was documented within the northwestern portion of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

In June, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness. The Leopold Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with denning in June.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and m1831)

In June, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Luna Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with denning in June.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439 and M1832)

In June, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential conflict with livestock. The Mangas Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning in June.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251)

In June, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Prieto Pack to reduce potential for conflict with livestock. The Prieto Pack continued to show behavior consistent with denning in June. The collar AM1398 has on is non-functioning; hence AM1398 studbook number is not listed above.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and f1822)

In 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 near the den as part of a cross-foster effort last month and to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The San Mateo Pack continued to

exhibit behavior consistent with denning in June.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553)

In June, AF1553 was confirmed traveling in the traditional territory of the SBP Pack in the north central portion of the GNF. During June, AF1553 exhibited behavior consistent with denning.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

In June, the Squirrel Springs Pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF. The Squirrel Springs Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with denning in June.

Whitewater Canyon Pack (F1684 and M1827)

In June, the Whitewater Canyon Pack continued to travel in the north central portion of the GNF.

New Pair (F1705)

In June, F1705 was documented traveling with an uncollared male in the northwestern portion of the GNF. This new pair did not show behavior consistent with denning in June.

Single collared m1693

On June 14, m1693 was translocated from a temporary stay in captivity into to Gila Flat, NM with f1836. Male 1693 was documented making wide dispersal movements separate from f1836 in the GNF in New Mexico for the remainder of June. Male 1683, was captured in April in New Mexico and taken to captivity to receive veterinary care.

Single collared f1836

On June 14, f1836 was translocated from a temporary stay in captivity to Gila Flat, NM with m1693. Female 1836 was documented making wide dispersal movements separate from m1693 in the GNF in New Mexico for the remainder of June. Female 1836 was removed in March from the Prieto Pack in New Mexico due to livestock conflict.

MORTALITIES

In June, M1671, of the Elk Horn Pack, was found dead in NM; the incident is under investigation. From January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019, there have been a total of eight documented wolf mortalities.

INCIDENTS

During the month of June, there were 16 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and one probable wolf depredation on livestock. There was one nuisance incident reported in June. From January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019 there have been a total of 88 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and six probable wolf depredations in New Mexico; and 26 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and one probable wolf depredation in Arizona.

On June 4, the IFT took a report of wolves that had been observed chasing cattle on the ASNF near Escudilla Mountain. The reporting party, a stockman riding horseback, stated his dogs ran toward the cattle then returned with two wolves chasing his dogs. The stockman rode on his horse toward the wolves and got to within approximately 20 feet, at which point the wolves became aware of his presence and retreated. The stockman then chased four other wolves away that had been observed chasing the cattle. No cattle were found to be missing or injured. The IFT responded

and determined the wolves had left the area. The IFT determined from GPS collar data that the incident had occurred with wolves from the Elk Horn Pack.

On June 4, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf on the SCAR. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On June 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On June 7, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf on the SCAR. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On June 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf on the FAIR. The investigation determined the calf was a probable wolf kill.

On June 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf died of respiratory illness.

On June 11, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On June 11, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed coyote depredation.

On June 12, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Sierra County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On June 13, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Apache County, AZ. The investigation confirmed both calves were killed by wolves and were classified as one depredation incident.

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

On June 18, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On June 18, Wildlife Services investigated an injured calf in Greenlee, AZ. The investigation determined the injured calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On June 18, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed bear depredation.

On June 19, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation concluded the cause of death was unknown.

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

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

On June 25, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On June 25, Wildlife Services investigated three dead cows in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined all three cows were confirmed wolf depredations.

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

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On June 6, USFWS staff met with USDA Farm Service Agency's New Mexico State Director in Albuquerque, NM.

On June 6, USFWS staff met with Congressional staff from Representative Haaland, Heinrich, Torres-Small, and Udall's offices.

On June 13, USFWS staff attended Mexican Wolf Livestock Council meeting in Quemado, NM.

On June 18, Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator met with USDA Wildlife Services AZ and NM State Directors in Albuquerque, NM.

On June 19, WMAT staff provided a presentation to students at John F. Kennedy Day School in Cedar Creek, AZ.

On June 24, WMAT staff provided a presentation to students at Canyon Day Jr. High School in Canyon Day, AZ.

On June 28, USFWS staff met with USFS staff in the FS's R3 Regional Office, Albuquerque, NM.

PROGRAM PERSONNEL

There were no personnel updates for the program in June.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AZGFD 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; AZGFD 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.



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

July 1- 31, 2019

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 Program 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 azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf. For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit wmatoutdoor.org. Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting 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 Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 AZGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

There are no overall program updates for the month of July.

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. 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 end of year census for 2018 was a minimum of 131 Mexican wolves in the wild (64 in AZ and 67 in NM). This was about a 12% increase in the population from a minimum of 117 wolves counted at the end of 2017. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of July, there were 30 identified wolf packs (14 in AZ and 16 in NM) and six single collared wolves. There were 76 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In July, the IFT continued to document M1477 in the pack’s territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, F1668, m1695, f1696, and f1697)

In July, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona and New Mexico.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, M1681, F1830, and m1789)

In July, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a food cache as part of a cross-foster effort this past spring and to reduce potential for livestock-related conflict. The IFT documented pups with the Hoodoo pack in the month of July.

Panther Creek Pack (AM1382 and AF1683)

In July, the IFT documented the Panther Creek Pack in their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to maintain a supplemental food cache as part of a cross-foster effort this past spring. The Panther Creek Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of July.

Pine Spring Pack (collared AM1394, f1794, and f1825)

In July, the Pine Spring Pack was located within their territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for this pack to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, m1790, f1791, and f1823)

In July, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a food cache as part of a cross-foster effort this past spring and to reduce potential for conflict. The Prime Canyon Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing. The IFT initiated hazing efforts of the Prime Canyon during the month of July following a livestock depredation on private land and documented nighttime locations of the pack in the community of Alpine.

Rocky Prairie Pack (collared F1489)

In July, the IFT documented F1489 in the east central portion of the ASNF. The Rocky Prairie Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing during the month of July.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, and f1833)

In July, the Saffel Pack was located within their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache as part of a cross-foster effort this past spring and to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict. 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. The IFT documented pups with the Sierra Blanca Pack in the month of July.

Single collared F1686

In July, the IFT documented sub-adult F1686 in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared f1792

In July, yearling f1792 was documented traveling in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared M1829

In July, M1829 was documented making wide dispersal movements in the Gila National Forest (GNF) in New Mexico and in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1959

In July, F1959 was documented in the east central portion of the ASNF and on the SCAR.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared AM1347 and F1560)

In July, the Baldy Pack was located in their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR

and north central portion of the ASNF.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291 and f1828)

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

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559 and AF1283)

In July, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR.

Tu dil hil Pack (collared F1679 and AM1338)

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

Poker Pack (collared F1674)

In July, the Poker Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the SCAR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Cimmaron Mesa Pack (F1705)

In July, the Cimmaron Mesa Pack was documented traveling in the northwestern portion of the GNF. This new pair did not show behavior consistent with pup rearing in July.

Colibri Pack (collared AM1555)

In July, the Colibri Pack was documented traveling together within a territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). The Colibri Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing in July.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354, AF1456, and m1717)

In July, the Dark Canyon Pack was documented traveling together within their traditional territory, in the west central portion of the GNF. The Dark Canyon Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing in July.

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

In July, the Datil Mountain Pack traveled within their traditional territory in the western portion of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443, f1701, and f1702)

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 supplemental food cache near the den. The IFT documented pups with the Frieborn Pack in July.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1821, f1721, m1710, and f1712)

In July, the Iron Creek Pack continued to use their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. The Iron Creek Pack exhibited behavior

consistent with pup rearing in July.

Lava Pack (collared AM1285 and AF1405)

In July, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion of the GNF. The Lava Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing in July. The IFT did not locate m1715 during July and it is now considered fate unknown.

Leon Pack (collared M1824 and F1578)

In July, the Leon Pack was documented within the northwestern portion of the GNF in New Mexico.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

In July, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness. The Leopold Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing in July.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and m1831)

In July, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT established a diversionary food cache in July to reduce potential for conflict with livestock. The Luna Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing in July.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439 and M1832)

In July, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential conflict with livestock. The IFT documented pups with the Mangas Pack in July.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251)

In July, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Prieto Pack to reduce potential for conflict with livestock. The IFT documented pups with the Prieto Pack in July.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and f1822)

In 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 near the den as part of cross-foster efforts and to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The San Mateo Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing in July.

Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553)

In July, AF1553 was confirmed traveling in the traditional territory of the SBP Pack in the north central portion of the GNF. During July, AF1553 exhibited behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

In July, the Squirrel Springs Pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Squirrel Springs Pack to reduce potential for conflict with livestock. The Squirrel Springs Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing in July.

Whitewater Canyon Pack (F1684)

In July, the Whitewater Canyon Pack continued to travel in the north central portion of the GNF. M1827 was located dead in July and the incident is currently under investigation.

Single collared m1693

In July, M1693 was documented making wide dispersal movements separate from f1836 in the GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared f1836

In July, f1836 was located traveling alone in the south central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

In July, M1827 of the Whitewater Canyon Pack, was located dead in NM; the incident is under investigation. From January 1, 2019 to July 31, 2019, there have been a total of eight documented wolf mortalities.

Correction: the June Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Update incorrectly stated there were a total of eight documented wolf mortalities from January through June. The number of documented wolf mortalities from January through June was seven.

INCIDENTS

During the month of July, there were 17 confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock. There were no nuisance incidents reported in July. From January 1, 2019 to July 31, 2019 there have been a total of 103 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and six probable wolf depredations in New Mexico; and a total of 28 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and one probable wolf depredation in Arizona.

On July 2, Wildlife Services investigated an injured horse in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the injured horse was a confirmed wolf incident.

On July 6, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined both calves were confirmed wolf depredations.

On July 7, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows in Navajo County, AZ. The investigations determined one cow had been struck by a vehicle. The cause of death was unknown for the other cow.

On July 8, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow and a dead calf in Catron County, NM. Both the dead cow and calf were confirmed wolf depredations.

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

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

On July 12, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On July 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On July 16, Wildlife Services investigated an injured horse and a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigations determined the injured horse was a confirmed wolf incident and the dead cow was a bear depredation.

On July 18, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation concluded the cause of death was unknown.

On July 19, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Apache County, AZ. The investigations determined both calves were confirmed wolf depredations.

On July 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On July 26, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined both calves were confirmed wolf depredations.

On July 29, Wildlife Services investigated two dead cows and a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined both cows were confirmed wolf depredations, the determination on the calf is pending.

On July 31, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On July 3, USFWS personnel met with the Executive Director and other staff members of WildEarth Guardians.

From July 10 - 14, AZGFD and FWS personnel attended the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan Meeting at El Ocotil in Mexico.

On July 12, AZGFD provided information on Mexican Wolf Recovery and Management at the Nutrioso Fire Department's annual open house.

On July 21, the IFT presented on Mexican Wolf Recovery and Management to college students, during a summer natural resource intensive program, in Mimbres, NM.

On July 27, AZGFD provided Mexican Wolf Recovery Program information to visitors at the AZGFD Hummingbird Festival at the Sipe Wildlife Area in AZ.

Throughout the month the USFS Wolf Liaison to the IFT coordinated with the Alpine, Springerville, Quemado and Reserve Ranger Districts to mitigate wolf/livestock conflicts. Over 55 livestock permittees were contacted via phone, email or text to communicate general wolf locations or other wolf related issues to try and reduce wolf/livestock conflicts.

PROGRAM PERSONNEL

In July, the USFS provided a wildlife biologist in a temporary detail position to the IFT to support ongoing wolf/livestock conflict mitigation efforts by the IFT.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AZGFD 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; AZGFD 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.



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

August 1- 31, 2019

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 Program 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 azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf. For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit wmatoutdoor.org. Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting 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 Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 AZGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

In August, Catron County, New Mexico, signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Mexican Wolf Recovery and Management as a Cooperating Entity.

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. 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 end of year census for 2018 was a minimum of 131 Mexican wolves in the wild (64 in AZ and 67 in NM). This was about a 12% increase in the population from a minimum of 117 wolves counted at the end of 2017. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of August, there were 30 identified wolf packs (14 in AZ and 16 in NM) and seven single collared wolves. There were 76 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In August, the IFT continued to document M1477 in the pack’s territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, m1695, f1696, and f1697)

In August, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona and New Mexico.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, M1681, F1830, and m1789)

In August, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a food cache as part of a cross-foster effort this past spring and to reduce potential for livestock-related conflict. Hoodoo continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Panther Creek Pack (AM1382 and AF1683)

In August, the IFT documented the Panther Creek Pack in their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT continued to maintain a supplemental food cache as part of a cross-foster effort this past spring. The Panther Creek Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Pine Spring Pack (collared AM1394, f1794, and f1825)

In August, the Pine Spring Pack was located within their territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for this pack to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, m1790, f1791, and f1823)

In August, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a food cache as part of a cross-foster effort this past spring and to reduce potential for conflict. The Prime Canyon Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing. The IFT continued hazing efforts of the Prime Canyon during the month of August following a livestock depredation on private land and documented nighttime locations of the pack in the community of Alpine.

Rocky Prairie Pack (collared F1489)

In August, the IFT documented F1489 in the east central portion of the ASNF. The Rocky Prairie Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, and f1833)

In August, the Saffel Pack was located within their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache as part of a cross-foster effort this past spring and to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The IFT documented pups with the Saffel Pack.

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. Sierra Blanca continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Single collared F1686

In August, the IFT documented F1686 travelling with an uncollared wolf in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared f1792

In August, yearling f1792 was documented traveling in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1668

In August, F1668, formerly of the Elk Horn Pack, was documented making wide dispersal movements in the Gila National Forest (GNF) in New Mexico and in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

Single collared F1959

In August, F1959 was documented in the east central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared AM1347 and F1560)

In August, the Baldy Pack was located in their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and north central portion of the ASNF.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291 and f1828)

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

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559 and AF1283)

In August, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR.

Tu dil hil Pack (collared F1679 and AM1338)

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

Poker Pack (collared F1674)

In August, the Poker Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the SCAR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Cimmaron Mesa Pack (F1705)

In August, the Cimmaron Mesa Pack was documented traveling in the northwestern portion of the GNF. This new pair did not show behavior consistent with pup rearing in August.

Colibri Pack (collared AM1555)

In August, the Colibri Pack was documented traveling together within a territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF). The Colibri Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354, AF1456, and m1717)

In August, the Dark Canyon Pack was documented traveling together within their traditional territory, in the west central portion of the GNF. The Dark Canyon Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

In August, the Datil Mountain Pack traveled within their traditional territory in the western portion of the Cibola National Forest (CNF).

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443, f1701, and f1702)

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 captured, recollared, and released AF1443 of the Frieborn Pack during routine collaring efforts in August. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache near the den and established a diversionary food cache in August to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts. The Frieborn Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup

rearing.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1821, f1721, m1710, and f1712)

In August, the Iron Creek Pack continued to use their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. The Iron Creek Pack exhibited behavior consistent with pup rearing in August.

Lava Pack (collared AM1285 and AF1405)

In August, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion of the GNF. The Lava Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Leon Pack (collared M1824 and F1578)

In August, the Leon Pack was documented within the northwestern portion of the GNF in New Mexico.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

In August, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness. The Leopold Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and m1831)

In August, 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 wolf-livestock conflicts. The Luna Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439 and M1832)

In August, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential conflict with livestock. The Mangas Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251)

In August, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Prieto Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399 and f1822)

In 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 as part of cross-foster efforts and to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict. The San Mateo Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553)

In August, AF1553 was confirmed traveling in the traditional territory of the SBP Pack in the north central portion of the GNF. During August, AF1553 exhibited behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

In August, the Squirrel Springs Pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF. The Squirrel Springs Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Whitewater Canyon Pack (F1684)

In August, the Whitewater Canyon Pack continued to travel in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared M1829

In August, M1829 was documented making wide dispersal movements in the Gila National Forest (GNF) in New Mexico and in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

Single collared m1693

In August, M1693 was documented making wide dispersal movements in the GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared f1836

In August, f1836 was located traveling alone in the south central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

There were no documented wolf mortalities in August. There have been a total of eight documented wolf mortalities from January 1, 2019 to August 31, 2019.

INCIDENTS

During the month of August, there were 12 confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock. There was one nuisance incident reported in August. From January 1, 2019 to August 31, 2019 there have been a total of 106 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and seven probable wolf depredations in New Mexico; and a total of 38 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and one probable wolf depredation in Arizona.

On August 2, the IFT took a report from a woman who believed her horse may have been attacked by a wolf on July 21, 2019 while riding horseback near Gabaldon Campground in Arizona. The woman stated she was riding with a friend when both horses started bucking causing the women to be thrown from their horses and reportedly sustained injuries. The woman stated she did not know what caused the horse to buck and did not see anything. After being bucked from their horses, the women saw what they believed may have been a wolf, described as the size of a large coyote, standing approximately 50 feet away. The woman stated she went to catch the horses while the other remained behind and the animal was never seen again. The following day, the woman observed injuries she believed were bite marks on a hind leg of the horse just above its hoof. On August 3, the IFT conducted a sight visit of the area and did not observe any wolf sign. On August 4, Wildlife Services investigated the injured horse and determined the injuries were not caused from a predator, but were consistent with injuries sustained while the horse was running and bucking cross-country. The investigation determined there was no evidence a wolf had attacked the woman's horse.

On August 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation

determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On August 7, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

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

On August 8, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On August 10, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

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

On August 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On August 19, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On August 20, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On August 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On August 27, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On August 28, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On August 29, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation concluded the cause of death was unknown.

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

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

Throughout the month the USFS Wolf Liaison to the IFT coordinated with the Alpine, Springerville, Quemado and Reserve Ranger Districts to mitigate wolf/livestock conflicts. More than 55 livestock permittees were contacted via phone, email or text to communicate general wolf locations or other wolf related issues to try and reduce wolf/livestock conflicts.

PROGRAM PERSONNEL

In August, a student intern from Mexico joined the FWS as a seasonal volunteer technician.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AZGFD 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; AZGFD 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.



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

September 1- 30, 2019

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 Program 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 azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf. For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit wmatoutdoor.org. Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting 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 Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 AZGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

There are no overall program updates for the month of September.

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. 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 end of year census for 2018 was a minimum of 131 Mexican wolves in the wild (64 in AZ and 67 in NM). This was about a 12% increase in the population from a minimum of 117 wolves counted at the end of 2017. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of September, there were 30 identified wolf packs (14 in AZ and 16 in NM) and seven single collared wolves. There were 79 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In September, the IFT continued to document M1477 in the pack’s territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, f1696, and f1697)

In September, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona and New Mexico. Yearling, m1695, was removed to captivity due to repetitive confirmed depredations on livestock.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, M1681, F1830, and m1789)

In September, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a food cache as part of a cross-foster effort this past spring and to reduce potential for livestock related conflict. The pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Panther Creek Pack (AM1382, AF1683 and fp1939)

In September, the IFT documented the Panther Creek Pack in their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT discontinued the food cache that was established this past spring as part of a cross-foster effort. The Panther Creek Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing. During routine collaring efforts, the IFT captured, collared and released fp1939, a

wild born pup born this spring.

Pine Spring Pack (collared f1794, and f1825)

In September, the Pine Spring Pack was located within their territory in the north central portion of the ASNF. AM1394 was removed to captivity due to repetitive confirmed depredations on livestock. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache for this pack to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, m1790, f1791, f1823, fp1919, and fp1920)

In September, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a food cache as part of a cross-foster effort this past spring and to reduce potential for conflict. The Prime Canyon Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing. During routine collaring efforts, the IFT captured, collared and released fp1919 and fp1920, two wild born pups born this spring.

Rocky Prairie Pack (collared F1489)

In September, the IFT documented F1489 in the east central portion of the ASNF. The Rocky Prairie Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, and f1833)

In September, the Saffel Pack was located within their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a food cache as part of a cross-foster effort this past spring and to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared AM1571 and AF1550)

In September, the Sierra Blanca Pack was located in their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. Sierra Blanca continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Single collared F1686

In September, the IFT documented F1686 in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared f1792

In September, yearling f1792 was documented traveling in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1668

In September, F1668, formerly of the Elk Horn Pack, was documented making wide dispersal movements in the Gila National Forest (GNF) in New Mexico and in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

Single collared F1959

In September, F1959 was documented in the east central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared AM1347 and F1560)

In September, the Baldy Pack was located in their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the

FAIR and north central portion of the ASNF. AM1347 was captured, recollared, and released during routine collaring efforts in September.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291 and f1828)

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

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559 and AF1283)

In September, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR.

Tu dil hil Pack (collared F1679 and AM1338)

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

Poker Pack (collared F1674)

In September, the Poker Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the SCAR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Cimmaron Mesa Pack (F1705)

In September, the Cimmaron Mesa Pack was documented traveling in the northwestern portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF).

Colibri Pack (collared AM1555)

In September, the Colibri Pack was documented traveling together within a territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354, AF1456, and m1717)

In September, the Dark Canyon Pack was documented traveling together within their traditional territory, in the west central portion of the GNF. The Dark Canyon Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

In September, the Datil Mountain Pack traveled within their traditional territory in the western portion of the Cibola National Forest (CNF), as well as portions of the ASNF and GNF.

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443, f1701, f1702 and fp1921)

In September, the Frieborn Pack was documented within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF in New Mexico and Arizona. The IFT captured, collared, and released fp1921 of the Frieborn Pack during routine collaring efforts in September. The IFT maintained a supplemental food cache near the den and a diversionary food cache in September to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts. The Frieborn Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1821, f1721, m1710, and f1712)

In September, the Iron Creek Pack continued to use their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF. The Iron Creek Pack exhibited behavior consistent with pup rearing in September.

Lava Pack (collared AM1285 and AF1405)

In September, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion of the GNF. The Lava Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Leon Pack (collared M1824 and F1578)

In September, the Leon Pack was documented within the northwestern portion of the GNF in New Mexico.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

In September, the IFT documented the Leopold Pack within their territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness. The Leopold Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, and m1831)

In 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 wolf-livestock conflicts. The Luna Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439 and M1832)

In September, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential conflict with livestock. The Mangas Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251)

In September, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The Prieto Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399, f1822, and mp1953)

In September, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT maintained a food cache as part of cross-foster efforts and to reduce potential for wolf-livestock conflict. During routine collaring efforts, the IFT captured, collared and released mp1953, a cross fostered pup from this April. The San Mateo Pack continued to show behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553)

In September, AF1553 was confirmed traveling in the traditional territory of the SBP Pack in the north central portion of the GNF. During September, AF1553 exhibited behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

In September, the Squirrel Springs Pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF. The Squirrel Springs Pack continued to exhibit behavior consistent with pup rearing.

Whitewater Canyon Pack (F1684)

In September, the Whitewater Canyon Pack continued to travel in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared M1829

In September, M1829 was documented making wide dispersal movements in the GNF in New Mexico and in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

Single collared m1693

In September, m1693 was documented making wide dispersal movements in the GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared f1836

In September, f1836 was located traveling alone in the south central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

In September, an uncollared juvenile wolf, possibly of the Hoodoo Pack, was found dead in Arizona; the incident is under investigation. There have been a total of nine documented wolf mortalities from January 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019.

INCIDENTS

During the month of September, there were 21 confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock. There was one nuisance incident reported in September. From January 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019 there have been a total of 116 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and 10 probable wolf depredations in New Mexico; and a total of 49 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and one probable wolf depredation in Arizona.

On September 1, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 2, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 3, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

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

On September 7, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 8, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 8, an elk hunter reported a wolf following and circling the hunting party after successfully harvesting an elk. This nuisance incident occurred in Catron County, NM.

On September 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 10, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 12, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead bull in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the bull was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 17, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 19, Wildlife Services investigated two dead calves in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined both of the calves were confirmed wolf depredations.

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

On September 19, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow's death was due to a pregnancy complication.

On September 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf died from an unknown cause.

On September 23, Wildlife Services investigated three calves and a yearling cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined two of the calves were confirmed wolf depredations, one calf died of a respiratory illness and the cow died from an unknown cause.

On September 24, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed coyote depredation.

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

On September 27, Wildlife Services investigated an injured cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the injured cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On September 29, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

Throughout the month of September the USFS Wolf Liaison to the IFT coordinated with the Alpine, Springerville, Quemado and Reserve Ranger Districts to mitigate wolf-livestock conflicts. More than 55 livestock permittees were contacted via phone, email or text to communicate general wolf locations or other wolf related issues to try and reduce wolf-livestock conflicts.

PROGRAM PERSONNEL

Program volunteers concluded their six month volunteer assignment with the Program at the end of September. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication on the Mexican Wolf Program!

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AZGFD 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; AZGFD 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.



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

October 1- 31, 2019

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 Program 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 azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf. For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit wmatoutdoor.org. Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting 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 Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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), White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. National Park Service (NPS).

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 AZGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

On October 25, the New Mexico Game Commission directed the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to engage in the Mexican gray wolf recovery program including becoming a signatory to the Cooperating Agencies MOU and engaging in on the ground management activities.

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. 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 end of year census for 2018 was a minimum of 131 Mexican wolves in the wild (64 in AZ and 67 in NM). This was about a 12% increase in the population from a minimum of 117 wolves counted at the end of 2017. Population counts for 2019 are currently underway. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of October, there were 30 identified wolf packs (14 in AZ and 16 in NM) and seven single collared wolves. There were 88 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In October, the IFT continued to document M1477 in the pack’s territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, f1696, f1697, and m1698)

In October, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona and New Mexico. The IFT captured, collared, and released yearling m1698 of the Elk Horn Pack during routine collaring efforts in October.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, M1681, F1830, m1789, fp1938, and fp1843)

In October, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. During routine collaring efforts, the IFT captured, collared and released a wild born female pup, fp1938, and another female pup that was assigned a temporary studbook number of fp1843. Genetic analysis of the second Hoodoo pup will indicate if the pup was a cross-

fostered or wild born animal. In October, mp1935, was found dead in Arizona; the incident is under investigation.

Panther Creek Pack (AM1382, AF1683 and fp1939)

In October, the IFT documented the Panther Creek Pack in their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Pine Spring Pack (collared f1794, and f1825)

In October, the Pine Spring Pack was located within their territory in the north central portion of the ASNF.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, m1790, f1791, f1823, fp1919, and fp1920)

In October, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT maintained a food cache to reduce potential for conflict.

Rocky Prairie Pack (collared F1489)

In October, the IFT documented the Rocky Prairie Pack in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, and f1833)

In October, the Saffel Pack was located within their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared AM1571 and AF1550)

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

Single collared F1686

In October, the IFT documented F1686 traveling in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared f1792

In October, f1792 was documented traveling in the northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1668

In October, F1668, was documented making wide dispersal movements in the Gila National Forest (GNF) in New Mexico and in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

Single collared F1959

In September, F1959 was documented in the east central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared AM1347 and F1560)

In October, the Baldy Pack was located in their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and north central portion of the ASNF.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291 and f1828)

In October, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559 and AF1283)

In October, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR.

Tu dil hil Pack (collared AM1338, F1679, and fp1841)

In October, the Tu dil hil Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR. A female pup, fp1841, was captured on the FAIR, collared and released.

Poker Pack (collared F1674)

In October, the Poker Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the SCAR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Cimmaron Mesa Pack (F1705)

In October, the Cimmaron Mesa Pack was documented traveling in the northwestern portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF).

Colibri Pack (collared AM1555)

In October, the Colibri Pack was documented traveling together within a territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354, AF1456, and m1717)

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

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

In October, F1685 was documented traveling with an uncollared wolf in the east central portion of the ASNF in New Mexico and Arizona.

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443, f1701, f1702 and fp1921)

In October, 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 supplemental food cache near the den and a diversionary food cache in October to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflicts.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1821, f1721, m1710, and f1712)

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

Lava Pack (collared AM1285 and AF1405)

In October, the Lava Pack was located within their traditional territory in the southeastern portion

of the GNF.

Leon Pack (collared M1824 and F1578)

In October, the Leon Pack was documented within the northwestern portion of the GNF in New Mexico.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

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

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, m1831, and m1838)

In October, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. In October, the IFT captured, collared and released m1838 during routine collaring efforts. The IFT maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce potential wolf-livestock conflicts.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, M1832, mp1839, fp1840, and mp1842)

In October, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. The IFT captured, collared and released mp1839, fp1840 and mp1842 of the Mangas Pack during routine collaring efforts in October. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential conflict with livestock.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251)

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

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399, f1822, and mp1953)

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

Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553 and fp1837)

In October, the SBP Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. In October, the IFT captured, collared and released fp1837 during routine collaring efforts.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

In October, the Squirrel Springs Pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF.

Whitewater Canyon Pack (F1684)

In October, the Whitewater Canyon Pack continued to travel in portions of the north central GNF.

Single collared M1829

In October, M1829 was documented making wide dispersal movements in the GNF in New Mexico and in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

Single collared M1693

In October, M1693 was documented in portions of the north central GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared f1836

In October, f1836 was located traveling alone in the south central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

In October, mp1935, of the Hoodoo Pack, was found dead in Arizona; the incident is under investigation. There have been a total of ten documented wolf mortalities from January 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019.

INCIDENTS

During the month of October, there were five confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock. There were no nuisance incidents investigated in October. From January 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019 there have been a total of 119 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and 10 probable wolf depredations in New Mexico; and a total of 52 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and one probable wolf depredation in Arizona.

On October 1, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Socorro County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On October 7, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On October 8 Wildlife Services investigated an injured cow that later died from its injuries in Greenlee County, AZ. The investigation determined the incident was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On October 8, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the cow died from birthing complications.

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

On October 14, Wildlife Services investigated dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation concluded the cause of death was unknown.

On October 18, the IFT investigated a report of a camper that reported multiple interactions with a wolf at his campsite on the Prescott National Forest. The IFT determined the animal the camper believed to be a wolf was a domestic dog.

On October 19, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation concluded the cause of death was unknown.

On October 22, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On October 28, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation concluded the cause of death was unknown.

On October 31, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation concluded the cause of death was unknown.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

On October 3, the AZGFD gave a presentation at the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society joint annual conference in Reno, NV

In October, the AZGFD sent out information to select elk and deer hunters and distributed posters in key locations within current occupied wolf areas to aid in field identification of Mexican wolves and coyotes in effort to reduce unintentional unlawful take of wolves. The AGFD reminds hunters it is their responsibility to know the difference.

Throughout the month of October the USFS Wolf Liaison to the IFT coordinated with the Alpine, Springerville, Quemado and Reserve Ranger Districts to mitigate wolf-livestock conflicts. More than 55 livestock permittees were contacted via phone, email or text to communicate general wolf locations or other wolf related issues to try and reduce wolf-livestock conflicts.

PROGRAM PERSONNEL

There are no personnel updates for the month of October.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AZGFD 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; AZGFD 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.



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

November 1- 30, 2019

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To view semi-monthly wolf location information please visit <http://arcg.is/0iGSGH>.

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Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

On November 6, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Mexican Wolf Recovery and Management as a Lead Agency. In accordance with the MOU, Lead Agencies have regulatory jurisdiction and management authority over Mexican wolves, and/or regulatory jurisdiction and management over the lands that Mexican wolves occupy in Arizona and New Mexico, and/or expertise in resolving conflicts between humans and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Lead Agencies include those Native American Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations that are managing for the recovery of Mexican wolves.

Numbering System: Mexican wolves are given an identification number recorded in an official studbook that tracks their history. Capital letters (M = Male, F = Female) preceding the number indicate adult animals 24 months or older. Lower case letters (m = male, f = female) 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. 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 end of year census for 2018 was a minimum of 131 Mexican wolves in the wild (64 in AZ and 67 in NM). This was about a 12% increase in the population from a minimum of 117 wolves counted at the end of 2017. Population counts for 2019 are currently underway. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of November, there were 29 identified wolf packs (13 in AZ and 16 in NM) and nine single collared wolves. There were 91 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In November, the IFT documented M1477 with an uncollared wolf in the pack’s territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, f1696, f1697, and m1698)

In November, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona and New Mexico.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, M1681, F1830, m1789, fp1938, and fp1843)

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

Panther Creek Pack (AM1382, AF1683 and fp1939)

In November, the IFT documented the Panther Creek Pack in their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, m1790, f1791, f1823, fp1916, fp1919, fp1920, and mp1921)

In November, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. The IFT captured, collared and released the following pups from the Prime Canyon Pack during routine collaring efforts: fp1916, fp1920 and mp1921. The IFT initiated opportunistic hazing efforts of Prime Canyon during the month of November in response to documented nighttime locations of the pack in the community of Alpine. No nuisance incidents involving the Prime Canon Pack were reported or investigated during November. The IFT maintained a food cache to reduce potential for conflict.

Rocky Prairie Pack (collared F1489)

In November, the IFT documented the Rocky Prairie Pack in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, and f1833)

In November, the Saffel Pack was located within their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. AM1441 was captured, recollared and transported to captivity to be held temporarily while being provided veterinary care for an injury sustained during capture.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared AM1571 and AF1550)

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

Single collared f1794

In November, f1794, a disperser from Pine Spring, was not located in its original territory in the northern portion of the ASNF. The wolf has not been located since mid-September.

Single collared f1825

In November, the IFT documented f1825, a disperser from Pine Spring, travelling with an uncollared wolf in the northern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1686

In November, the IFT documented F1686 traveling in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared f1792

In November, f1792 was documented traveling with an uncollared wolf in the northern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1668

In November, F1668, was documented making wide dispersal movements in the Gila National Forest (GNF) in New Mexico and in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

Single collared F1959

In November, F1959 was documented in the east central portion of the ASNF.

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

In November, the Baldy Pack was located in their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and north central portion of the ASNF.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291 and f1828)

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

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559 and AF1283)

In November, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR.

Tu dil hil Pack (collared AM1338, F1679, and fp1841)

In November, the Tu dil hil Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR. A female pup, fp1841, was captured on the FAIR, collared and released.

Poker Pack (collared F1674)

In November, the Poker Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the SCAR.

IN NEW MEXICO:**Cimmaron Mesa Pack (F1705)**

In November, the Cimmaron Mesa Pack was documented traveling in the northwestern portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF).

Colibri Pack (collared AM1555)

In November, the Colibri Pack was documented traveling together within a territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354, AF1456, and m1717)

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

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

In November, F1685 was documented traveling with an uncollared wolf in the east central portion of the ASNF in New Mexico and Arizona.

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443, f1701, f1702 and fp1921)

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

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1821, f1721, m1710, and f1712)

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

Lava Pack (collared AM1285 and AF1405)

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

Leon Pack (collared M1824 and F1578)

In November, the Leon Pack was documented within the northwestern portion of the GNF in New Mexico.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

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

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, m1831, and m1838)

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

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, M1832, mp1839, fp1840, and mp1842)

In November, the Mangas Pack was located within their territory in the northwestern portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache for the Mangas Pack to reduce potential conflict with livestock.

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251 and mp1845)

In November, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. In November, a member of the public reported capturing two wolves in foothold traps. The IFT responded immediately, processed, collared and temporarily removed from the wild mp1845 for veterinary care. The IFT determined a second wolf had been captured and was traveling with a trap still attached to its foot. At the time of this publication, the IFT has documented the second wolf is traveling with the pack and the trap is no longer attached to its foot. This incident remains under investigation. The IFT established and maintained a diversionary food cache to reduce potential wolf-livestock.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399, f1822, and mp1953)

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

Shepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553 and fp1837)

In November, the SBP Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF.

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

In November, the Squirrel Springs Pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF.

Whitewater Canyon Pack (F1684)

In November, the Whitewater Canyon Pack was not located by the IFT.

Single collared M1829

In November, M1829 was documented traveling in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared M1693

In November, M1693 was documented in portions of the north central GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared f1836

In November, f1836 was located traveling alone in the south central portion of the GNF.

MORTALITIES

In November, an uncollared wolf was found dead in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation. The IFT is waiting for genetic analysis to determine what pack the animal was from and to assign as studbook number. There have been a total of 11 documented wolf mortalities from January 1, 2019 to November 30, 2019.

INCIDENTS

During the month of November, there were four confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock and one confirmed wolf caused injury to a calf. There was one nuisance incident investigated in November. From January 1, 2019 to November 30, 2019 there have been a total of 122 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and 10 probable wolf depredations in New Mexico; and a total of 54 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and one probable wolf depredation in Arizona.

On November 3, the IFT took a report of two wolves observed near an unoccupied camp on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in the Crow Poison area. The IFT responded and determined the reporting party was returning to their camp when they observed two wolves near a deer carcass that was hanging in camp. The wolves immediately retreated out of sight when the reporting party approached in their vehicle. The IFT located a signal from M1829 nearby. No further sightings or interactions were reported.

On November 4, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On November 4, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation concluded the cause of death was unknown.

On November 6, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation concluded the cause of death was unknown.

On November 9, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The

investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On November 16, Wildlife Services investigated an injured calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf's injuries were caused by a wolf.

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

On November 30, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

Throughout the month of November the USFS Wolf Liaison to the IFT coordinated with the Alpine, Springerville, Quemado and Reserve Ranger Districts to mitigate wolf-livestock conflicts. More than 55 livestock permittees were contacted via phone, email or text to communicate general wolf locations or other wolf related issues to try and reduce wolf-livestock conflicts.

In November, the IFT implemented the following proactive efforts to reduce livestock depredations: initiated 12 hazing events on wolves, maintained three diversionary food caches, conducted one carcass removal to avoid further attractant of wolves to an area of existing wolf-livestock conflict and conducted frequent contacts with livestock producers with the goal of reducing potential for wolf-livestock conflict.

PROGRAM PERSONNEL

Two volunteers left the Program at the end of November, thanks to you and all the volunteers for your help and dedication to Mexican Wolf Recovery!

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AZGFD 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; AZGFD 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.



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Update

December 1- 31, 2019

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Recovery Program 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 Program 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 azgfd.gov/wolf or by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf. For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit wmatoutdoor.org. Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting 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 Mexican Wolf Recovery Program is a multi-agency cooperative effort among the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), USDA Forest Service (USFS), USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS WS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. National Park Service (NPS).

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 AZGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Monthly Updates

On December 10-12, USFWS, AZGFD, and NMDGF staff met with colleagues from the Mexican government to discuss ongoing bi-national recovery planning and population status of Mexican wolves in Mexico and the United States.

On December 5, USFWS staff met with the New Mexico State Lands Office to discuss ongoing management of Mexican wolves on state lands in NM.

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. 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 end of year census for 2018 was a minimum of 131 Mexican wolves in the wild (64 in AZ and 67 in NM). This was about a 12% increase in the population from a minimum of 117 wolves counted at the end of 2017. Population counts for 2019 are currently underway. 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 pup mortality generally occurs in this period). 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 when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of December, there were 29 identified wolf packs (13 in AZ and 16 in NM) and 10 single collared wolves. There were 89 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves are collared. Studbook numbers following individual pack names below denote wolves with functioning radio collars.

IN ARIZONA:

Eagle Creek Pack (collared M1477)

In December, the IFT documented M1477 with an uncollared wolf in the pack’s territory in the east central portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

Elk Horn Pack (collared AF1294, f1696, f1697, and m1698)

In December, the Elk Horn Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF in Arizona and New Mexico.

Hoodoo Pack (collared AM1290, AF1333, M1681, F1830, m1789, and fp1938)

In December, the Hoodoo Pack was located within their traditional territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. M1681 was documented making dispersal movements in the central and northern portion of the ASNF. Female fp1843 was found dead in New Mexico; the incident is

currently under investigation.

Panther Creek Pack (AM1382, AF1683 and fp1939)

In December, the IFT documented the Panther Creek Pack in their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Prime Canyon Pack (collared AM1471, AF1488, m1790, f1791, f1823, fp1919, and fp1920)

In December, the IFT documented the Prime Canyon Pack within their territory in the east central portion of the ASNF. Subadult m1790 was documented making dispersal movements apart from the pack and travelling with f1701 of the Frieborn Pack in the east central portion of the ASNF at the end of December.

Rocky Prairie Pack (collared F1489)

In December, the IFT documented the Rocky Prairie Pack in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Saffel Pack (collared AM1441, AF1567, f1833 and fp1844)

In December, the Saffel Pack was located within their territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. AM1441 was released back into Saffel territory from veterinary care and was documented travelling with the pack at the end of the month.

Sierra Blanca Pack (collared AM1571 and AF1550)

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

Single collared f1794

In December, f1794, a disperser from the Pine Spring Pack, was not located in its original territory in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. The wolf has not been located since September.

Single collared f1825

In December, the IFT documented f1825 travelling with an uncollared wolf in the northeastern portion of the ASNF. In December the IFT hazed f1825, on several occasions, from state land near cattle onto the ASNF in effort to prevent additional wolf-livestock conflict.

Single collared F1686

In December, the IFT documented F1686 traveling in the east central portion of the ASNF.

Single collared f1792

In December, f1792 was documented traveling with an uncollared wolf in the north eastern portion of the ASNF.

Single collared F1668

In December, F1668, was documented making wide dispersal movements in the Gila National Forest (GNF) in New Mexico and in the east central portion of the ASNF in Arizona.

Single collared F1959

In December, F1959 was documented in the east central portion of the ASNF.

ON THE FAIR:

Baldy Pack (collared AM1347 and F1560)

In December, the Baldy Pack was located in their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and north central portion of the ASNF.

Maverick Pack (collared AF1291 and f1828)

In December, the Maverick Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and east central portion of the ASNF. AF1291 has been documented in the pack's original territory and has also been documented making dispersal movements on the FAIR and northeastern portion of the ASNF.

Tsay-O-Ah Pack (collared M1559 and AF1283)

In December, the Tsay-O-Ah Pack was located within their traditional territory in the eastern portion of the FAIR and occasionally documented north of their territory on the FAIR.

Tu dil hil Pack (collared AM1338, F1679, and fp1841)

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

Poker Pack (collared F1674)

In December, the Poker Pack was documented traveling in the eastern portion of the FAIR and the SCAR.

IN NEW MEXICO:

Cimmaron Mesa Pack (F1705)

In December, the Cimmaron Mesa Pack was documented traveling in the northwestern portion of the Gila National Forest (GNF).

Colibri Pack (collared AM1555)

In December, the Colibri Pack was documented traveling together within a territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF.

Dark Canyon Pack (collared AM1354, AF1456, and m1717)

In December, Dark Canyon m1717 was documented making wide dispersal movements across the central portion of the GNF. The rest of the Dark Canyon Pack was documented traveling together within their traditional territory, in the west central portion of the GNF.

Datil Mountain Pack (collared F1685)

In December, F1685 was not documented in December.

Frieborn Pack (collared AF1443, f1701)

In December, AF1443 was documented travelling with M1829 in the north central portion of the

GNF in New Mexico. Frieborn f1701 continued to use the pack's territory in the east central portion of the ASNF and west central portion of the GNF in Arizona and New Mexico, respectively. Subadult female 1702 was not located in December and is now considered fate unknown as it has not been documented for three consecutive months. Genetic results for the wolf temporarily assigned studbook number fp1921 identified this wolf as fp1847 of the Rocky Prairie Pack. This wolf dispersed from the pack in December.

Iron Creek Pack (collared AM1240, AF1278, M1821, f1721, m1710, and f1712)

In December, M1821, m1710, and f1721 were documented traveling in wide dispersal patterns within the ASNF and GNF in Arizona and New Mexico and continuing to return to their traditional pack territory. The rest of the Iron Creek Pack was documented using their traditional territory in the northern portion of the Gila Wilderness and the southern portion of the GNF.

Lava Pack (collared AM1285 and AF1405)

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

Leon Pack (collared M1824 and F1578)

In December, the Leon Pack was documented within the northwestern portion of the GNF in New Mexico.

Leopold Pack (collared AM1293 and AF1346)

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

Luna Pack (collared AM1158, AF1487, m1831, and m1838)

In December, the Luna Pack remained in their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. An uncollared wolf, assigned studbook number 1849, from the Luna Pack was located dead in NM; the incident is under investigation.

Mangas Pack (collared AM1296, AF1439, M1832, mp1839, fp1840, and mp1842)

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

Prieto Pack (collared AF1251 and m1845)

In December, the Prieto Pack was located within their traditional territory in the north central portion of the GNF. The IFT continued to maintain a diversionary food cache and initiated hazing efforts to reduce potential wolf-livestock conflict.

San Mateo Pack (collared AF1399, f1822, and mp1953)

In December, the San Mateo Pack continued to utilize their territory in the north central portion of the GNF. In early December f1822 started showing signs of dispersal, and was located dead at the end of December in New Mexico. The incident is under investigation.

Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) Pack (collared AF1553 and fp1837)

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

Squirrel Springs Pack (collared F1788 and M1349)

In December, the Squirrel Springs Pack was located in the north central portion of the GNF.

Whitewater Canyon Pack (F1684)

In December, the Whitewater Canyon Pack was not located by the IFT.

Single collared M1829

In December, M1829 was documented traveling with Frieborn AF1443 in the north central portion of the GNF.

Single collared M1693

In December, M1693 was documented in portions of the north central GNF in New Mexico.

Single collared f1836

In December, f1836 was located traveling alone in the south central portion of the GNF.

Single collared fp1847

In December, fp1847 was documented traveling in the south central portion of the GNF and the San Mateo mountains.

MORTALITIES

One uncollared wolf (assigned studbook number 1849) was found dead in New Mexico in December. Genetic results indicated it was from the Luna Pack. That mortality is under investigation. Two radio-collared wolves, Hoodoo fp1843 and San Mateo f1822, were both located dead in New Mexico at the end of December; both incidents are under investigation. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 there were 14 documented wolf mortalities in Arizona and New Mexico.

INCIDENTS

During the month of December, there were eight confirmed wolf depredation incidents on livestock and four confirmed wolf caused injuries. There were no nuisance incidents investigated in December. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 there have been a total of 126 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and 10 probable wolf depredations in New Mexico; and a total of 58 confirmed wolf depredation incidents and one probable wolf depredation in Arizona.

On December 2, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf and an injured cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation and the cow was a confirmed wolf injury.

On December 5, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On December 11, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The

investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On December 12, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf and a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined both animals were confirmed wolf depredations.

On December 12, Wildlife Services investigated an injured calf in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined the calf was confirmed wolf injury.

On December 13, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Socorro County, NM. The investigation determined the cow was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On December 15, Wildlife Services investigated two injured calves in Catron County, NM. The investigation determined that both calves were injured by wolves.

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

On December 26, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation determined the calf was a confirmed wolf depredation.

On December 28, Wildlife Services investigated a dead calf in Apache County, AZ. The investigation concluded the cause of death was unknown.

On December 31, Wildlife Services investigated a dead cow in Apache County, AZ. The investigation concluded the cause of death was unknown.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

Throughout the month of December the USFS Wolf Liaison to the IFT coordinated with the Alpine, Springerville, Quemado and Reserve Ranger Districts to mitigate wolf-livestock conflicts. More than 55 livestock permittees were contacted via phone, email or text to communicate general wolf locations or other wolf related issues to try and reduce wolf-livestock conflicts.

In December, the IFT implemented the following proactive efforts to reduce livestock depredations: conducted 26 days/nights of hazing effort in areas having recent depredations, maintained one diversionary food cache, and conducted frequent contacts with livestock producers. The IFT continued efforts in December to analyze depredation data in order to identify opportunities to increase effectiveness of management efforts in 2020 to reduce and mitigate livestock depredations by wolves.

PROGRAM PERSONNEL

There are no personnel updates for the month of December.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$10,000; the AZGFD 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

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