



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Post Office Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

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Memorandum

To: Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator, Southwest Region

Through: Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Southwest Region *Michelle Straymesa*

From: Regional Director, Southwest Region *Benjamin Frazee*

Subject: Depredation Decision; Extension of Previously Authorized Paradise Pack Management Measures

Under the final 10(j) rule (50 CFR Part 17) of January 12, 1998 (Final Rule), the Interagency Management Plan of March 1998 (IMP), and the Final Environmental Impact Statement of November 1996, four confirmed livestock depredation incidents within one year by members of the Paradise pack (AM795 and AF1056) triggered a decision on the appropriate continued management of the Paradise pack, including whether members of the pack should be removed from the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA). On September 4, 2013, I issued a decision to remove by live-trapping both AM795 and AF1056 from the Paradise pack in an effort to disrupt habitual livestock depredation behavior of the pack. That control order covered a 60-day period, from September 4, 2013 to November 4, 2013. On October 22, 2013, the IFT captured AM795 and removed this wolf. Prior to the removal of AM795, AF1056 had been traveling with a new wolf (M1249). The AF1056 and M1249 have continued to utilize the area previously occupied by AF1056 and AM795. In addition, AF1056 and M1249 are both descendants from the Bluestem Pack and thus would produce pups with a high inbreeding coefficient.

Although the Paradise pack has not depredated during the 60-day period, my decision is to authorize an additional 90-day period to conduct non-lethal removal operations for AF1056 from the Paradise pack to disrupt habitual livestock depredation behavior of AF1056, effective immediately. All other provisions of the September 4, 2013 decision memo remain in effect.