



# News Release

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**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)** [www.fws.gov/southwest/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/)

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## **Service seeks Public Input on Development of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Mexican Wolves**

*Agency analyzing proposed revisions to the nonessential experimental population and management plan implementation*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking input from the public on two issues relating to the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) under the Endangered Species Act. The Service is soliciting comments and suggestions on two preliminary draft chapters of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) examining the potential environmental impacts of a proposed rule to revise the existing nonessential experimental population designation of the Mexican wolf.

A 45-day public comment period begins with publication of this notice in the *Federal Register* on August 5, and will end on September 19, 2013.

The Service has developed several potential alternatives to support progress toward our reintroduction objective of establishing a viable, self-sustaining population of Mexican wolves in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, and to more effectively manage Mexican wolves throughout Arizona and New Mexico. The Service has not yet determined what the preferred alternative will be, and recognizes that there may be other reasonable alternatives that should be considered. Therefore, the Service is seeking comments and suggestions from all interested parties on a number of issues for consideration in preparation of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (dEIS).

The Service is also seeking comments on implementation of a management plan for Mexican wolves in areas of Arizona and New Mexico that are outside of the current Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area. Together, the proposed rule and the proposed management plan will be the proposed action analyzed in the EIS.

The alternatives selected will be analyzed in the dEIS. The Service will give the public separate notice of the availability of the dEIS when it is completed. At that time, the Service plans to open an additional comment period, and hold public hearings and informational sessions so that

interested and affected people may comment on the dEIS and have additional input into the development of a final EIS.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS that will publish in the *Federal Register* on August 5 provides instructions on commenting and directions on accessing the documents we are making available for review.

The Service has developed a webpage for NEPA planning on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program website and, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southwest Region, has established dEIS planning document repositories at the Forest Supervisor Offices for the National Forests throughout the project study area. Addresses for these offices are in the NOI.

For further information and to access the documents available for review, members of the public can visit those locations or visit our website:

[http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/NEPA\\_713.cfm](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/NEPA_713.cfm). The documents will also be at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search for FWS–R2–ES–2013–0098.

America's fish, wildlife and plant resources belong to all of us, and ensuring the health of imperiled species is a shared responsibility. We're working to actively engage conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfws](http://www.facebook.com/usfws), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwshq](http://www.twitter.com/usfwshq), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.*

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