

News Release

Office of Communications
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS-330
Arlington, VA 22203
Phone: 703-358-2220; Fax: 703-358-1973
<http://www.fws.gov>



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Contact: Vanessa Kauffman
703-358-2138
vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Issues Finding on Mexican Wolf Petitions

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced its determination that the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) does not currently warrant separate classification under the Endangered Species Act and will continue to receive federal protection as an endangered species included within the existing species-level listing of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*).

The Service made this determination after receiving petitions asking the agency to protect the Mexican gray wolf as an endangered subspecies or distinct population segment and designate critical habitat under the ESA. The Mexican wolf is currently listed as endangered within the broader 1978 gray wolf listing, as revised, which listed the gray wolf in the lower 48 States and Mexico.

As part of the Service's commitment to Mexican wolf recovery, the Service is in the process of revising and updating the Mexican wolf recovery plan, which is expected to be released for public and peer review in 2013. The Service also continues to review the appropriate conservation status of all gray wolves that comprise the broader gray wolf listing and may revise the current listing based on the outcome of this review.

The Service has actively focused on Mexican wolf conservation and recovery with the establishment of a reintroduced nonessential experimental population under section 10(j) of the ESA, which is not affected by this determination. The number of Mexican wolves in the wild in the United States has increased from none in the late 1990s, to at least 58 in 2011.

The Endangered Species Act provides a critical safety net for America's native fish, wildlife, and plants. The Service is working to actively engage conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species. To learn more about the Endangered Species Program, visit <http://www.fws.gov/angered/>.

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. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at 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>.