



FAQs

Public Affairs Office
PO Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103
505/248-6911
505/248-6915 (Fax)

Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas) www.fws.gov/southwest/

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Revised Mexican Wolf 10(j) Rule and Revised Listing Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What action is the Service taking regarding Mexican wolves?

A: At this time, we are announcing the final [*Revision to the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf*](#) under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This revises the regulations in the 1998 Nonessential Experimental Population designation rule to expand and more successfully implement the Mexican wolf reintroduction program in Arizona and New Mexico.

We have also extended the authority of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program's ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) research and recovery permit to areas that are outside of the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA).

Additionally, we are listing the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies (*Canis lupus baileyi*) under the ESA.

On the Mexican Wolf 10(j) Rule Revision –

Q: Why has the Service revised the regulations for the experimental population of the Mexican wolf?

A: We began reintroducing the Mexican wolf into the wild in 1998. Over the past 16 years, we have learned a great deal about reestablishing the Mexican wolf in a working landscape. In particular, we know more about the needs of the wolf population, are more experienced in the techniques and mechanics of such a program, are more engaged in programs to improve human acceptance of wolves and decrease conflicts, and are more committed than ever to working with diverse partners to promote a successful Mexican wolf program.

Together with our cooperating state, federal, tribal and local agencies, we have reintroduced and managed Mexican wolves under a 1998 experimental population rule. An experimental

population designation provides increased management flexibility for wolf populations that are reintroduced into a designated experimental population area (in this case, the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, or MWEPA) within their historical range.

Under the 1998 regulations, we could only release Mexican wolves from captivity into the primary recovery zone, which comprised only 16% of the Blue Range. This has significantly constrained our ability to release additional wolves from captivity to address genetic concerns in the wild population.

The designated Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area is mostly occupied by wolves, and wolves have not been allowed to disperse outside of the Blue Range to new areas. Under the 1998 regulations, wolves that established wholly outside of the Blue Range had to be captured and returned to the Blue Range or placed in captivity. This has constrained our ability to increase the size of the wild population so that it can contribute to recovery

Given what we now know about managing a wild population of Mexican wolves, it is clear that the 1998 regulations do not provide the clarity or the flexibility we need to effectively manage the experimental population. Specifically, we recognize that the regulations we established in 1998 limit our ability to achieve the necessary population growth, distribution, and recruitment that would contribute to the persistence of, and improve the genetic variation within, the experimental population.

Q: Does the final revision to the regulations address the nonessential experimental population designation of the Mexican wolf?

A: Nothing in this rule revision changes the nonessential experimental population designation. The Mexican wolf population that is in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico today is the experimental population that was designated in the 1998 final rule. The present rule revises only the management regulations that apply to the population. Therefore reconsideration of whether the population is essential or nonessential was outside the scope of this rulemaking.

Q: How will the revised 10(j) rule change Mexican wolf management in the wild?

A: The revised rule:

- Expands the area where we can initially release Mexican wolves from captivity from 1,153 mi² (the Primary Recovery Zone in the 1998 regulations) to 12,507 mi² (Zone 1 in the new regulations). Therefore, the area for initial releases is about 10 times greater than in the 1998 regulations.
- Expands the total area of the where Mexican wolf can occupy from 7,212 mi² (the size of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area in the 1998 regulations) to 153,853 mi² (Zones 1, 2, and 3 in the new regulations). However, we expect wolves to primarily occupy areas within suitable habitat in Zones 1 and 2, which consist of 31,363 mi² (a little over a fourfold increase in area from the 1998 regulations).

- Extends the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area's (MWEPA) southern boundary from I-10 to the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona and New Mexico to provide for a larger area where management flexibility applies,
- Clarifies definitions in the rule, including increasing management options when wolves can be taken while attacking domestic animals (livestock and non-feral dogs), or as needed to manage wild ungulate herds such as elk, deer, etc.,
- Modifies the conditions that determine when we would issue a permit to allow livestock owners or their agents (e.g., employees, land manager, local officials) to take a wolf (including intentionally harass or kill), in conjunction with a control action. The new rule authorizes the Service or a designated agency to issue permits to livestock owners or their agents to take any Mexican wolf that is in the act of biting, killing or wounding livestock on federal land where specified in the permit. It also allows domestic animal (includes livestock and non-feral dogs) owners or their agents to take any Mexican wolf in the act of biting, wounding or killing domestic animals on non-federal land,
- Provides for take in response to unacceptable impacts to ungulates (establishes a scientific, peer-reviewed process to determine if authorizing take for unacceptable impacts is appropriate), and
- Provides for a population objective of 300-325 wolves in Arizona and New Mexico in the MWEPA. This population objective may change as necessary to accommodate a new, peer reviewed, recovery plan.

The regulatory flexibility provided by these revisions to the 1998 rule will allow for management actions within the MWEPA that further the conservation of the Mexican wolf while being responsive to the needs of local communities in cases of problem wolf behavior.

Q: How is the area within which Mexican wolves can be released expanded and changed within the revision?

A: We have revised the 1998 nonessential experimental population 10(j) rule by removing the stipulation that captive-raised wolves may only be released into the Primary Recovery Zone (the southern portion of the Apache National Forest) of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA) in Arizona. The present BRWRA consists of the Apache and Gila National Forests located in east central Arizona and west central New Mexico, respectively.

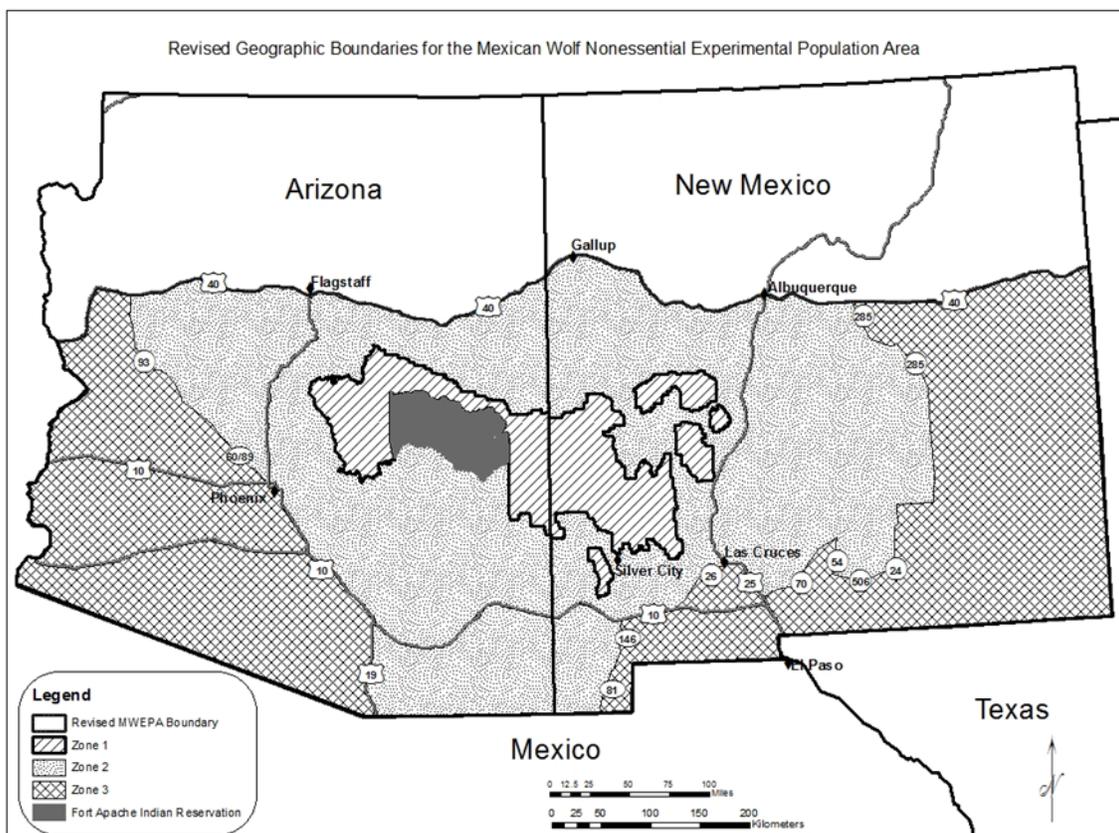
The revised rule identifies Zones 1, 2, and 3 as different management areas within the MWEPA and discontinues the use of the presently recognized BRWRA designation.

- Zone 1 is where Mexican wolves may naturally disperse into and occupy, and where Mexican wolves may be initially released or translocated. It includes all of the Apache, Gila and Sitgreaves National Forests; the Payson, Pleasant Valley and Tonto Basin Ranger Districts of the Tonto National Forest; and the Magdalena Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest.
- Zone 2 is an area within the MWEPA into which Mexican wolves will be allowed to naturally disperse and occupy, and where Mexican wolves may be translocated. On federal land in Zone 2, initial releases of Mexican wolves will be limited to pups less than five months old, which allows for the cross-fostering of pups from the captive

population into the wild, as well as enabling translocation-eligible adults to be re-released with pups born in captivity.

On private and tribal land in Zone 2, Mexican wolves of any age, including adults, can also be initially released under a Service- and state-approved management agreement with private landowners or a Service-approved management agreement with tribal agencies. Translocations in Zone 2 will be focused on suitable Mexican wolf habitat that is contiguous to occupied Mexican wolf range.

- Zone 3 is where neither initial releases nor translocations will occur, but Mexican wolves will be allowed to disperse into and occupy. Zone 3 is an area of less suitable Mexican wolf habitat where Mexican wolves will be more actively managed under the authorities of this rule to reduce human conflict.



Q: Will the implementation of the wolf releases and translocations into Zones 1 and 2 occur immediately?

A: No. A Mexican Wolf Management Plan, including local public notification and participation, will be required prior to selecting release locations and schedules. However, areas within the former BRWRA in the Gila and Apache National Forests that have already been approved for releases and translocations could be used immediately. Mexican wolves will also be permitted to naturally disperse throughout the MWEPA, in accordance with our phased approach, upon completion of our rule making.

In Arizona, we evaluated and will implement a westward phased approach to wolf management including phased translocations, initial releases, and occupancy of Mexican wolves west of Highway 87. As part of the phased approach, Phase 1 will be implemented for the first five years following the effective date of this rule. Under this phase, we will be able to conduct initial releases of Mexican wolves throughout Zone 1 with the exception of the area west of State Highway 87 in Arizona. No translocations can be conducted west of State Highway 87 in Arizona (Zone 2). Mexican wolves can disperse naturally from Zone 1 into a majority of the MWEPA (Zones 2 and 3) and occupy a majority of the MWEPA (Zones 1, 2 and 3), with the exception of dispersal and occupancy in Zone 2 west of State Highway 87. During Phase 1, dispersal will be limited to the area north of State Highway 260 and west to Interstate 17.

In Phase 2, initial releases of Mexican wolves can occur throughout Zone 1 including the area west of State Highway 87 in Arizona. Mexican wolves can disperse naturally from Zone 1 into, and within, the MWEPA (Zones 2 and 3) and occupy the MWEPA (Zones 1, 2 and 3) with the exception of those areas in Zone 2 west of State Highway 89 in Arizona (Figure 4). However, no translocations can be conducted west of Interstate Highway 17 in Arizona.

Phase 3 will only be initiated after Phase 2 if the eight-year evaluation determines it is necessary. In Phase 3, initial release of Mexican wolves can occur throughout Zone 1, including the area west of State Highway 87 in Arizona, and Mexican wolves can disperse naturally from Zone 1 into and within the MWEPA (Zones 2 and 3), and occupy the MWEPA (Zones 1, 2 and 3). However, no translocations can be conducted west of State Highway 89 in Arizona.

The phasing may be expedited with the concurrence of participating state game and fish agencies. Regardless of the phases implemented, by the beginning of year 12, we will move to full implementation of this rule throughout the MWEPA, and the phased management approach will no longer apply. Full implementation means that initial release of Mexican wolves can occur throughout the entire Zone 1 and in limited areas in Zone 2. Mexican wolves can disperse naturally from Zone 1 into, and occupy the entire MWEPA (Zones 1, 2 and 3); translocations can be conducted at selected translocation sites on Federal land within Zones 1 and 2 of the MWEPA, and releases and translocations can occur under agreements with private landowners and Tribes.

Maps depicting the phased approach are included in the final rule.

Q: Why has the Service extended the southern boundary of the current Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area from I-10 to the U.S.-Mexico border?

A: We provided this modification because the reintroduction effort for Mexican wolves now being undertaken by the Mexican Government has established a need to manage individuals that may disperse north into southern Arizona and New Mexico from reestablished populations in Mexico. Extending the MWEPA south to the international border with Mexico would allow us to manage all Mexican wolves in this area, regardless of origin, under the experimental population 10(j) rule.

Q: How has the Service revised provisions for the take (defined in the ESA as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct) of wolves within the experimental population area?

A: It has always been and remains permissible to harass or kill a Mexican wolf in self-defense or in defense of the lives of others.

We have also clarified the take provisions for intentional harassment, opportunistic harassment, take for research purposes, take by Service personnel or designated agencies, and unintentional take. In addition, we have revised the “due care” criteria in regard to trapping activities.

We have provided language to clarify that personnel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s APHIS - Wildlife Services will not be in violation of the ESA or this rule for taking a Mexican wolf while conducting official duties associated with predator damage management for species other than Mexican wolves. This provision requires that the action be coincidental to a legal activity and that the Wildlife Services employees involved have adhered to all applicable Wildlife Services’ policies, Mexican wolf standard operating procedures, and reasonable and prudent measures or recommendations contained in Wildlife Service’s biological and conference opinions.

We have modified the conditions that determine when we would issue a permit to allow livestock owners or their agents (e.g., employees, land manager, local officials) to take a wolf (including intentional harassment or killing), in conjunction with a control action. The new rule authorizes the Service or a designated agency to issue permits to livestock owners or their agents to take any Mexican wolf that is in the act of biting, killing, or wounding livestock on Federal land where specified in the permit. It would also allow domestic animal (includes livestock and non-feral dogs) owners or their agents to take any Mexican wolf in the act of biting, wounding or killing domestic animals on non-federal land.

We also added reporting requirements that clarify that, unless otherwise specified in this rule or in a permit, any take of a Mexican wolf must be reported to the Service or one of our designated agencies within 24 hours.

Finally, we have modified provisions in the 1998 Final Rule to allow for removal of Mexican wolves in response to unacceptable impacts to wild ungulates and we have clarified the definition of “unacceptable impacts” based upon ungulate management goals, or a 15 percent decline in a wild ungulate herd.

Q: How will the revised rule allow for the states’ management of Mexican wolves to address unacceptable impacts to wild ungulate populations?

A: If a state determines that Mexican wolf predation is having an unacceptable impact on a wild ungulate herd (pronghorn, bighorn sheep, deer, elk or bison) based on established ungulate management goals, or a 15 percent decline in a wild ungulate herd, the respective state game and fish agency may request approval from the Service to remove Mexican wolves from the area of the impacted ungulate herd.

The Service will evaluate the information provided by the requesting state (Arizona or New Mexico) and provide a written determination to the requesting state game and fish agency on whether such actions are scientifically based and warranted. These management actions must occur in accordance with established, science-based provisions spelled out in the rule. If the request is approved, the Service will include in the written determination which management action (capture and translocate in MWEPA, move to captivity, transfer to Mexico, lethally take, or no action) is most appropriate for the conservation of the subspecies.

Because tribes are able to request the capture and removal of Mexican wolves from tribal lands at any time, take of a wolf in response to unacceptable impacts to wild ungulates is not applicable on tribal lands.

Q: How will the Service address Mexican wolves that disperse outside of the MWEPA?

A: Outside of the MWEPA Mexican wolves are protected as endangered species under the ESA. We have extended the authority of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program’s Section 10(a)(1)(A) research and recovery permit to areas that are outside of the MWEPA. The newly issued Research and Recovery Permit will allow management of the experimental population of Mexican wolves, as well as the capture and return of Mexican wolves that disperse and establish territories outside of the experimental population boundaries.

Section 10(a)(1)(A) provisions for research and recovery would not automatically apply on National Park Service (NPS) lands because the NPS has unique management discretion and authority for wildlife within its park units. Management of Mexican wolves which occupy NPS lands outside of the MWEPA would be subject to NPS research permitting authorities and policies while those animals are within NPS unit boundaries. The NPS will make a determination on a case-by-case basis on whether or not they would issue a NPS permit.

Q: What is a 10(j) rule?

A: The 1982 amendments to the ESA included the addition of section 10(j), which allows for the designation of reintroduced populations of listed species as “experimental populations.” Under section 10(j) of the ESA and our regulations at 50 CFR 17.81, the Service may designate a population of a listed species as experimental if it has been – or will be – released into suitable natural habitat outside the species’ current natural range, but within its probable historical range.

With the experimental population designation, the specified population is treated as threatened under the ESA, regardless of the species’ designation elsewhere in its range. Treating the experimental population as threatened allows us the discretion to devise management programs and special regulations for that population. Section 4(d) of the ESA allows us to adopt any regulations that are necessary and advisable to provide for the conservation of a threatened species. When designating an experimental population, the general regulations that extend most of the ESA’s prohibitions for threatened species (section 9) do not apply to experimental species, so the 10(j) rule contains the prohibitions and exemptions necessary and appropriate to conserve the designated experimental population.

For purposes of section 7, nonessential experimental populations are treated as proposed for listing, except on National Wildlife Refuge System or the National Park System lands, where they are treated as threatened species. In these instances, a nonessential experimental population provides additional flexibility because federal agencies are not required to consult with us under section 7(a)(2). Section 7(a)(4) requires federal agencies to confer (rather than consult) with the Service on actions that are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a species proposed to be listed. The results of a conference are in the form of conservation recommendations that are optional as the agencies carry out, fund or authorize activities. Because the nonessential experimental population is, by definition, not essential to the continued existence of the species, the effects of proposed actions affecting the nonessential experimental population will generally not rise to the level of jeopardizing the continued existence of the species. As a result, a formal conference will likely never be required for Mexican wolves established within the experimental population area. Nonetheless, some agencies voluntarily confer with the Service on actions that may affect a proposed species. Activities that are not carried out, funded, or authorized by Federal agencies are not subject to provisions or requirements in section 7.

In addition, the Service does not designate critical habitat for nonessential experimental populations.

On the Mexican Wolf and its Subspecies Listing –

Q: Why is the Mexican Wolf being listed as a subspecies (*Canis lupus baileyi*) with endangered status?

A: The Mexican wolf had been protected since 1978 under the listing for the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). The Mexican wolf experimental population, as designated in 1998, corresponded to the gray wolf even though it was specific to the Mexican wolf recovery effort. In June 2013, we published a draft comprehensive rule proposing the delisting of the gray wolf and the listing of the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies. The gray wolf delisting remains under consideration. We have now finalized a separate rule to list the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies. Under the new listing, the experimental population will be associated with the Mexican wolf subspecies listing rather than with the gray wolf species.

We have determined that the Mexican wolf meets the definition of an endangered subspecies primarily because of illegal killing, inbreeding, loss of heterozygosity, loss of adaptive potential and small population size. Disease, the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms, and other natural or manmade factors (including vehicle strikes) affecting its continued existence are also identified as threats.

Q: What is a Mexican wolf?

A: The Mexican wolf is the rarest, southern-most occurring, and most genetically distinct subspecies of all the North American gray wolves. The distinctiveness of the Mexican wolf and its recognition as a subspecies is supported by both morphometric (physical measurements) and genetic evidence. The Mexican wolf is the smallest existing gray wolf subspecies in North America. Adults weigh 50 to 90 pounds with a length of five to six feet

and height at shoulder of 25 to 32 inches. Mexican wolves are typically a patchy black, brown to cinnamon, and cream color, with primarily light underparts. Solid black or white coloration, as seen in other North American gray wolves, does not exist in Mexican wolves. The basic life history for the Mexican wolf is similar to that of other gray wolves.

Q: Where are Mexican wolves found?

A: Mexican wolves historically inhabited mountainous woodlands and adjacent grasslands in northern Mexico, New Mexico, Arizona and the Trans-Pecos region of western Texas (Brown 1988) at elevations of 4000-5000 feet where ungulate prey were numerous (Bailey 1931). The subspecies may have also ranged north into southern Utah and southern Colorado within zones of intergradation where interbreeding with other gray wolf subspecies may have occurred (Parsons 1996, Carroll et al. 2006, Leonard et al. 2005).

Maps of Mexican wolf historical range are available in the scientific literature. The southernmost extent of the Mexican wolf's range in Mexico is consistently portrayed as ending near Oaxaca. Depiction of the northern extent of the Mexican wolf's pre-settlement range among the available descriptions varies depending on the authors' taxonomic treatment of several subspecies and their interpretation of where reproductive interaction between neighboring wolf populations occurred.

Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico inhabit evergreen pine-oak woodlands (i.e., Madrean woodlands), pinyon-juniper woodlands (i.e., Great Basin conifer forests), and mixed conifer montane forests (i.e., Rocky Mountain, or petran, forests) that are inhabited by elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer.

Q: What is the current population of Mexican wolves?

A: A binational captive-breeding program between the United States and Mexico, which is managed as one population under the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP), was initiated in 1977 with the capture of the last remaining Mexican wolves in the wild in Mexico and subsequent addition of wolves from captivity in Mexico and the United States. Through the breeding of the seven founding Mexican wolves and generations of their offspring, the captive population has expanded to approximately 248 wolves in 55 facilities, including 37 facilities in the United States and 18 facilities in Mexico (as of October 12, 2012).

The Mexican wolf recovery program's Interagency Field Team estimated the 2013 experimental population of Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico to be a minimum of 83 animals, as determined by their most recent annual survey conducted in January 2014. The 2013 population survey showed the Mexican wolf population up from a count of 75 in 2012, and double the number of Mexican wolves living in the wild in 2009 (42). The 2014 population survey is underway and results will be available in February 2015.

Mexico initiated a reintroduction program with the release of five captive-bred Mexican wolves into the San Luis Mountains just south of the U.S.-Mexico border in October 2011. Through August 2014, Mexico released a total of 14 adult Mexican wolves, of which 11 died or are believed dead, and one was removed for veterinary care. The remaining two adult Mexican wolves were documented with five pups in 2014, marking the first successful

reproductive event in Mexico since their extirpation in the 1980s. We expect the number of Mexican wolves in Mexico to fluctuate from zero to several wolves or packs of wolves during 2015 and into the future in or around Sonora and Chihuahua or other Mexican States.

On public input to the rule making and the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Q: Did the Service prepare an EIS for the proposed changes to the Mexican wolf nonessential experimental population rule?

A: Yes. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to undertake an assessment of the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. The environmental impact assessment process conducted under NEPA is intended to ensure agencies make better informed decisions and that the public has a meaningful opportunity to participate in the process. The Service's NEPA goal is to make better environmental decisions in a cost and time-efficient manner to further our mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continued benefit of the American people. The proposed and final rule revisions were informed by, and evaluated through, the development of a comprehensive EIS.

In the EIS, we analyzed the environmental consequences of our proposed action and alternatives, including a “no action” alternative.

Q: How did the NEPA process contribute to the Service’s development of a revised Mexican wolf experimental population rule?

A: Public participation and input is an essential element of the NEPA and this rulemaking process. We initiated the scoping process for this EIS by publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the *Proposed Amendment of the Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Arizona and New Mexico Population of the Gray Wolf (“Mexican Gray Wolf”)* in the *Federal Register* on August 7, 2007. On August 5, 2013, we published a *Federal Register* NOI to prepare the Mexican wolf EIS, *Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Revision to the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf (Canis lupus baileyi)* (78 FR 47268). The NOI solicited comments from the public, government agencies, tribes, industry, the scientific community or any other interested parties concerning the scope of the EIS, pertinent issues to address, and alternatives that should be analyzed.

Based on public comment on the proposal and NEPA scoping and cooperator input, on July 25, 2014, we clarified and proposed additional revisions to the Mexican wolf experimental population rule ([75 FR 13358](#)) and released a [draft EIS](#) for public review and comment.

We received – and evaluated – more than 40,000 comments submitted by the public, including members of the ranching and livestock community, the environmental community, sportsmen groups, counties and local governments, leaders and members of tribes, and others on the draft EIS and proposed rule. We factored components of many of the ideas received in comments into the development of the fEIS and our final rule.

Q: What role did cooperating agencies play in the development of an EIS?

A:

As part of our NEPA process, we entered into formal cooperating agency agreements with 28 federal, state, tribal and county agencies and governments. These agreements allowed our cooperating agencies to provide pertinent information as we designed and wrote the draft EIS alternatives and evaluated effects in the fEIS. The Arizona cooperating agencies submitted an EIS alternative, which was endorsed by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Like the other comments we received, the alternative presented by the Arizona cooperating agencies was instructive and helpful in preparing and clarifying the alternatives that we considered, and many aspects were incorporated into the “definitions” of the proposed rule and EIS. Throughout the rulemaking and NEPA process, we met with Arizona and New Mexico game and fish agencies to resolve outstanding issues; this collaboration is consistent with the requirements of section 10(j) of the ESA.

Q: What other significant aspects of the EIS and public participation in the rule-making process have been incorporated into the revised 10(j) rule for the Mexican wolf experimental population?

A: There were concerns posed that are addressed in the fEIS and final rule and helped shape the final rule, including:

- Concerns that the expansion of the Mexican wolf population will adversely affect counties’ economies with regard to livestock production, hunting, and tourism. We have addressed these economic sectors in the fEIS economic analysis.
- In regard to economic effects to the livestock industry, the effects standard is industry- and region-wide – on that basis, the fEIS determined that the effects are not significant. However, we acknowledge that effects to individuals, especially small producers, can be substantial. Through the [Mexican Wolf/Livestock Coexistence Council](#), producers are being compensated at auction value for individual livestock documented to have been depredated by wolves. The Coexistence Council developed a plan that recognizes the real economic consequences to livestock producers coexisting with wolves in addition to losses from livestock depredations – including costs from undetected depredations and changes in livestock behavior in response to wolf presence (which can result in a reduction of livestock weight gain, reproductive rates, and meat quality), as well as increased costs tied to implementing proactive measures to reduce conflicts with Mexican wolves. The Coexistence Council calculates and disperses funds to help offset these losses. The “Payments for Wolf Presence” program creates incentives for ranching in ways that promote self-sustaining Mexican wolf populations, viable ranching operations, and healthy western landscapes. The Coexistence Council plan is not yet fully funded, and they are continuing to seek public and private funding sources.
- Regarding concern for losses to hunting revenues, we modified provisions in the 1998 Final Rule to allow for removal of Mexican wolves in response to unacceptable impacts to wild ungulate herds and we clarified the definition of “unacceptable impacts” (based upon established ungulate management goals, or a 15 percent decline in wild ungulate

herds). In Arizona, we are including a phased management approach to address the Arizona Game and Fish Department's concerns regarding smaller and possibly more vulnerable elk populations west of Highway 87.

- Concerns that Mexican wolves will affect the safety and welfare of their citizens. The ESA and the 10(j) rule allow for killing any Mexican wolf that is threatening the safety of a human. Since we began releasing Mexican wolves, there have not been any attacks on humans.
- People from a variety of interests requested a population objective for the experimental population. We are including a population objective of 300-325, which may be revised after we complete a revision to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan.
- Several groups oppose the northern boundary at I-40. We will address this concern at a later time if deemed necessary in a future recovery plan.
- Tribal governments may choose to allow wolves on their lands or may request removal of wolves for any reason from tribal trust land.

Q: How can I find out more about the fEIS for the Mexican wolf experimental population rule?

A: We have 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, have established fEIS planning document repositories at the Forest Supervisor Offices for the National Forests throughout the project study area. For further information and to access the documents available for review, visit those locations or visit our website: http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/NEPA_713.cfm.

More information –

Q: Where can I find more information about the revised rule, subspecies listing and the Mexican wolf recovery program?

A: The complete revised rule for the experimental population and subspecies listing of the Mexican wolf and supporting information are available at:
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/PR10jM.cfm>.

Extensive information on the Mexican wolf recovery program, including field updates, images, and wolf-livestock coexistence information is at:
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/index.cfm>.