

# Proposed Revisions to the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf

**Public Hearing on the Proposed Rule and  
the Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

**August 2014**

# *Background on the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction*

- 1970's – Considered extirpated in the wild in the U.S. Bi-national captive breeding program initiated between Mexico and U.S. facilities with 7 Mexican wolves.
- 1976 – Protected as an endangered species by the Endangered Species Act.
- 1982 – Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan finalized.

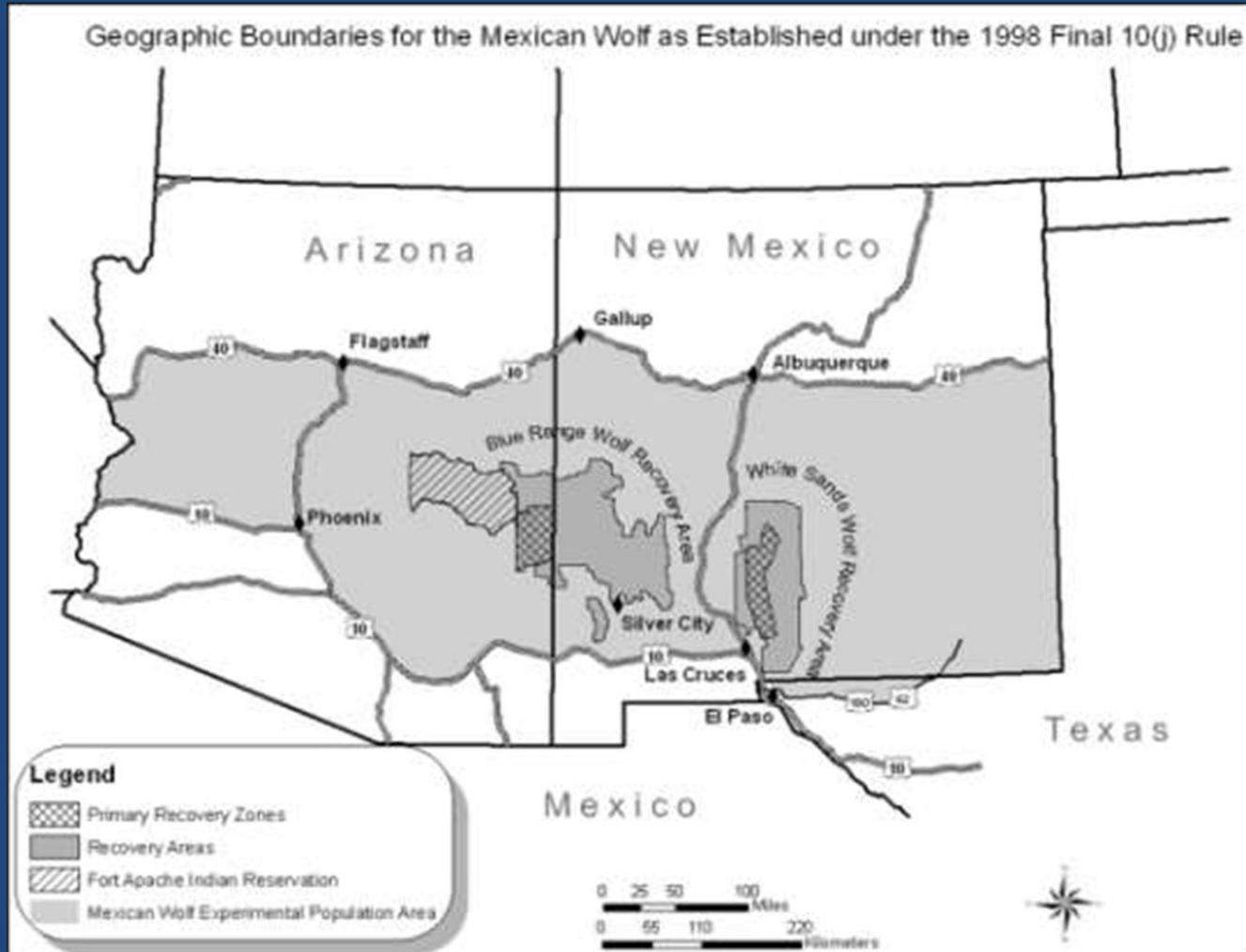


# Background on the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction

- 1998 – Established Experimental Population Area in Arizona and New Mexico and began reintroductions.
- 2011 – First releases in Mexico as a part of Mexico's recovery program.



# 1998 Final Rule



# Status of the Reintroduction Project Today

- Population in Arizona and New Mexico has a minimum of 83 wolves, 14 packs
- Partnership effort



- Many lessons learned



# Scoping and Process

- 2007 scoping initiated, 12 public meetings
- 2013 - Proposed rule in the Federal Register
  - Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS.
  - Held two public hearings on the proposed rule (Albuquerque, NM; Pinetop, AZ).
- Draft EIS: 27 Cooperating agencies, tribal participation
- Received over 7,000 comments; informed revised proposed rule and Draft EIS.
- 2014 - Revised Proposed Rule, Draft EIS



# *Purpose and Need*

The **purpose** of our proposed action is to further the conservation of the Mexican wolf by improving the effectiveness of the Reintroduction Project in managing the experimental population.



# *Purpose and Need*

We intend to do this by:

- modifying the geographic boundaries in which Mexican wolves are managed south of Interstate-40 in Arizona and New Mexico;
- modifying the management regulations that govern the initial release, translocation, removal and take of Mexican wolves, and;
- issuing a section 10(a)(1)(A) permit

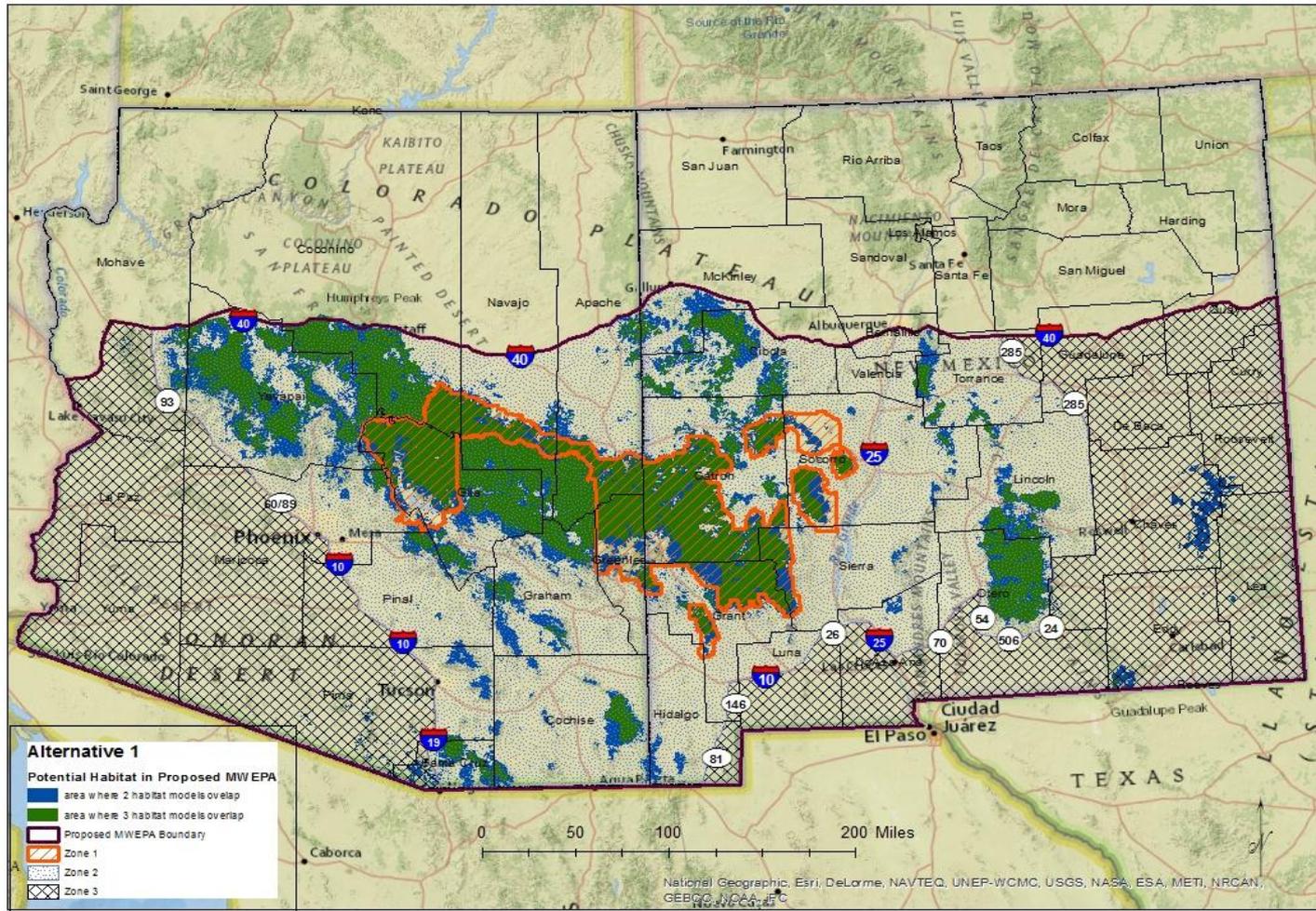


# *Issues Outside the Scope of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement*

- Recovery/Recovery planning
- Essential/Non-essential status



# Alternative One (Proposed Action)



# *Modified provisions for take of Mexican wolves*

- **On Federal land:**
  - May issue permit for the take (including kill or injure) of a Mexican wolf that is in the act of biting, wounding or killing livestock.
- **On Non-Federal land (state, tribal, private):**
  - In the act of biting or killing domestic animals (livestock and non-feral dogs);
  - May issue a permit pursuant to a removal action.
- **Unacceptable impacts** of Mexican wolf predation on wild native ungulate herds.

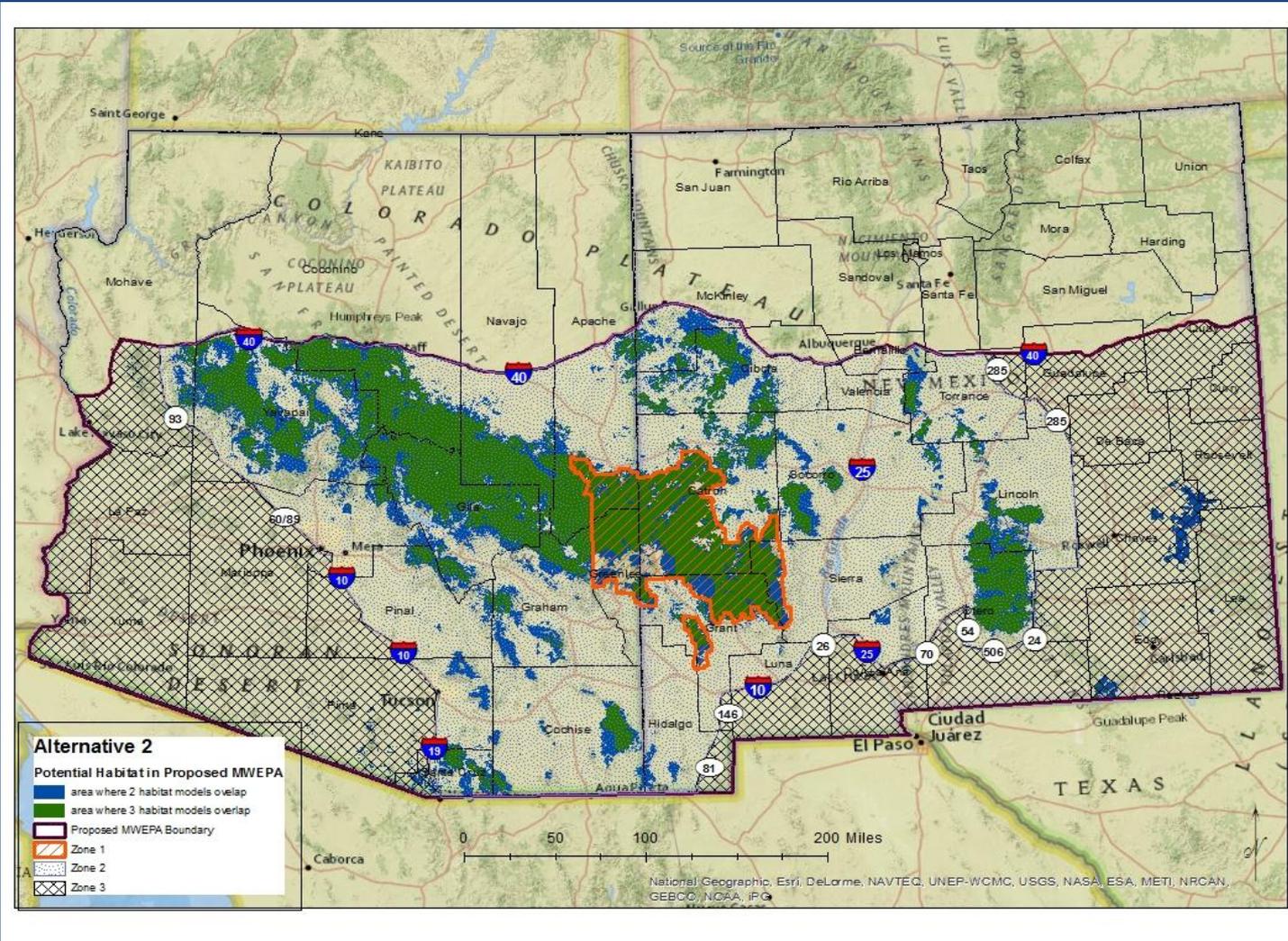


# *Clarification of Other Take Provisions*

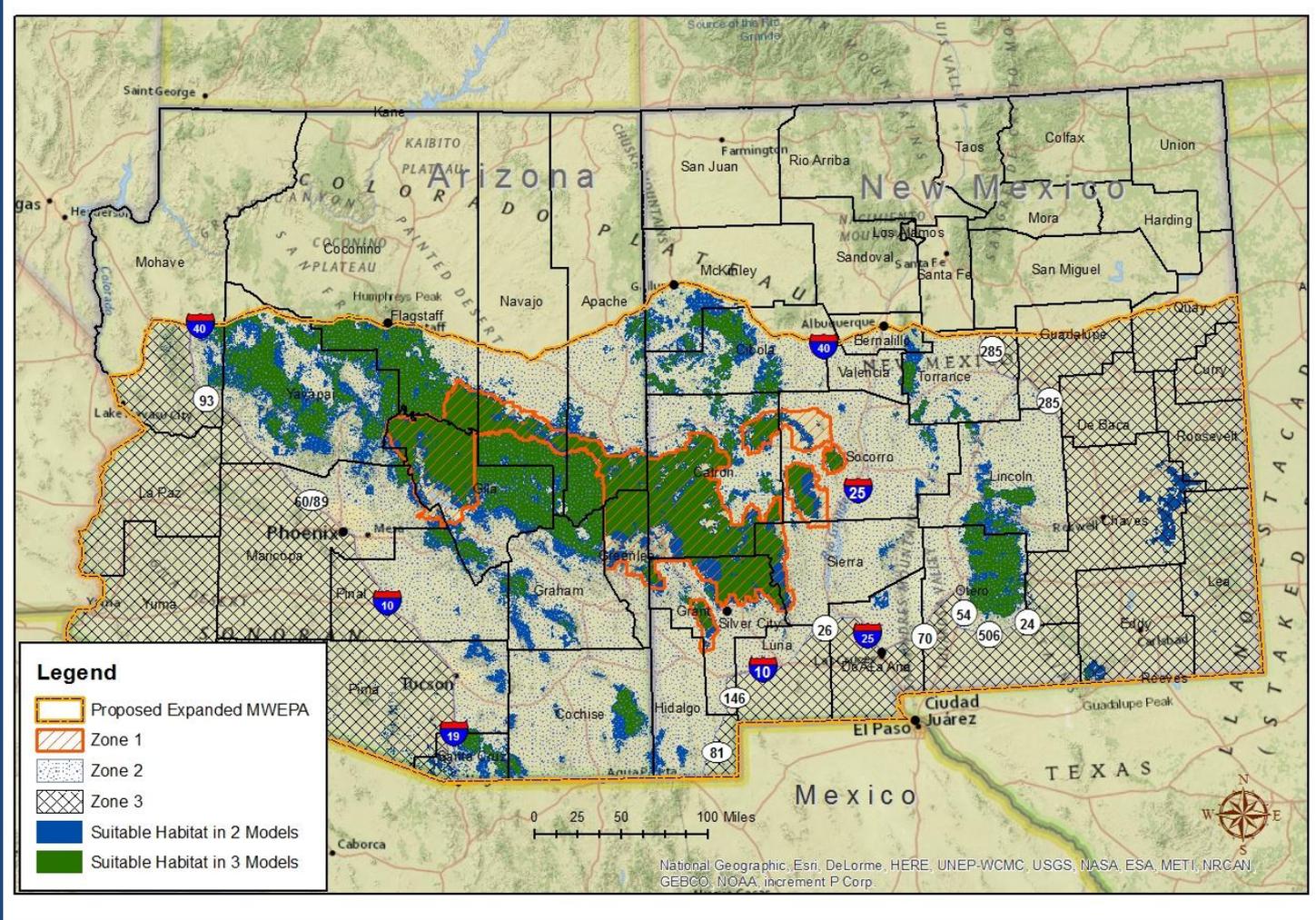
- Take in defense of human life
- Opportunistic harassment
- Intentional harassment (permit)



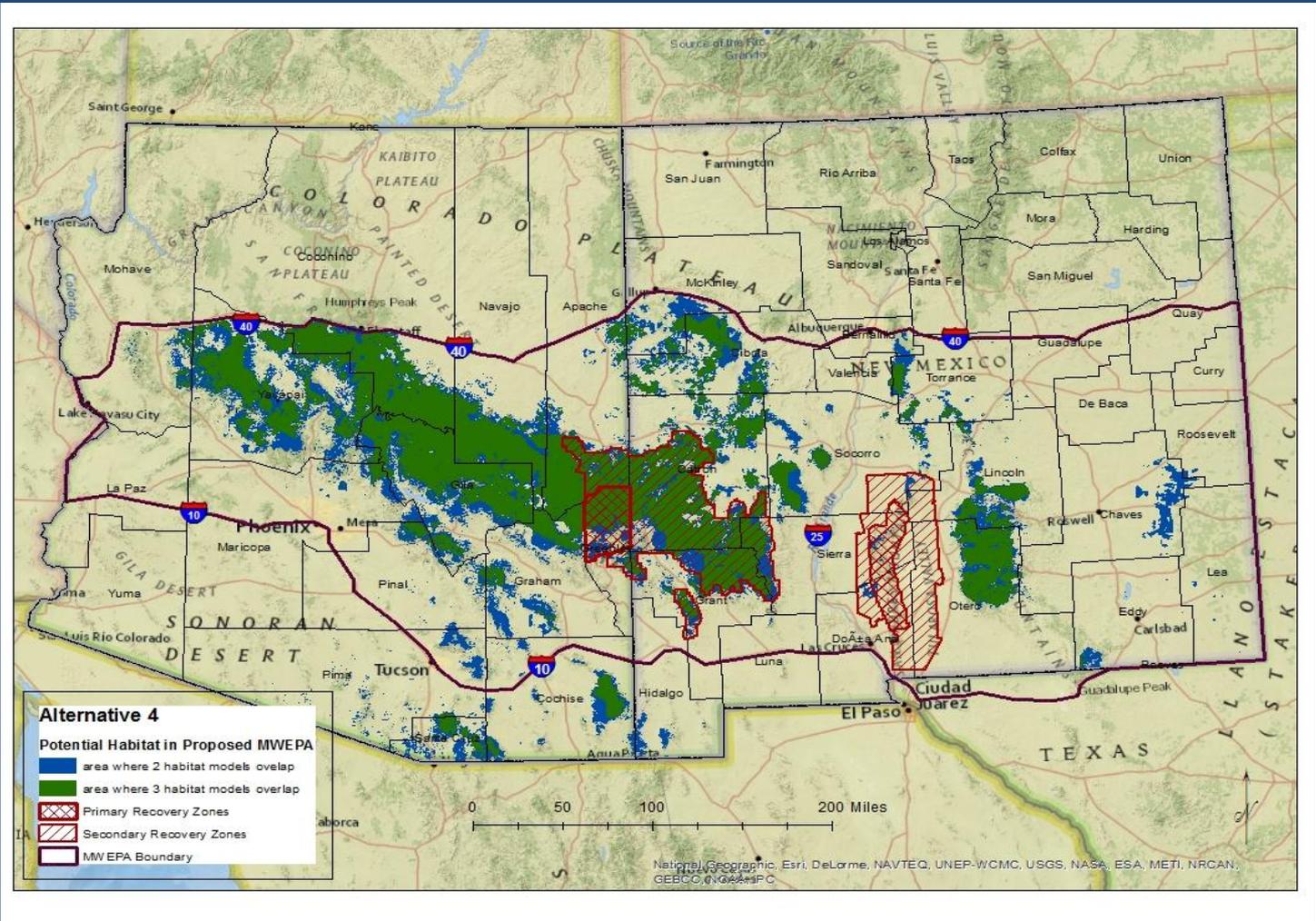
# Alternative Two



# Alternative Three



# No Action Alternative



# Draft EIS Assessment of Impacts

We have assessed the effects of our proposed action and alternatives, including “No Action”, on:

- Land Use
- Biological Resources (elk and deer, other species)
- Economic Activity (livestock production, hunting, tourism)
- Health and Human Safety
- Environmental Justice
- Cumulative Impacts



# Draft EIS Assessment of Impacts

- Less than significant direct adverse effects in proposed management Zones 1 and 2 on:
  - Native wild prey species, specifically elk
  - Ranching/Livestock Production
- No disproportionately high and adverse impacts to any population groups of concern.
- No significant direct or indirect effects on:
  - Vegetation
  - Other predator and non-ungulate wild prey species
  - Tourism
  - Land Use
  - Human Health/Public Safety



# *Public Review and Comment on Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement*

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the proposed 10(j) rule public review and comment period closes September 23, 2014.
- Written and oral comments submitted today will be part of the record.
- We will use comments received on the Draft EIS in our development of a Final EIS.

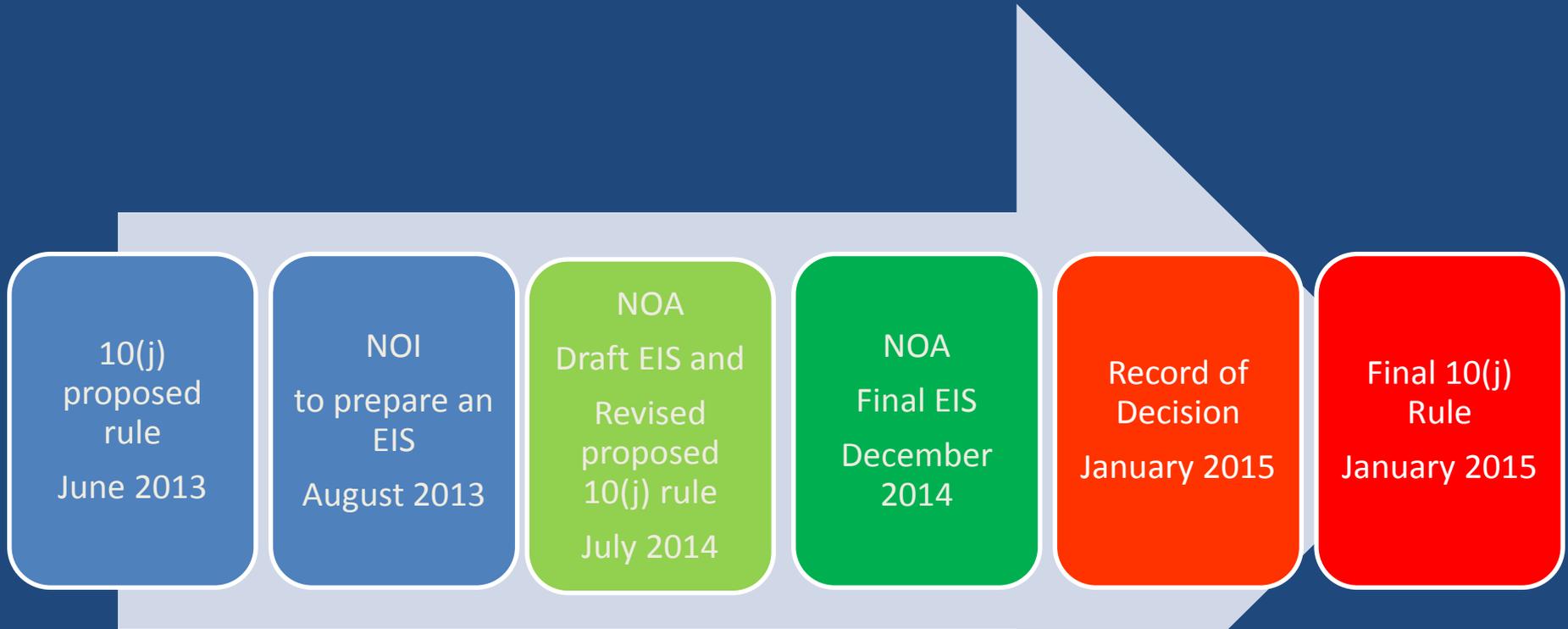


Written comments can be submitted by one of the following methods:

- (1) *Electronically*: Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search for FWS–R2–ES–2013–0056, which is the docket number for this rulemaking.
- (2) *By hard copy*: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS–R2–ES–2013–0056; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.



# Project Timeline



# Summary

