



## US Fish and Wildlife Service News Release

For Release: November 28, 2007

### **Wolf Pack Members to be Removed from New Mexico Forest**

Two adult female members of the Aspen pack of Mexican wolves will be removed from the Gila Forest using the most effective method. The order is based upon multiple cow depredations by the wolves. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator issued an order for Alpha Female 667 and yearling Female 1046 and associated pups. The pups and any adult wolves captured alive will be transferred to captivity.

Removal activities will begin immediately and will occur on public and private lands (with landowner approval) within and adjacent to the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area in New Mexico.

The Aspen pack Alpha Male 863, female pups 1105 and 1106 were captured outside the reintroduction boundary on November 1. The male was moved to a captive facility at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge north of Socorro, New Mexico. The female pups were collared and released inside the reintroduction boundary near their 2007 den site. One of the pups, f1106, was recaptured outside of the reintroduction boundary on November 26 and brought into captivity with AM863. The other pup, f1105, remains in the wild. She and any remaining Aspen pups will be captured and placed into captivity with their pack members.

Other wolves in the Blue Range Recovery Area include the San Mateo, Middle Fork, Luna, Bluestem, Hawks, Rim, Bacho, Lofer and Paradise Packs and about five dispersing wolves.

The Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project is collaboratively managed by the Adaptive Management Oversight Committee. Members include Arizona Game and Fish Department, New Mexico Game and Fish Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, White Mountain Apache Tribe and Wildlife Services.

### Reward for Missing Durango Pack Offered

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Service law enforcement officers are investigating the disappearance of the three members of the Durango Pack (AM973, F1047 and a young pup). A reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to an apprehension is offered. Please contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special

agents in Mesa, Ariz. at (480) 967-7900, in Alpine, Ariz. at (928) 339-4232, or in Albuquerque at (505) 346-7828 if you have information.

### Public Meetings Happening Now for Gathering Input on Wolf Reintroduction Program

Meetings in Arizona and New Mexico are taking place now to gather input on potential modifications to the 1998 rule that established a reintroduction program for the Mexican gray wolf in the Southwest. The meetings are 'open-house' style so the public may attend anytime during the session. Directions are located at [www.mexicanwolfeis.org](http://www.mexicanwolfeis.org).

The schedule of meetings is:

- Grants, N.M., Thursday, Nov. 29 from 5 to 9 p.m.: Ballroom, Best Western, 1501 East Santa Fe Ave. Grants.
- Albuquerque, N.M., Friday, Nov. 30 from 5 to 9 p.m.: Special Events Building, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 12th St. NW, Albuquerque.
- Socorro, N.M., Saturday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Macey Conference Center Lobby/Foyer, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Pl, Socorro.
- Alamogordo, N.M., Monday, Dec. 3 from 5 to 9 p.m.: Tays Special Events Center, New Mexico State University, 2400 N Scenic Dr., Alamogordo.
- Las Cruces, N.M., Tuesday, Dec. 4 from 5 to 9 p.m.: Tortugas Ballroom, Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Rd., Las Cruces.
- Glenwood, N.M., Wednesday, Dec. 5 from 5 to 9 p.m.: Glenwood Community Center, Mengas Lane, Glenwood.
- Thatcher, Ariz., Thursday, Dec. 6 from 5 to 9 p.m.: Open Dining Room at the Activities Center, Eastern Arizona College, 1014 N College Ave., Thatcher.
- Tucson, Ariz. Friday, Dec. 7 from 5 to 9 p.m.: Student Union Memorial Center (Tucson and Catalina Rooms), University of Arizona, 1303 E. University Blvd, Tucson.
- Phoenix Metro, Ariz., Saturday, Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Garnet, Emerald, and Sapphire Rms., Glendale Civic Center, 5750 West Glenn Dr., Glendale.

People attending will see an overview presentation of the wolf reintroduction program, visit eight stations containing information on main topics, talk with Adaptive Management Oversight Committee representatives and agencies' staff, and submit written comments.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 63 fish, wildlife management offices, and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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