

**WOLF PUBLIC HEARING**

6:00 p.m.

November 20, 2013

Embassy Suites Hotel

1000 Woodward Place

Albuquerque, New Mexico

**TRATTEL COURT REPORTING & VIDEOGRAPHY**  
**DEBORAH TRATTEL, COURT REPORTER #153**  
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Page 2	1 OFFICIALS PRESENT: 2 3 Mr. Tom Buckley US Fish and Wildlife Service 4 Southwest Region P.O. Box 1306 5 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103 6 7 Mr. Gary Frazer Assistant Director for Ecological Services 8 9 Ms. Michelle Shaughnessy Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services 10 11 Mr. Mike Jimenez Northern Rocky Mountains Wolf Management and Science Coordinator 12 Jackson, Wyoming 13 14 Ms. Sherry Barrett Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
Page 4	1 supervisor. 2 Mariana Padilla, representing Congresswoman 3 Michelle Lujan Grisham. 4 Alex Eubanks representing Senator Martin 5 Heinrich. 6 Van J. Bucky Allred, the Catron -- a Catron 7 County commissioner. 8 And Tink Jackson, Loony [sic] Luna County 9 commissioner. That was not a Freudian slip. 10 I would also like to recognize the following 11 representatives from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 12 who are in attendance today. 13 Mr. Gary Frazer, an assistant director for 14 Ecological Services, who will represent the Services in 15 Washington, D.C. headquarters office. 16 Ms. Michelle Shaughnessy, Assistant Regional 17 Director for Ecological Services, who will represent the 18 Southwest region. 19 Mr. Mike Jimenez, Northern Rocky Mountains Wolf 20 Management and Science Coordinator from Jackson, 21 Wyoming. 22 Ms. Sherry Barrett, Mexican Wolf Recovery 23 coordinator. 24 And I'd also like to acknowledge the many Fish 25 & Wildlife Service officials from the Southwest Region
Page 3	1 MR. BUCKLEY: We are now on the record. Good 2 evening. On behalf of the United States Fish and 3 Wildlife Service, I welcome you to this public hearing 4 regarding two proposals: to list the Mexican wolf as an 5 endangered subspecies in the Southwest and to delist the 6 gray wolf elsewhere; and to revise the Nonessential 7 Experimental Population of the Mexican wolf. 8 My name is Tom Buckley. I'm a Public 9 Informational Officer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife 10 Service, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico. I 11 will be serving as the Presiding Official for this 12 hearing. My role is to conduct this hearing in a 13 orderly manner, such that we receive your comments 14 accurately into the record. 15 I am not involved in a decision-making role 16 regarding the issues at hand today. I'd like to 17 recognize some elected officials we have in our 18 audience. Petter Ossorio, representing state 19 representative Jeff Steinborn. Apologies. 20 Robert Corn, Chaves County Commissioner. 21 Brant Van Dyke -- I know I'm killing some of 22 the language here. I apologize for that -- Brant Van 23 Dyke, Lea County Board of Conservation district 24 supervisor. 25 Crystal Diamond, Sierra Soil and Water
Page 5	1 and the Washington, D.C. headquarters office that are 2 staffing the hearing today. 3 Also assisting with this hearing are Deb 4 Trattel, our court reporter from Trattel Court 5 Reporting. 6 And we have Aimee Rivera, and Barbara Shaffer, 7 our sign language interpreters from Catholic Community 8 Services, Community Services for the Deaf. If anyone in 9 the office today will need an interpreter for the deaf, 10 please raise your hand. I see no hands up there. Am I 11 correct? Okay. 12 At this point, I'll turn the floor over to 13 Mr. Gary Frazer and Mr. Mike Jimenez. They will give a 14 PowerPoint presentation that explains the proposal to 15 list the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies in the 16 Southwest and to delist the gray wolf elsewhere. 17 They will be followed by Ms. Sherry Barrett, 18 who will present a PowerPoint presentation on the 19 proposal to revise the nonessential experimental 20 population of the Mexican wolf. 21 Gary? 22 MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you very much. I'd like to 23 kind of describe where we come from and how we got to 24 where we are today, and so it's important to remember 25 that the goal of the Endangered Species Act is to

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 prevent extinctions. 2 We use the term recovery. Recovery is securing 3 that species so that it no longer needs the protection 4 of the Act for now or for the foreseeable future. 5 (Noise from audience.) 6 MR. JIMENEZ: Is that better? Recovery is 7 securing the -- so recovery is looking at securing the 8 species from the threat of extinction for now or for the 9 foreseeable future. And it's important also to remember 10 that there's no set formula of one way of achieving that 11 recovery. Some species might need an expansion of range 12 or its distribution, other species might need to have 13 specific threats dealt with, some species might need a 14 combination of that. 15 But it's all based -- whatever it is, it's 16 based on the biological needs of the species, and not 17 some percentage of its historic range or suitable 18 habitat. If you look at the history of how we've 19 protected wolves under the Endangered Species Act, in 20 the 1960s and in the 1970s, we listed numerous 21 subspecies of gray wolves. 22 In 1978, we consolidated that and listed Canis 23 lupus as a species in the lower 48 and Mexico, as 24 endangered, with the exception of Minnesota, where there 25 was still a small population of wolves and that was</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 progress. We have not yet achieved recovery goals. And 2 currently, there's about 75 wolves in the wild with 3 another approximately 300 wolves in captivity. 4 So if you look at the current range -- and 5 again, the yellow is where it's delisted. And inside 6 that orange area is where they actual occupy the wolf 7 habitat. Today you can see that we dramatically 8 expanded the range of over 5,000 wolves in the lower 48 9 in the western Great Lakes and in the northern Rocky 10 Mountains, and those population have been delisted 11 because they've recovered. 12 So just to kind of -- from start to finish 13 after all this, we went from very few wolves, northern 14 Minnesota, a little bit of Michigan, to over 5,000 15 wolves in the lower 48 and the two delisted populations. 16 And with that, I'll give it to Gary. Gary's going to 17 describe where we're going from here. 18 MR. FRAZER: Thank you, Mike. Good evening, 19 everyone. Tonight, we're here to take comment on two 20 proposed rules that the Fish &amp; Wildlife has put forward. 21 The first is to reclassify Mexican wolves as an 22 endangered subspecies in the Southwest, and to delist 23 the gray wolf elsewhere. 24 The second proposed rule is to revise the rules 25 under which the Mexican wolf experimental population is</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 listed as threatened. 2 So at the time, if you look at the blue, there 3 were no wolves in that area and the only wolf population 4 that was in 1978 was a small remnant population in 5 Minnesota and, again, a little bit in Michigan. 6 So our approach was to set up gray wolf 7 recovery programs in three regions of the state -- of 8 the country. In the western Great Lakes, in the 9 northern Rocky Mountains, and in the Southwest. And 10 these programs worked very well. 11 This is -- the orange is where there's 12 occupied, the yellow is where it was eventually 13 delisted, and the growth curve over time. So you can 14 see how populations grew very quickly. 15 So in the western Great Lakes, those recovery 16 goals that we set were met in the late 1990s. And by 17 2011, we delisted a recovered population of over 3,600 18 wolves in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. 19 In the northern Rockies, the same thing; we had 20 wolves coming from Canada in 1995 and '96, and we 21 reintroduced wolves into Yellowstone and central Idaho. 22 In 2012, we delisted a recovery population of over 1,600 23 wolves in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho and wolves are 24 continuing to expand into Washington and Oregon. 25 In the Southwest, we see it as a work in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 managed. I want to emphasize that these are both 2 proposed rules. We appreciate everyone coming out 3 tonight. We look forward to your comments. We take 4 your comments, whether they are presented orally or in 5 writing, equally seriously. We very much appreciate you 6 contributing to our review process and informing us as 7 we move forward to a final decision. 8 So as Mike said, we've been successfully 9 recovering gray wolves and populations in the western 10 Great Lakes, northern Rocky Mountains and have delisted 11 those. So the question before us was what now? 12 What do we do now in terms of how should the 13 Endangered Species Act apply to gray wolves in the 14 future? Are there valid entities subject that are 15 eligible for protection under the Endangered Species Act 16 that still need protection of the ESA? 17 In starting, we need to describe what is in 18 fact an entity that is eligible to be protected under 19 the Endangered Species Act. First, it must be a valid 20 taxonomic species like the gray wolf, Canis lupus or a 21 subspecies like the Mexican wolf, Canis lupus baileyi, 22 or a distinct segment like the wolves in the northern 23 Rocky Mountains. 24 It also needs to be in danger of extinction now 25 throughout all or a significant portion of its current</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 range, or we can consider it to be likely to be 2 endangered in the foreseeable future. 3 So in putting together our proposed rule, we 4 took a step-wise approach in determining whether any 5 entities of the gray wolf warrant continued protection 6 under the Endangered Species Act. The first step -- the 7 first step was to evaluate the current gray wolf 8 listing, which is essentially that area in lower 48 9 states and Mexico except for those two areas where we 10 recovered and delisted wolves. 11 And we essentially concluded that that current 12 listing is not a valid species or subspecies or distinct 13 population segment. It includes portions that we now 14 consider to be -- to have listed in error. For 15 instance, in the Southeast US, we now recognize that 16 that's an area where red wolves, a different species, 17 existed, and it was not part of the range of the gray 18 wolf. 19 This area that's shown in blue on this figure 20 also does not reasonably represent the range of the one 21 population of wolves that we still do have in the lower 22 48. That's the Mexican wolf in the Southwest. So 23 because of this, we are proposing to delist this entity. 24 It's currently on the list of threatened and endangered 25 species.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 population. But even if they did, they're not discrete, 2 they're not distinct from the wolves in the northern 3 Rocky Mountains. So we did not consider them to be a 4 valid and distinct population segment. 5 So that informed how we got to our proposal. 6 And our proposal is to list the Mexican wolf as a 7 endangered subspecies in the Southwest; to delist gray 8 wolves, the current listed entity, elsewhere. 9 And then also, the next step is to improve the 10 Experimental Population Rule that governs how the 11 experimental population of the Mexican wolves in the 12 Southwest is managed. For that, I'm going to turn it 13 over to Sherry Barrett. 14 MS. BARRETT: Good evening. I'm going to focus 15 on the proposals as they relate to the Mexican wolf here 16 in the Southwest. I'm going to talk first to reiterate 17 what Gary has already said, that we are looking at a 18 proposed rule that would reclassify the Mexican wolf as 19 an endangered subspecies, <i>Canis lupus baileyi</i>, which as 20 an endangered gray wolf. 21 The history of the Mexican wolf is that it 22 certainly ranged across the southwestern US and a lot of 23 Mexico, down to about Oaxaca, Mexico. In the early 24 1970s, the wolf was considered extirpated from the 25 United States. In 1980, it was extirpated from Mexico.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 I think we need to remove this from the list. 2 Let me look at whether there are any other entities that 3 warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. We 4 first looked at the gray wolf species range-wide. And 5 when I say range-wide, I mean in Canada, Alaska, Asia, 6 Europe, certain polar distribution. And we found no 7 evidence to suggest that the gray wolf is in danger of 8 extinction within their entire range. So the listing 9 was considered not to be warranted. 10 Then we looked at these subspecies of wolves, 11 recognized subspecies of wolves that existed within the 12 lower 48 states and Mexico. There are three. <i>Nubilus</i>, 13 <i>talus</i> and <i>baileyi</i>. We concluded that two of those are 14 not at risk of extinction. But that <i>baileyi</i>, the 15 Mexican wolf of the Southwest, is in danger of 16 extinction and does warrant listing as a subspecies. 17 The fourth step was to look at whether there 18 are any other distinct population segments. Here we 19 looked at whether the wolves that exist in the Pacific 20 Northwest, outside of the delisted northern Rocky 21 Mountain population, the wolves in western Washington 22 and Oregon, would constitute a segment. 23 We concluded that they don't constitute a 24 population right now. They haven't reproduced 25 successfully for enough years to constitute a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 But in late '70s, before it went completely -- 2 was completely eliminated from the landscape, we did 3 capture some of those last remaining wolves and put them 4 in a captive breeding population. In 1976, it was 5 listed as endangered, and in 1982, we finalized a 6 recovery plan. 7 Now, at that time, there were no wolves on the 8 ground anywhere. There were no Mexican wolves on the 9 ground in the wild. And so, what that recovery team 10 recommended was that we establish a captive breeding 11 population, and that also, we re-establish a 12 self-sustaining population, at least 100 wolves in the 13 wild. 14 At that point, like I said, because there were 15 no wolves on the ground, that's the most that they could 16 even imagine that there could be at that point, and that 17 was a hedge against extinction, to see how they could 18 get some wolves on the ground to keep the Mexican wolf 19 from going extinct. 20 Since that time, we have established a captive 21 breeding population of about 300 wolves in about 52 22 different breeding facilities throughout the United 23 States and Mexico; you see these different dots here. 24 And all of these wolves in these breeding facilities are 25 managed as one population under the Mexican wolves</p>

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<p>1 species survival plan.</p> <p>2 We also have three prerelease facilities that</p> <p>3 are larger facilities that the wolves go into before</p> <p>4 they're released into the wild, so that they have</p> <p>5 minimal human contact and we can precondition them for</p> <p>6 the releases.</p> <p>7 In 1998, we designated the nonessential</p> <p>8 experimental population area for the Mexican wolf. This</p> <p>9 is what it looks like today. And it's this gray area</p> <p>10 right here (indicating). It extends between I-40 to the</p> <p>11 north and I-10, Interstate 10 to the south, and all the</p> <p>12 way from California to Texas. It does include a very</p> <p>13 small sliver of Texas here.</p> <p>14 And again, so this is what it looks like today,</p> <p>15 as of 1998. We also, inside there, have a recovery</p> <p>16 area, the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. That's where</p> <p>17 all the wolves exist today. They're not allowed to roam</p> <p>18 outside of that area, which consists of the Apache</p> <p>19 National Forest in Arizona and the Gila National Forest</p> <p>20 in New Mexico.</p> <p>21 We also have right here the Fort Apache</p> <p>22 Reservation, which manages wolves under an MOU (audience</p> <p>23 member coughing). Right now, the wolves can only be</p> <p>24 released from captivity into this part of the Apache</p> <p>25 National Forest, which is about 16 percent of that</p>	<p>1 recovery into the future.</p> <p>2 There's about 20 proposed revisions. They are</p> <p>3 geographic, management and administrative changes. I'm</p> <p>4 going to talk about some of the key geographic changes.</p> <p>5 The first one is that in the 1998 rule, wolves can be</p> <p>6 released from captivity in only 16 percent of the Blue</p> <p>7 Range Wolf Recovery Area. And again, that's that</p> <p>8 crosshatched area that I talked about. And the proposed</p> <p>9 rule we're looking at allowing release of wolves</p> <p>10 throughout that whole recovery area. So that would be</p> <p>11 throughout the Gila and the Apache National Forest.</p> <p>12 At this point, we're not allowed to disperse</p> <p>13 outside of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. If they</p> <p>14 leave this area, this darker gray, and go into this</p> <p>15 lighter gray, we have to capture them and return them.</p> <p>16 In the proposed rule, we are proposing to allow</p> <p>17 wolves to disperse outside of the Blue Range Wolf</p> <p>18 Recovery Area into this larger Mexican wolf experimental</p> <p>19 population area, the light gray.</p> <p>20 Two other proposals that we're considering are</p> <p>21 right now, like I said, the Blue Range Recovery Area</p> <p>22 consists of the Gila and Apache National Forest. We're</p> <p>23 considering that we could expand that to include the</p> <p>24 Jicarcillas National Forest, and three districts of the</p> <p>25 Cibola National Forest. Excuse me, three districts of</p>
<p>Page 15</p> <p>1 overall recovery area.</p> <p>2 Our current wild population consists of a</p> <p>3 minimum of 75 wolves in the wild. There's 14 packs.</p> <p>4 And as of January of last year, that's the count for the</p> <p>5 previous year. 97 percent of those wolves that we</p> <p>6 counted in the wild were wild born.</p> <p>7 And that's important because that means that</p> <p>8 our wolves that we started from the captive population</p> <p>9 are behaving as wolves in the wild. They're forming</p> <p>10 packs, they're forming and having pups in the wild and</p> <p>11 reproducing.</p> <p>12 In 2011, Mexico began reintroducing wolves into</p> <p>13 the wild. As you remember, I said that they also were</p> <p>14 eliminated in Mexico. And they are continuing to do so.</p> <p>15 These are some of the areas where they have been looking</p> <p>16 at releasing wolves.</p> <p>17 They have their own Endangered Species Act in</p> <p>18 Mexico. The Mexican wolf is listed as endangered in</p> <p>19 Mexico under their act. They also have their own</p> <p>20 recovery plan for wolves in Mexico. So they're</p> <p>21 releasing under their own authorities.</p> <p>22 The proposed revisions to the 1988 Mexican Wolf</p> <p>23 Experimental Population Rule, we're proposing those</p> <p>24 revisions to enable us to establish a viable self-</p> <p>25 sustaining population of wolves that can contribute to</p>	<p>Page 17</p> <p>1 the Tonto National Forest in Arizona, as well as the</p> <p>2 Magdalena District of the Cibola National Forest in New</p> <p>3 Mexico. Those would be areas where the wolf could then</p> <p>4 be released from captivity as well.</p> <p>5 And then we're also considering whether or not</p> <p>6 to move the southern boundary, which currently is at</p> <p>7 Interstate 10, looking at whether we should move that</p> <p>8 down to the international border with Mexico. As you</p> <p>9 can see, these changes that we're proposing align with</p> <p>10 the forest and habitat, again, in which wolves exist.</p> <p>11 They don't exist in desert areas. They are a higher</p> <p>12 elevation forest animal.</p> <p>13 So, the public process that we're looking at,</p> <p>14 again, the comment period for these proposed rules that</p> <p>15 we're talking about today ends December 17. We'll</p> <p>16 reopen the comment period when we prepare and have a</p> <p>17 draft Environmental Impact Statement. And then that's</p> <p>18 going to analyze the effects of these revisions to the</p> <p>19 proposed rule.</p> <p>20 The Environmental Impact Statement doesn't</p> <p>21 address the listing, the delisting or the</p> <p>22 reclassification of the wolf. It is focused only on the</p> <p>23 revisions to the experimental population area.</p> <p>24 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Sherry, Gary, Mike.</p> <p>25 This is a public hearing under Section 4 of the federal</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 Endangered Species Act. Notice of this public hearing 2 was published in the Federal Register on October 28, 3 2013, starting on Page 64192. 4 The US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service will accept 5 comments and information on those proposals postmarked 6 on or before December 17, 2013. You may submit comments 7 in writing to us today. Written comments may be 8 submitted to the staff at the registration table. They 9 may be submitted electronically or mailed as a hard 10 copy. 11 After review and consideration of your comments 12 and all other information gathered during this and other 13 previous comment periods, the Service will make a final 14 determination. 15 The purpose of this hearing is to receive your 16 comments on this proposal, these proposals, both oral 17 and written. Comments on all aspects of the proposal 18 are very important and will be carefully considered. 19 Because of the importance of your comments, it is 20 necessary that we follow certain procedures during this 21 public hearing. 22 If you want to present oral comments at this 23 hearing, please go to the registration tables outside of 24 this auditorium and sign up. When you register, 25 indicate the organization that you're representing in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 remarks, you may not yield your time to another speaker. 2 Because the purpose of this hearing is to receive your 3 comments, the Service will presume any questions are for 4 the record. 5 The Service's formal response to questions and 6 issues raised during the comment period, including at 7 this hearing, will be published in the final rule. The 8 Service will not respond to questions at this hearing. 9 Please keep in mind that the reporter will not 10 record any statements from the audience or any 11 statements which are made to the audience. Comments 12 must be made directly into the microphone, facing the 13 front of the room. 14 I ask that you treat each speaker with respect 15 and refrain from making comments from the audience. 16 Questions, comments, applause, jeers, or demonstrations 17 from the audience will not be allowed. I appreciate 18 everyone's cooperation in minimizing distractions. 19 Out of respect for the speakers, I ask that you 20 please refrain from photographing individuals as they 21 present their comments. Videotaping will likely be 22 occurring during this hearing. Videotaping should be 23 done only along the side aisles of the room, no closer 24 to the front than row 4, or along the back of the room. 25 No video cameras or other cameras are allowed in the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 your comments today. 2 The following process is designed to maximize 3 efficiency and provide speaking opportunities to as many 4 participants as possible. Periodically, throughout the 5 hearing, I will call groups of names for those 6 registered to provide oral comments. When your name is 7 called, please come forward and take a seat in the 8 reserve section of the front row right in front of us 9 here, the center. That will be near the microphone. 10 When it is your turn, please present -- please 11 begin your presentation by stating your full name, spell 12 it for the record, and indicate if you represent a 13 organization. If you are reading your comments, please 14 take care to read them slowly enough for the court 15 reporter to understand. 16 Also, if possible, the reporter would 17 appreciate a copy of the comments you read. You can 18 deposit them in the box near the microphone. Please 19 return to your original seats in the auditorium after 20 you speak. 21 This is an informal hearing and therefore, you 22 will not be questioned in connection with your comments. 23 Your comments or questions are being recorded by the 24 reporter to preserve them for the record. If you are 25 called to speak and choose not to speak or provide short</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 center aisle or in the front of the room. 2 If you have any concerns about being 3 videotaped, you can ask one of our staff members at the 4 registration tables, and we have the names and some 5 information on the various individuals who are 6 videotaping with us today. 7 Those that identify themselves as elected 8 officials on their registration cards will be our first 9 speakers and will be given two minutes each. Members of 10 the public will follow with two-minute slots for the 11 remainder of the hour. Because of the number of people 12 expected to speak, strict adherence to time limits is 13 necessary by all speakers. I will let you know when 14 time is up. 15 I will call a break approximately each hour or 16 so to allow our court reporter to rest a bit. And I 17 just want to comment that this is how many comments we 18 have, and requests to speak so far (indicating). I'm 19 questioning whether we'll even be able to get through 20 all of these. So that's why we're having this 21 two-minute time limit tonight. I know it's not 22 satisfactory, but it's the best we can do to try to 23 allow most people to speak. 24 If you choose not to present all comments here 25 today, or in addition to your oral comments, you may</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 submit comments in writing. Written comments may be 2 submitted to the staff at the registration tables, or 3 they may be on electric media such as CDs. 4 Information on how to submit comments outside 5 of this hearing is available back at the registration 6 tables. Additionally, at the registration tables, there 7 are blank comment forms on which you can write your 8 comments. Comment forms may be deposited in the 9 collection boxes or left at the registration tables or 10 mailed to the address on the form before the deadline of 11 December 17. 12 Written comments will be given the same 13 consideration as oral comments presented here. At this 14 point, I'm going to call the names of our first 15 speakers. Peter Ossorio, Mary Huntzinger, Robert Corn, 16 Brant Van Dyke, Crystal Diamond, Van J. "Bucky" Allred, 17 and Tink Jackson. 18 If you would take your seat up to the front 19 here, and our first speaker can approach the microphone, 20 Mr. Peter Ossorio. Thank you. 21 MR. OSSORIO: Mr. Director, I'm speaking for 22 Jeff Steinborn, District 35, vice chair of National 23 Energy and Resources. I want to express my strong 24 support for the Mexican wolf and the federal government 25 taking a robust approach to ensure the recovery of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 managers to resolve conflicts has been a major cause of 2 failing to meet the reintroduction objective. 3 Regretfully, the proposed rule changes offer 4 additional opportunities for removing wolves. I believe 5 it's essential that the Service tighten restriction for 6 take, not loosen them. Please know that a majority of 7 New Mexicans want an ecologically rich Land of 8 Enchantment and share the belief that wolves belong. 9 Thank you. 10 MR. BUCKLEY: Mark Huntzinger. 11 MR. CORN: Good evening. Thank you for the 12 opportunity to appear and testify. My name is Robert 13 Corn, C-O-R-N, from Chaves County, that's C-H-A-V-E-S. 14 Not Z, like some people like to put it -- commissioner 15 from Chaves County. 16 I have a letter that was sent to Daniel Lack on 17 November 17. Dear Mr. Ashe, the United States Fish &amp; 18 Wildlife Service has proposed to delist the gray wolf 19 under a nonessential experimentation -- experimental 20 population area for the Mexican gray wolf. 21 Chaves County insists that there must be a 22 public hearing and coordination of the actual allotted 23 area. Chaves County is aware that the existing science 24 does not support this huge expansion of the population 25 habitat to the entire southern half of New Mexico.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 species. Too long, efforts to recover the wolf have 2 been held back by ideology and some political leaders' 3 attempt to sow fear and misinformation about this 4 animal. 5 As a result, population numbers for the wolf 6 have stagnated and failed to achieve levels necessary 7 for their sustainable survival. I urge the Fish &amp; 8 Wildlife Service to implement a robust recovery program 9 of the Mexican wolf, and reject new restrictions 10 currently under consideration that would place further 11 constraints on the recovery. 12 Of greatest concern is the relaxation of rules 13 that would allow additional killing of wolves when 14 population numbers reach a hundred. There is no 15 scientific basis for this being a sustainable and 16 genetically robust number. If more wolves are allowed 17 killed on this threshold or are not allowed to go beyond 18 it, they'll likely go extinct. 19 The actual numbers supported by the best 20 available science is on the order of 750 wolves and 21 three distinct subpopulations. Furthermore, the 22 proposed rule must not include expanded provisions for 23 take of these animals. Science-based program reviews 24 have shown, and the Service has acknowledged, that the 25 killing of permanent removal of wolves by agency</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 There has been no coordination with Chaves 2 County and obviously no opportunity for affected persons 3 to attend the meeting in the southern half of the state. 4 It is clear that the National Environmental Policy Acts' 5 intent is to have multiple public input in and from the 6 areas affected by the rule making. 7 Considering the public meeting outside the 8 affected area violates the spirit and intent of the 9 National Environmental Policy Act. The southern half of 10 New Mexico encompasses 68,580 square miles and contains 11 high mountains, plains, mountains and deserts. 12 There are multiple types of habitats that may 13 or may not be acceptable to the Mexican wolf. The 14 effects of introducing wolf population in southern New 15 Mexico will have a major impact on ranching, farming and 16 oil and gas production and recreation. When any of 17 those areas are adversely affected, it will cause 18 detrimental economic effects on the entire population of 19 southern New Mexico. 20 From 2007, scoping was for a small care area in 21 western New Mexico and eastern Arizona. US Fish &amp; 22 Wildlife has not done any new scoping to justify the 23 additional area covering the southern half of New 24 Mexico. 25 MR. BUCKLEY: Mr. Corn, thank you very much.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 Your time is up. We'd like to allow other people the 2 opportunity. 3 MR. CORN: I understand. One more quick 4 question. On meeting July 11, 2013 in Portales -- 5 MR. BUCKLEY: Mr. Corn, please. We've got a 6 lot of people that are ready to speak. You can leave 7 your comments, sir, and we'll consider them in full. 8 Thank you. 9 Mark Huntzinger. 10 MR. HUNTZINGER: I'm a county manager for 11 Sierra County, New Mexico. Thank you for hosting this 12 public meeting. The county has responsibility under 13 state law for the health, safety and welfare of its 14 citizens. 15 The proposal to allow the dispersal of Mexican 16 wolves into the Mexican wolf experimental population 17 area directly affects the safety and welfare of the 18 citizens and the visitors to our county. As such, the 19 county is opposed to this proposal. Some background. 20 The Blue Range Recovery Area extends into the 21 western portion of Sierra County in the Gila National 22 Forest. We have an immediate interest as the Mexican 23 wolf population is in and has been in our county. 24 The Mexican wolf experimental population area 25 encompasses approximately one half of the State of New</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 New Mexico. And I'm an elected supervisor on the Lea 2 Soil, Water and Conservation District board of 3 supervisors. I apologize. I don't have a prepared 4 statement. 5 And the reason I'm here is I've looked at the 6 nonessential experiment areas. It has been expanded to 7 southeastern New Mexico. The Lea Soil and Water 8 Conservation District is actively involved, at the 9 present time, in protecting the prairie chicken and sand 10 dune lizard. These are also endangered species, and 11 it's our goal to see those populations expand. And our 12 concern is if you have gray wolves in that area, we've 13 just opened a smorgasbord for the prairie chicken and 14 sand dune lizard. 15 And if you're not from New Mexico, you might 16 not understand, but I think the majority of education 17 dollars generated for the State of New Mexico -- and I 18 was a teacher for 31 years -- comes from oil and gas. 19 And if the prairie chicken and sand dune lizard is eaten 20 by the wolf, then those oil and gas companies are 21 removed from those areas. 22 How do we educate our children in New Mexico? 23 A huge concern for me and the community I live in. So I 24 appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today. 25 Thank you very much.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 Mexico, all of Sierra County, and by its gross 2 definition, this room, because it's south of the 3 Interstate 40. The Blue Range Recovery Area has been 4 impacted by years of drought and fires, including this 5 year's Silver Fire. These environmental impacts have 6 affected all animals within the boundaries. 7 Recent evidence of this is bears moving out of 8 the forest into more populated areas, scavenging for 9 food. The Mexican wolf experimental population, there 10 are many ranches, farms, population and recreation 11 areas. The ranches and farms have also been impacted by 12 the drought, and with ranchers cutting their herds due 13 to lack of natural feed and diminished water, ranching 14 communities, farming communities in Sierra County offer 15 feed for these -- the wolves, once they are moved out of 16 the forest. 17 What they naturally prey on is also 18 domesticated animals, which is a commercial product in 19 the state, in the county, and very important. Sierra 20 County has agreed to sign onto the memorandum of 21 understanding for the EIS for this, and we're working 22 with the Service on it. 23 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Huntzinger. Next. 24 MR. VAN DYKE: Thank you. My name is Brent Van 25 Dyke, and I'm from Lea County, not Lea, but Lea County,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, sir. Next speaker. 2 MR. ALLRED: I'm Commissioner Van Allred from 3 Catron County. Last name is A-L-L-R-E-D. First name is 4 Van, V-A-N. I'm known as Bucky. It's a nickname. 5 Catron County has been in this (audience member 6 coughing) in the Blue River Recovery program I'm 7 assuming for quite some time. Over those years, we've 8 seen the reintroduitory program become a threat to our 9 safety, welfare and health of our citizens. There's a 10 redundancy of failure in the program. 11 It's devastating and destroying a large part of 12 our economic base, wildlife and livestock. Livestock is 13 the highest mill levy rate in our county. We feel like 14 the agency has failed to communicate with us and keep us 15 aware of your programs. And we stand, the other 16 commissioners, myself, and a large majority of the 17 citizens of Catron County, the biggest majority, oppose 18 this program. 19 And just wanted to thank you once again for 20 allowing me to talk. And what I've said here is very 21 negative to the wolf program, but I want -- I hope that 22 you all will continue to communicate with us and make us 23 aware of what you're doing in our county. 24 And also want to let you know that in no way do 25 we relinquish. We want to see the (audience member</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 coughing). Thank you very much. 2 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Allred. Two more. 3 Crystal Diamond, Tink Jackson. Jerry Ortiz y Pino, who 4 is a State Senate District 12. 5 MS. DIAMOND: Good evening. My name is 6 Crystal, Crystal Diamond. I sit on the board of 7 supervisors for the Sierra Soil and Water Conservation 8 District. 9 New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation 10 districts were recently denied cooperating agency status 11 by US Fish &amp; Wildlife in a letter signed by Benjamin 12 Tuggle. As a division of state government with 13 supervisors elected by all eligible registered voters 14 within district boundaries, this denial is a clear 15 violation of the law, as it does not comply with NEPA. 16 The high frequency of disturbing human 17 encounters is a great public safety concern and the 18 devastating impact on the overall economy of our county 19 can no longer be ignored. We request that the voice of 20 locally elected officials be heard, and cooperating 21 agency status quickly granted to New Mexico soil and 22 water conservation districts and officials. 23 We look forward to contributing and assisting 24 with the Mexican gray wolf program in the near future. 25 Thank you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 two-legged predators that you deal with. 2 We believe in the constitution of this great 3 nation and of the State of New Mexico. We believe no 4 law or act of Congress can change the rights that we are 5 guaranteed under either. We believe local economies are 6 not subject to federal debate. We don't expect 7 Washington to fix our problems, nor do we expect you to 8 try to control our private industries. 9 We have submitted comments, numerous, numerous 10 comments; we have submitted a proposed alternative. We 11 will continue to work with your agency to ensure that 12 our citizens are not disproportionately affected by this 13 program. 14 We believe the recovery can be done. We 15 believe the recovery requires real science, it requires 16 honest review, and it requires a multiple-zone approach 17 to management that has clear milestones that are set 18 upon a completed recovery plan that has known and 19 defined goals. I'll submit the rest of our comments in 20 writing. 21 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Jackson. Next 22 speaker, please. 23 MR. CHESSER: My name is Kim Chesser, K-I-M, 24 C-H-E-S-S-E-R, and I represent Chaves County, New 25 Mexico. I'm a commissioner there. And I have written</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Diamond. I'd like 2 to also invite up -- one second, sir -- the following 3 speakers. Barbara Bacon, Jack Field, Seidman -- I 4 apologize if I'm mispronouncing. Seidman. Karen 5 Vardaman. Ruth Rudner, Ty Bays, Kim Chesser, Dave 6 Parsons, Andres Aragon, and William Wiley. 7 Please, if you would, find a seat up front. 8 And I invite the speaker now to introduce himself, and 9 if you would spell your names when you come up to the 10 microphone. Thank you. 11 MR. JACKSON: My name is Tink, T-I-N-K, 12 Jackson, J-A-C-K-S-O-N. I'm the chairman of the Luna 13 County Endangered Species Committee. I'm also speaking 14 on behalf of Hidalgo County in tonight's meeting. Both 15 Luna and all the counties have signed on as cooperative 16 agencies. We are forced to do this because this rule 17 has now expanded into our areas. 18 We're small rural counties that are faced with 19 limited budgets and minimal resources. We are counties 20 that believe that the people in the county have a right 21 to decide what happens in their county. 22 We believe in private property rights. We 23 believe that we have the same right to protect our 24 property from four legged predators as urban property 25 owners have to protect their property from the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 statements that I'll turn in, but I don't really have 2 time to read those. 3 What I would like to do is finish something 4 that Dr. Corn, I mean Mr. Corn was cut off on awhile 5 ago. And when he was -- when what he was starting to 6 say is Dr. Tuggle, at a meeting in Portales, when we 7 were meeting there about the prairie chicken, there was 8 a comment that was -- there was a question, and it was 9 actually addressed to me, and asked if there was any 10 chance that this area where the prairie chicken was at, 11 if there would be any chance that that would ever be 12 involved in the reintroduction of the wolf. 13 And I said -- I told them that I -- from the 14 maps that I had seen, which you've shown there on the 15 screen, I said it's my understanding that that area is 16 being looked at to -- as for a possible place to 17 re-introduce the wolf. 18 And Dr. Tuggle, for the most part called me a 19 liar, and he told me that we have never considered that 20 area. And that's all -- this is all public record, I 21 mean, and it is recorded. But I want to say right now 22 that it is clear to say that you have included that same 23 area. The critical habitat of the prairie chicken is 24 totally encompassed in that area between I-40 and I-10. 25 And anyway, I really would appreciate it if you</p>

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<p>1 all would listen to the people that are living with 2 these wolves now. And Chaves County is very much 3 against the wolves coming into our county. But I really 4 do appreciate you'all coming here and listening to 5 everybody. Thank you. 6 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chesser. 7 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: Good evening. I'm state 8 Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino. My last name is three 9 words, O-R-T-I-Z, space, small y, space, P-I-N-O. I 10 represent state senate District 12, and you're in state 11 senate District 12 at this moment. Welcome and thank 12 you for holding this hearing. 13 As an elected official, I know you have a very 14 difficult decision, that your role is a very difficult 15 one. I would simply urge you to make your decision 16 based on science, not based on any attempt at balancing 17 interests. That's for politicians. That's what we 18 struggle with. 19 You, I think, need to make your decisions based 20 on biology, on environmental science, on the best 21 understanding possible of how an ecosystem works and of 22 the wolf's role in that ecosystem as a totality. And if 23 you try to balance different interests, you start making 24 decisions that lead to an overall failure of the total 25 system.</p>	<p>1 expand their range, as you have already asked, and allow 2 ranchers to retire their grazing rights for a fair 3 price. We are now -- 4 (APPLAUSE.) 5 MR. BUCKLEY: Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm going 6 to give you one more warning. If I have to clear this 7 room, I promise you, I'll do it. I do not want to hear 8 outbursts of clapping, applause, screaming, yelling, or 9 anything else. Show respect for this gentleman and 10 anybody else that comes up here to speak, please. Thank 11 you. 12 MR. WILEY: Yes. I asked -- we are now -- 13 Republicans for Environmental Protection are in talks 14 with more than three ranchers about doing grass-fed, 15 predator-tolerant beef in an economical way, and also 16 talking to them about ecotours. 17 The importance of the wolf, as science has 18 shown up in Yellowstone, has increased the viability of 19 prey animals, and they are now found to increase the 20 stream quality in the Gila Wilderness. 21 I will end with a story. My great, great uncle 22 was a Buffalo hunter. He would go out -- and this was 23 in the 1870s -- shoot a buffalo, take the hump off and 24 the tongue, and leave the rest to rot. I don't want my 25 grandchildren to think of that of me. Thank you.</p>
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<p>1 And let me give you one example. My impression 2 is that this program of the reintroduction has been 3 hampered from the beginning by a lack of firm commitment 4 to the original vision. And as soon as there's 5 criticism, Fish &amp; Wildlife backs off and tries to find 6 some way of making everybody happy; the ranchers, the 7 farmers, the local officials and the environmentalists. 8 I think the important thing is that you commit 9 to that vision, move ahead with a firm vision, and keep 10 science at the forefront. I urge you to make that the 11 hallmark of your decision-making. Thank you very much 12 for holding this hearing. 13 MR. BUCKLEY: Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm going 14 to ask you to hold down the clapping. You're taking up 15 time of the speakers and somebody is going to not have 16 an opportunity to speak. Thank you. 17 MR. WILEY: My name is William A. Wiley, 18 W-I-L-E-Y. I'm president of the New Mexico Republicans 19 for Environmental Protection. I appreciate the 20 opportunity to speak in front of this panel. I am a 21 hunter and a fisherman. I've been turkey hunting seven 22 times; turkeys five, me two. I'm a decorated Vet and 23 I'm a philanthropist. 24 And I come before you to ask that you consider 25 the Mexican gray wolf as an essential species, and</p>	<p>1 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Wiley. Next 2 speaker, please. Please spell your name. 3 MR. BAYS: Yes, sir. My name is Ty, T-Y, 4 B-A-Y-S. I'm here representing the Grants Soil and 5 Water Conservation District down in Grant County, New 6 Mexico, near Silver City. I'm a supervisor there. 7 And first of all, I'd like to demand that the 8 Fish &amp; Wildlife Service consider giving us cooperating 9 agency status. We are elected officials down there. I 10 think it's a real travesty that you are not considering 11 us as an (inaudible word). 12 Secondly, I'm representing myself. I ranch 13 down there. I raise cattle right next to the Gila 14 National Forest. We've had wolves on our operation. I 15 remember, and I was very involved in this program when 16 Dave Parsons, the self-proclaimed god of the Mexican 17 wolf rolled this out to us. 18 He told us we only needed a hundred wolves, 19 only needed them in this area. They wouldn't kill our 20 livestock. Well, they've killed our livestock. They've 21 gotten out of that area. You guys have done a fair job 22 of keeping them back in the area, because when they get 23 out, they're usually roaming the interstates or in town. 24 We've been lied to. Now you need more room, 25 and a hundred wolves soon won't be enough to maintain</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 the species. I can tell you that I support the 2 delisting of the gray wolf, although you've got me a 3 little confused about this. You want us to consider 4 whether or not to delist the gray wolf that you've 5 already delisted. I don't know. 6 Delist the gray wolf. Do not expand the 7 Mexican wolf boundary. Do not change the status of the 8 Mexican wolf. This program has been a complete failure. 9 I don't think expanding it is going to do anything. 10 I want you to consider my constitutional 11 rights. I have no rights in protecting my property, and 12 if you're going to reconsider this whole effort, I think 13 you need to open this up and consider everything again. 14 Thank you. 15 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Bays. Next 16 speaker, please. Spell your name. 17 MS. VARDAMAN: My name is Karin Vardaman, 18 K-A-R-I-N, V-A-R-D-A-M-A-N, and I speak on behalf of the 19 California Wolf Center's more than 12,000 members and 20 supporters included here in the Southwest. 21 We do support the proposal to relist the 22 Mexican gray wolf as a separate subspecies and allow 23 additional releases of wolves throughout the entire Blue 24 Range Wolf Recovery Area. However, we do have some 25 concerns about several other changes that do not best</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 which Mexican gray wolves are allowed to roam, to 2 release more captive wolves into the wild to increase 3 genetic diversity, and to take advantage of billing 4 partners in the program basic survival plan, as a 5 California Wolf Center. 6 Mexican gray wolves are essential. They are an 7 essential part of the Southwest ecosystem that has been 8 missing for too long. To us, through our center and 9 visitors, it has been clear that Americans do want these 10 wolves back. Thank you. 11 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Vardaman. 12 MS. SEIDMAN: My name is Anna Seidman. That's 13 A-N-N-A, S-E-I-D-M-A-N. I'm director of litigation for 14 Safari Club International. Safari Club generally 15 opposes the proposed modification to the rule governing 16 the Mexican wolf nonessential experimental population. 17 We are very concerned that the proposed changes 18 will undermine the social tolerance of those who must, 19 on a daily basis, deal with the impact of wolves on 20 their lives and their livelihoods. While Safari Club 21 acknowledges the success achieved by the Service, the 22 states, and the public in the recovery of the wolves of 23 a lower 48, we are mindful of the cost of that effort, 24 including years of litigation, a prolonged listing well 25 past achievement of recovery goals, and even</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 serve wolves. 2 The Service's own recovery team has produced 3 science that indicates that Mexican gray wolves require 4 a minimum of three core populations of at least 750 5 wolves that are allowed to disperse. This will not be 6 possible if wolves that leave the area are then 7 relocated back inside the boundary. 8 Furthermore, this boundary excludes some of the 9 best remaining habitat that Mexican wolves critically 10 need, including the Grand Canyon region, northern New 11 Mexico and southern Colorado. 12 As part of the Mexican wolf species survival 13 plan, the California Wolf Center has directly supported 14 the introduction of Mexican gray wolves into the wild. 15 Our 12,000 members and supporters as well as thousands 16 of visitors who come every year to our facility have 17 celebrated the success stories of our wolves, including 18 those released, and continually express their support 19 for wolf recovery. 20 Every day they thank us and implore us to 21 continue our work of wolf recovery, a testament to the 22 genuine care and interest the public has towards this 23 species. 24 We urge the Fish &amp; Wildlife Service to complete 25 a comprehensive recovery plan to expand the area in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 Congressional intervention. 2 We caution the Service not to create a scenario 3 in the Southwest that will force stakeholders, the state 4 and the federal government to endure a similar loss of 5 control and waste of valuable resources. Safari Club 6 encourages the Service to devise a rule that gives the 7 affected states full management authority over the wolf 8 population as soon as it meets recovery goals rather 9 than after the population is delisted. 10 We also advocate greater management authority 11 for the states to deal with the impact of wolves, the 12 wolves have on wild ungulate populations upon which the 13 hunting community and local communities rely for 14 recreation. 15 We thank you for this opportunity to comment 16 and will provide much more detailed comments in written 17 form. For the moment, suffice it to say that we believe 18 that the Service has a great deal more work to do, and 19 that work must be done in coordination and agreement 20 with the hunters, ranchers and the state management 21 authorities before the rule will achieve compliance with 22 Congress's intent for the management of experimental 23 populations. Thank you. 24 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Seidman. The 25 next speaker, please.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 MS. BACON: My name is Barbara Bacon, 2 B-A-C-O-N. And the first thing I want to say is that I 3 think we are all stakeholders here. You don't have to 4 be a rancher, you don't have to be in the oil and gas 5 industry, you don't have to be a public official. Those 6 of us who live in the states involved -- and I live here 7 in Albuquerque, New Mexico -- we are all stakeholders. 8 I am here today to speak in support of Mexican 9 gray wolves. While I do agree with some aspects of the 10 plan, I am concerned that some of the changes that the 11 Fish &amp; Wildlife Service are proposing are not going to 12 promote full wolf recovery for the Mexican gray wolves. 13 And I am asking Fish &amp; Wildlife Service to act in the 14 best interests of full Mexican gray wolf recovery. 15 Wolves cannot read maps, and I think one of the 16 -- and I agree that the -- that this program has had 17 problems over the years, but one of the reasons I 18 believe that there have been problems is that the wolves 19 are confined to far too small an area, and as a result, 20 they are going to come into conflict with people. 21 They need a wider range to roam to be 22 sustainable and to be able to formulate packs. I also 23 think that 100 wolves is not enough for sustainability. 24 I would ask -- 25 (Lights out in room.)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 wolves in the western two-thirds of Washington do not 2 meet the discreteness factors for a separate EPS. We 3 would also think that into the future they still will 4 not, because we don't have any -- as you look in the 5 Act, you can't use an arbitrary political, man-made 6 boundary to delineate a species. 7 We don't have anything to segregate the wolves 8 that are naturally recolonizing from the NRN into the 9 western two-thirds. We would strongly support the 10 delisting efforts in that regard. As well as in 11 Washington State, we currently have a split status where 12 the eastern one-third is federally listed, the western 13 two-thirds is federally -- or excuse me, federally 14 listed. The eastern third is federally delisted, and 15 we're unable to utilize our state management and 16 recovery plan throughout our state. 17 So as a result, we're unable to provide the 18 maximum level of protections that our state plan would 19 provide to the wolf, as well as the management control 20 measures needed to all stakeholders throughout the 21 state. 22 So we would urge your quick adoption of the 23 rules to allow for equitable treatment of all 24 stakeholders throughout Washington State. In Washington 25 State, it's absolutely essential, and I think</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 MS. BACON: Oh, great. Now I can't see. 2 I would ask that the Mexican gray wolves be 3 allowed to return to the Grand Canyon region, including 4 northern Arizona and southern Utah, and also to northern 5 New Mexico and southern Colorado. I do not agree with 6 confining wolves -- 7 MR. BUCKLEY: Folks in the back, please watch 8 where you're leaning. That might be the answer. 9 MS. BACON: I do not agree with confining 10 wolves south of Interstate 40. Again, they cannot read 11 maps. I do agree with the concept of extending the 12 southern boundary all the way to the Mexican border. 13 That makes sense if there is going to be more in Mexico. 14 I have more to say, but thank you for my time. 15 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Bacon. Appreciate 16 that. 17 Next speaker, please. 18 MR. FIELD: For the record, Jack Field, 19 F-I-E-L-D. I'm the executive vice president of the 20 Washington Cattlemen's Association. The Washington 21 Cattlemen's Association is in strong support of the 22 Service's proposal to delist the gray wolf <i>Canis lupus</i> 23 in the lower 48. 24 We applaud your ability to read the Act and 25 come to the same determination that we did, that the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 nationwide, if we're going to have a successful recovery 2 of wolves, regardless of where we are on the issue, that 3 we have stakeholder involvement and we maintain public 4 support. 5 The only way we have any opportunity to 6 maintain public support is if we have local decisions 7 made. Federal delisting allows state plans, local 8 involvement to lead the way and allow the federal 9 government to step back and allow local stakeholders who 10 are far closer and better tied to the land to make the 11 decisions needed. 12 I applaud the Service's proposal, hope you 13 listen to the folks here with the issues that they're 14 raising. But again, thank you for the proposal to 15 delist the lower 48. 16 Please again, act as quickly as possible. This 17 is something that is having massive economic impacts, 18 and we applaud you and thank you for giving us the 19 opportunity to speak tonight. 20 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Field. 21 MR. ARAGON: My name is Andres Aragon, 22 A-N-D-R-E-S, Aragon, representing Mora-San Miguel Farm 23 and Livestock Bureau. Also Mexican and Spanish land 24 grants. 25 First of all, one of the changes is proposing</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 to change state land status as public land. Black's Law 2 Dictionary defines public land as inappropriate lands. 3 All the state land in New Mexico is already appropriated 4 for use. 5 I would like -- also like to go on record that 6 we support the delisting of the gray wolf and oppose the 7 revisions to nonessential experimental population of the 8 Mexican wolf. I also oppose implementation of the plans 9 for the Mexican wolf for areas in Arizona and Mexico 10 outside or external to the Mexican wolf experimental 11 population area. 12 Also, when the Federal Register came out in 13 June, we requested public hearings in Las Vegas, New 14 Mexico. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service totally ignored San 15 Miguel County requests and the requests of the Farm 16 Bureau. 17 As for the Spanish and Mexican land grants, we 18 also are recognized by statute and by constitution in 19 New Mexico as a subdivision of the state, and we have 20 not been asked to the table for any of the meetings or 21 any concerns. 22 Also, the Mexican and Spanish land grants have 23 minority population and indigenous populations, and you 24 can see that you need to do some better outreach just by 25 the people that, you know, more than 50 percent in New</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 I also oppose delisting those wolves considered 2 recovered, but whose populations are currently being 3 decimated by so-called hunters in Montana, Idaho and 4 Wyoming, where wolves are the victims of increasingly 5 hostile anti-wolf politics, or perhaps more accurately, 6 wolves have become the scapegoats for increasingly 7 hostile anti-everything in politics. Thank you. 8 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Rudner. Next 9 speaker, please. 10 MR. PARSONS: Thank you. My name is Dave 11 Parsons, P-A-R-S-O-N-S. I'm representing two 12 organizations, the Rewilding Institute and another 13 organization called Project Coyote. 14 The Blue Range population of Mexican gray 15 wolves is the only wild population for this highly 16 endangered gray wolf subspecies. The Blue Range 17 population has failed to meet the initial objective of 18 the 100 wolves by the year 2006. 19 This is not the fault of the wolves, or the 20 quality of the habitat, it is the sole responsibility of 21 the decision makers and managers who prioritized wolf 22 removal over wolf recovery to resolve conflicts between 23 wolf recovery and livestock grazing primarily on our 24 public land. 25 The proposed rule revision will make matters</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 Mexico are Hispanic. The counties up in the northern 2 part, 80, 85 percent, 70 percent Hispanic, and we have 3 not been contacted for this purpose. And again, thank 4 you for the opportunity. 5 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Aragon. I'd like 6 to call forward Mr. Nathan Small. You can speak here. 7 You will be the third one up. Thank you. 8 MS. RUDNER: My name is Ruth Rudner, 9 R-U-D-N-E-R. As an (inaudible word) writer, I wrote a 10 series of articles for the Wall Street Journal about the 11 restoration of wolves to Yellowstone. More recently, 12 I've been writing about Mexican wolves. My comments are 13 based on spending serious time in wolf country and 14 caring deeply about this animal vital to the health of 15 the ecosystems with which it evolved. 16 I support direct release of Mexican wolves 17 throughout the Blue Range Recovery Area, but it is also 18 essential to allow them to disperse north of I-40, so 19 they have a chance to re-enter historic wolf territory 20 in the Grand Canyon region. 21 On the subject of essential, the Service should 22 designate the Mexican gray wolf as essential. Calling 23 it nonessential ignores science. It ignores the truth 24 that every component of an ecosystem is essential to 25 that ecosystem's health.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 worse for lobos in the Southwest and is fatally flawed 2 in several important ways. It adopts the objective of a 3 31-year-old-recovery plan. It self-admits to not being 4 a plan for full recovery. It is not based on the best 5 available scientific information, which is a legal 6 requirement of the Endangered Species Act, and it does 7 not support full recovery of the Mexican gray wolf, and 8 it proposes to continue the nonessential experimental 9 population classification for the Blue Range population. 10 The main objective of this new proposed rule is 11 to establish a population of at least 100 wolves in the 12 wild. That's the same objective as the existing 13 proposed rule. Incredibly, the Fish &amp; Wildlife Service 14 admits in writing in this proposed rule that a 15 population of 100 wolves would still be in "danger of 16 extinction." And I have quotes around danger of 17 extinction. 18 The team of scientists appointed by the Fish &amp; 19 Wildlife Service has recommended the following criteria 20 for full recovery of the Mexican gray wolves. That is 21 the establishment of at least three interconnected core 22 populations of at least 200 wolves each and an overall 23 population of at least 750 wolves distributed among 24 those three core populations. 25 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Parsons.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 MR. PARSONS: Thank you. 2 MR. BUCKLEY: Next speaker. 3 MR. SMALL: Good evening, Mr. Frazer, 4 Ms. Shaughnessy and Mr. Buckley. My name is Nathan 5 Small. I serve on the Las Cruces City Council in 6 southern New Mexico. I apologize for being late. It 7 was raining on the way up. 8 I speak first as an elected official. I do 9 believe that recovery is a goal that will be beneficial 10 for both the folks that I represent and also for the 11 State of New Mexico. Obviously, this needs to be done 12 with careful consideration, but I agree with Senator 13 Ortiz y Pino that the primary consideration you all are 14 looking at is scientific. 15 It also seems pretty clear that having direct 16 release into the area, the Blue Range Recovery Area, is 17 quite important, and doesn't give us the worst of the 18 worst, but it allows for direct release. 19 North of I-40, I think also seems to make sense 20 to me, giving the best possible chance for recovery. 21 You know, I've been very fortunate to take two hunting 22 trips into the Gila. Both were do it yourself. One was 23 where my wife, then fiancée -- she did marry me -- and 24 my brother and I, we all went in in spring. We got 25 snowed on. We took horses in.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 violates the law. First, ignoring the public. This is 2 a charade, because the Service has already made up its 3 mind about the final rule. It's cut a side deal, 4 promising to capture any wolf which steps outside the 5 experimental population area. 6 Second, ignoring your own scientists and 7 thereby preventing wolves from going into places like 8 Grand Canyon and southern Colorado. Specifically, 9 you're ignoring the recommendations that say that real 10 recovery will require not the hundred wolves specified 11 in your rule, but the three populations totaling 750, 12 which brings us to the third violation. 13 You've ignored Congress. It's not me but 14 Congress which says that for the Service to designate 15 this experimental population as nonessential means that 16 you can actually say with a straight face that the total 17 elimination of that population would not be likely to 18 appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival of the 19 species in the wild. 20 We now have a track record from the Service, 21 seven years past your initial small target of a hundred 22 wolves, not there. And yet, you're going to say that 23 tomorrow, if you let poachers poison, trap, shoot, club 24 every last lobo and her pups, that this would not be at 25 least likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 We didn't hear wolves, but it was something 2 that would be -- I think immeasurably add to any 3 experience in that country. We also went in in the fall 4 and it was just sunny, no snow, no rain. We were 5 fortunate to harvest a turkey that time. I had folks 6 from Ohio who came with us, and their sense that there 7 could be wolves in this country certainly added to their 8 experience. 9 Certainly, speaking as a hunter and someone who 10 is born and raised here in New Mexico, it seems to me 11 that the focus more on habitat in creating the best 12 possible habitat for wildlife, which wolves, as a 13 integral part of the ecosystem can be very important and 14 helpful to, is something that we should take as our goal 15 and not seek to scapegoat any one species for not having 16 the responsibility and care for the entire environment. 17 Thank you all very much for your time, and I 18 look forward to seeing you again. 19 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Small. Ladies and 20 Gentlemen, we're going to take five minutes here in just 21 a second. 22 (Recess taken from 7:09 to 7:16 p.m.) 23 MR. BUCKLEY: Spell your name. 24 MR. OSSORIO: Peter Ossorio, O-S-S-O-R-I-O. 25 There are three ways that the Service and its rule</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 survival of the Mexican wolf in the wild? 2 Please. Tell truth to power, as several 3 speakers have said, follow the science and the law. 4 Don't slow walk our lobos to extinction. Thank you. 5 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Ossorio. I'd like 6 to just remind people to not read your comments too 7 fast. Mr. Ossorio didn't. And I'd also like to 8 acknowledge the presence of Mr. Eric Layer, who is a 9 representative of Congressman Steve Pearce. 10 Next speaker, please. 11 MR. MONTGOMERY: I'm Wally Montgomery, 12 W-A-L-L-Y, M-O-N-T-G-O-M-E-R-Y. I'm from Belton, Texas. 13 I have many concerns about the Mexican gray wolf 14 management proposal. However, I will address only three 15 of them. 16 First, adhering to the outdated prime objective 17 of only 100 Mexican wolves in the wild is a recipe that 18 will threaten their recovery and survival. It ignores 19 the latest best science compiled in a draft report by a 20 team of scientists two years ago, calling for three 21 populations of wolves in three areas across Arizona, New 22 Mexico and southern Colorado, with at least 200 wolves 23 in each area, and a total minimum amongst all three of 24 750 wolves. 25 The prime objective should not be just about</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 numbers. The integrity of the family group is vital to 2 establishing and maintaining a healthy wolf population. 3 Wolves need and depend on each other to survive in the 4 wild. 5 Secondly, some of the last best places for 6 wolves are in northern Arizona, northern New Mexico, 7 southern Utah and southern Colorado. To aid their long- 8 term recovery, all boundaries that restrict dispersion 9 should be removed. Like the wolves in Yellowstone, 10 lobos can't understand political boundaries. Like their 11 northern cousins, the ability for Mexican wolves to 12 establish additional populations and to move among 13 populations is essential to their genetic diversity and 14 recovery. 15 And third, especially objectionable are the 16 proposed options being considered pertaining to the 17 taking or killing of wolves. The options are one-sided, 18 placing the whole blame for wolf-livestock conflicts on 19 the lobos. Federal and nonprofit assistance for 20 non-lethal measures to prevent such conflicts is 21 available to livestock owners. 22 Many, perhaps most, don't implement these 23 measures or even basic commonsense deterrants, such as 24 removing dead livestock that lure wolves and invite 25 depredation. Without the cooperation of livestock</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 The New Mexico agricultural producers are the 2 real caretakers of our land, and their livelihood is 3 essential to our future to provide good fiber. The 4 question I have, and I want to it go on record for US 5 Fish &amp; Wildlife, is why our soil and water conservation 6 districts given cooperating agencies in some states, but 7 the U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife does not comply with the 8 federal NEPA process in New Mexico. 9 The soil and water conservation districts do 10 have as much, if not more, special expertise than the 11 local counties that have been allowed to participate. 12 Therefore, we request that this question be answered. 13 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Hughes. Please 14 spell your name. 15 MS. MOSSOTTI: My name is Regina Mossotti, 16 M-O-S-S-O-T-T-I. I'm the director of Animal Care and 17 Conservation of the Endangered Wolf Center in St. Louis, 18 Missouri, which routinely represents the largest 19 population of Mexican wolves in captivity. 20 Marlin Perkins founded the center in 1971. 21 Since then, we have had 172 Mexican wolf pups born at 22 the Endangered Wolf Center. 23 MR. BUCKLEY: Slow. 24 MS. MOSSOTTI: This year, a breeding pair at 25 our facility was successful and had a puppy, whose</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 owners in implementing nonlethal measures -- 2 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Montgomery. Next 3 speaker, please 4 MS. HUGHES: My name is Debbie Hughes. I'm the 5 executive director for the New Mexico Association of 6 Conservation Districts, or NMACD. NMACD works for the 7 soil and water conservation districts in New Mexico that 8 work directly with land owners to put conservation on 9 the ground. They are very involved in habitat 10 improvement for all species of wildlife as well as 11 livestock. 12 The soil and water conservation Districts 13 believe that more positive recovery can be granted 14 through cooperative conservation on private, state and 15 federal lands. This should be done -- this should not 16 be done at the expense of one species over another. The 17 soil and water conservation districts do have special 18 expertise that is recognized in other states and by 19 other federal agencies. 20 The US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service has violated the 21 NEPA process by denying cooperating agency status to 17 22 of the soil and water conservation districts in New 23 Mexico that are local political subdivisions of state 24 government and have requested to be cooperating 25 agencies.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 number was 1,300. That means since the recovery effort 2 started over four decades ago, this tiny pup was the 3 1,300 Mexican wolf to be born. 4 Knowing that when our center started there were 5 only five Mexican wolves in the wild, 1,300 is a 6 remarkable accomplishment. Unfortunately, the wild does 7 not reflect this accomplishment, and after several 8 decades of trying to save the most endangered wolf in 9 the world, recovery has reached only 75 wolves in the 10 wild. This is unsustainable for many reasons. 11 I am here to talk to you about why it is 12 unsustainable from the captive breeding perspective. 13 The captive breeding program, although highly effective, 14 does not exist in a vacuum. It is not a continuous or 15 permanent solution for the recovery of an endangered 16 species. 17 Limited enclosure space at facilities 18 throughout the United States and Mexico and consistently 19 being at maximum population capacity for several years 20 has impaired the captive breeding program. With no new 21 releases in the wild in over five years, this forces us 22 to allow only a few pairs to breed annually for fear 23 that we will have too many puppies and nowhere to put 24 them. 25 Too many puppies. Whoever thought that would</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 be a problem. But it is. And what this means for the 2 species is detrimental. Obviously, no new genes 3 introduced into the wild will cripple an already 4 severely depleted population. 5 But also, reduced breeding in captivity will 6 mean a loss of vital genetic information, which is 7 ultimately a reflection of irresponsible management. 8 The Endangered Wolf Center supports the recognition of 9 the Mexican gray wolf as a distinct subspecies and list 10 it as endangered and expanding its territory. 11 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Mossotti. Next 12 speaker, please. 13 MS. SARGENT: I'm Eva Sargent, the Southwest 14 director for Defenders of Wildlife. S-A-R-G-E-N-T, 15 E-V-A. Our Southwest office is in Tucson, and we focus 16 our regional work in New Mexico, Arizona and Chihuahua. 17 I came here with a simple message on behalf of 18 Defender's over 25,000 members and supporters in New 19 Mexico and Arizona combined. These wolf supporters are 20 perplexed and they're disheartened by many aspects of 21 the proposed rule change for Mexican wolves. 22 Mostly, they, and we, can't figure out why the 23 Service would make changes to the management plan that 24 either do almost nothing for the recovery of the Mexican 25 wolf, or which actually make recovery harder.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 these policies and neither do we. Thank you. 2 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Sargent. As we 3 prepare for our next speaker, I'd like to mention to 4 folks that we've got a lot of people that have signed up 5 to speak tonight. We're hopeful, but I can't promise 6 that everybody will have an opportunity. So that's 7 another reason that we want to keep you two minutes. So 8 I apologize if I cut you off. 9 Please go ahead, ma'am. 10 MS. CARRILLO: Thank you for this opportunity 11 to speak. My name is Nancy Carrillo. I am simply a 12 concerned citizen. I am here to speak about the Mexican 13 gray wolf. Although there are aspects of this proposed 14 revision I appreciate, I have a four great reservations. 15 I worry this plan will not result in the 16 wolves' recovery. One, the lack of an updated recovery 17 plan representing best available science. 18 Two, the designation of wolves residing in the 19 Mexican wolf experimental population area as 20 nonessential rather than endangered. 21 Three, the low level of protection afforded 22 wolves, even on public lands. 23 Four, the Mexican wolf recovery plan should 24 require both annual monitoring and specific criteria for 25 full recovery.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 And you know which parts I'm talking about. 2 The time, effort and resources that the Service has 3 poured into ineffectual and even detrimental political 4 foot dragging could and should be used for developing 5 and implementing a real recovery plan for these 6 endangered and iconic wolves. 7 Here is the part that's the most puzzling and 8 disturbing. The Service ignores the vast most current 9 science, the work of its own recovery team, and instead 10 continues to chase after outdated, 31-year-old first 11 step goal of 100 wolves. Even while the Service itself 12 admits such a population will be quote, "in danger of 13 extinction." 14 The current recovery team's work tells us that 15 lobos will need free wild populations with dispersal 16 among them, and that the habitats capable of supporting 17 these populations, as you heard before, are in the Blue 18 Range Wolf Recovery Area, in the Grand Canyon region and 19 in the southern Rockies. 20 So why -- this is my question, when it knows 21 what must be done, why would the Service be wasting time 22 that the wolves don't have. Why would it not listen to 23 the majority of people in the Southwest and fulfill its 24 stewardship responsibility to these endangered animals 25 and save them from extinction. Wolves don't understand</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 I want to take up in detail the issue of best 2 available science. I have four subpoints. 3 A, 100 wolves in the wild are too few. Best 4 available science recommends three populations of at 5 least 200 wolves each. 6 B, especially given the lack of genetic 7 diversity, wild wolves need multiple interconnected 8 protective zones. There are suitable sites other than 9 the Mexican wolf experimental population area, but under 10 the proposed rule, wolves would be returned to the 11 single area. 12 C, successful reintroduction requires a certain 13 amount of speed. Prolonged captivity can result in many 14 types of changes that diminish animals' ability to 15 thrive in the wild. Scientists tell us this deserves 16 much more attention than that is getting. 17 D, wolves are vital to ecosystem health. As 18 you know, they are predators. Areas with too few wolves 19 have too many ungulates and too many coyotes. That puts 20 hares and rabbits at risk. It's not a system that can 21 self-correct without wolves. That's what we know. 22 There is so much we don't. Thank you. 23 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Carrillo. Next 24 speaker, please. 25 MS. MINCH: Good evening. My name is Leia,</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 L-E-I-A, M-I-N-C-H. And as a writer and citizen of the 2 North American West, I value every opportunity to speak 3 for the wild ones who can't speak for themselves. If 4 you honestly care about this population succeeding, then 5 yes, they should be released in the Gila National Forest 6 in New Mexico. 7 If you care about genetic variability, you 8 should not wait five-plus years to release those 9 300-plus captive wolves in the program. I'd also like 10 to inform you that wolves aren't able to read political 11 boundaries, and thus, should be allowed to establish 12 territories outside of the BRWRA, and the experimental 13 population should be considered essential. 14 Because wolves wander, this is not a state 15 issue, and should be federally managed. One necessary 16 addition to be made in this provision is to hold owners 17 of livestock liable for the dead carcasses they leave on 18 public lands which essentially bait holds to predation. 19 Oregon has implemented this provision, and thus 20 far, it's working well. I'd also like to add that 21 nationally, wolves count for two-tenths of 1 percent of 22 livestock that are lost pre-slaughterhouse. Beyond 23 numerous findings of studies clearly being ignored which 24 state how wolves contribute to healthy ecosystems, I 25 would also like to address the First Nation peoples and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 Foundation supports removing the gray wolf from the list 2 of endangered and threatened wildlife as proposed by the 3 US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service. 4 The recovery of the gray wolf in the northern 5 Rocky Mountains and the western Great Lakes has exceeded 6 all goals and expectations. Wolves are no longer in 7 danger of extinction, and it is time for wolf management 8 to be turned over to the state and the respective 9 wildlife management agencies. 10 State wildlife agencies have a strong history 11 of wildlife restoration dating back to the early 1900s, 12 and will do an excellent job of managing the species 13 going forward. No state wildlife agency has ever 14 managed a big game species into extinction, and they 15 have a really good record when it comes to American 16 wildlife. 17 It should be up to each individual state 18 agency, not the federal government, to determine whether 19 allowing wolves within their borders. Some believe that 20 the wolves should be returned to their entire native 21 range, but yet, many others species such as elk are not 22 allowed to do that in this great country. 23 In regard to the Mexican wolves, future 24 management should be turned over to the state wildlife 25 agencies. Thank you very much.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 the cultural importance of wolves the scoping process is 2 overlooking. 3 These animals are seen as sacred to First 4 Nation peoples across the continent. It doesn't take 5 much research, time, or people who will find -- who will 6 tell you how they credit the wolf with teaching tribes 7 the importance of family values and to never hunt or 8 take more than needed. 9 Having wolves is a livelihood of many tribes. 10 As far as I have researched, you have not considered the 11 cultural value of wolves to people without financial 12 assets. As a citizen of North America, I implore you to 13 look beyond the short-term profit of killing wolves and 14 look into long-term ecosystem health and welfare. 15 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Minch. Appreciate 16 it. Next speaker, please. And like to call a few other 17 people to come up to the front. Those speakers here 18 would move over. John Diamond, Caren Cowan, Rex Wilson, 19 Robert Greene. I apologize. George Stapleton, Isabelle 20 Rudolph, Brad Christmas, Kevin Bixby, Donald Jones and 21 Roxane George. Please come to the front. 22 Go ahead, sir. 23 MR. KENNEY: I am Bill Kenney, K-E-N-N-E-Y. I 24 am the regional director for New Mexico for the Rocky 25 Mountain Elk Foundation. The Rocky Mountain Elk</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Kenney. Next 2 speaker, please. 3 MR. ROBINSON: I'm Michael Robinson, 4 M-I-C-H-A-E-L, R-O-B-I-N-S-O-N. I'm representing the 5 Center for Biological Diversity, a nonprofit 6 conservation organization founded in Catron County, New 7 Mexico. I live in the rural Grant County, New Mexico, 8 at the edge of the Gila National Forest. I'm sad to 9 tell you that we don't have wolves there anymore 10 anywhere near where I live. 11 There's only 75 Mexican wolves in the bi-state 12 recovery area, last count, and only three breeding 13 pairs. The Mexican wolf is really facing a particular 14 genetic emergency, an emergency of in-breeding 15 depression that is causing smaller litter sizes to be 16 born and lower pup survival rates among those that are 17 born. 18 Scientists, including your own three-year 19 review scientists in 2001, Dr. Pauquette and his 20 colleagues, recommended three critical reforms to 21 forestall precisely the problem of too few wolves and 22 the genetic problems that you're facing now. And sadly, 23 the Fish &amp; Wildlife Service has not followed those. 24 One of them is to allow direct release of 25 wolves into the Gila National Forest, three-quarters of</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. Millions of acres 2 literally that do not currently have wolves and that 3 have excellent habitat for wolves and a healthy prey 4 base for wolves. 5 The second is to allow them to disperse freely. 6 Wolves, as people have pointed out, cannot read lines on 7 maps drawn by politicians. They are the essence of 8 animals. Or let me restate that. They are animals that 9 need large areas to roam and to have interconnected 10 populations. 11 It's good that the Service would allow them 12 into the proposal to leave the Blue Range Wolf Recovery 13 Area and set up territories. It makes no sense to bound 14 them by Interstate 40 and keep them from the southern 15 Rocky Mountains and the Grand Canyon ecosystems where 16 scientists have said they need to be. 17 And also, it makes no sense to keep them from 18 the Sky Islands where the Mexican wolf evolved in what 19 Leopold called species the desert wolf, in the desert 20 country down there. 21 It's also important not to open up 22 opportunities for more killing of wolves. I note that 23 the Service today, tomorrow and the next day is removing 24 two more wolves from the wild while you have only 25 released into the wild one wolf, a single wolf in the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 However, it has taken an additional 11 years and 2 countless legal battles to remove the gray wolf from the 3 endangered species list. 4 A similar situation with the Mexican wolf would 5 not be sustainable to the ungulated herds of New Mexico 6 and Arizona, as we do not possess the populations of 7 deer and elk that Wyoming, Idaho and Montana do. The 8 changes proposed by the Fish &amp; Wildlife Service would 9 make it impossible for our state to manage wolf 10 population until ungulate herds are depredated to 50 11 percent. 12 At that point, elk and deer populations in our 13 state will be nearly unrecoverable. Responsible 14 wildlife management should take into consideration the 15 balance of all species and not merely the interests of 16 the well-funded, emotionally biased groups with little 17 scientific support. Hence, we are against the proposed 18 revision of the nonessential, experimental population of 19 the Mexican gray wolf. 20 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Romero. Next 21 speaker, please. 22 MR. GREENE: Good evening. My name is Robert 23 Greene, G-R-E-E-N-E. I'm from Santa Fe, New Mexico. 24 There have been a number of really good speakers here 25 that I agree with. I think in the interest of time,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 last five years from the captive breeding pool. That is 2 unconscionable and it is contributing to the genetic 3 crisis. Thank you very much. 4 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you very much. Next 5 speaker, please. 6 MS. ROMERO: Good evening, Ladies and 7 Gentlemen: My name is Kerrie Romero, K-E-R-R-I-E, 8 R-O-M-E-R-O. I'm the executive director for the New 9 Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides. We are a 10 nonprofit organization that represents the interests of 11 the 1,500 outfitters and guides in the State of New 12 Mexico as well as the roughly 25,000 resident and 13 nonresident hunters who choose to contract with an 14 outfitter in New Mexico. 15 Our industry spends literally thousands of 16 hours in the back country each year and understands the 17 importance of a healthy predator-prey dynamic in the 18 wild. We also understand that in a world of human 19 authority, that dynamic needs to be managed in order to 20 maintain balance. 21 Our main concern with the changes being 22 proposed to the Endangered Species Act and the Mexican 23 wolf recovery is that this situation will turn into 24 another gray wolf debacle. The gray wolf recovery met 25 and exceeded sustainable predator numbers in 2002.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 I'll just list the names of some of them. I don't know 2 if the rules allow that. I don't know. Do they? Okay. 3 Ms. Rudner, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Montgomery, and 4 Ms. Mossotti, Ms. Minch and Mr. Robinson. Thank you. 5 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you. Next speaker. 6 MR. STAPLETON: Thank you very much. My name 7 is George Stapleton. I came here to speak a little bit 8 about Mexican gray wolves, and after listening, I'd like 9 to make a suggestion. 10 I think that the residents of Catron County 11 should come before the elected officials when it comes 12 to listening to what the people have to say. Although 13 elected officials do represent those people, I think 14 there are a lot of people who would like the opportunity 15 to speak. 16 I am a pro-wolf supporter. I am confused by 17 all of this. It doesn't make sense. Everyone here 18 knows all the arguments. What I don't understand is why 19 polarization doesn't allow for a moderate look at what's 20 going on. I mean, I kind of can't help but feel -- I 21 stood in line with a couple of guys on the opposite side 22 of this whole issue of what I'm on. We actually had a 23 conversation, a good one. 24 My question is, what is the polarization that 25 is creating this? Is it the government? Is it the</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 individuals? Is it the groups? I don't know. It 2 doesn't make sense to me. What does make sense is that 3 allow the people to talk about what needs to be done. 4 As far as I can tell, there are two sides to this 5 argument, and no one really has a good answer. 6 The government has done their best to try to 7 express what we the people want to have. But in doing 8 that, we've forgotten the people that live in that 9 county. What I can tell you that is one of those 10 Mexican gray wolves was killed less than 15 miles from 11 where I live. And I'm nowhere near Catron County. 12 So what we need to do is get some boots on the 13 ground, as it were. I'm here to volunteer myself. I 14 have been living out in the middle of nowhere for a very 15 long time, taking care of some animals. What I can tell 16 you is there are people that will devote their time, 17 energy, resources and life to help you with this 18 problem. If you don't ask, we can't help. Don't try to 19 do this yourself. 20 Ask the members of the county, ask the members 21 of the public. But don't ever forget that we are New 22 Mexico, and you're the federal government. You want us 23 to work with you, you need to work with us. Thank you. 24 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Stapleton. Next 25 speaker, please.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 the people on the ground. 2 With all due respect to the people who work for 3 the Fish &amp; Wildlife Service and the Forest Service on 4 the ground, there is no trust. We've been told too many 5 times things that didn't come true. And "We're working 6 on it" is simply not an answer anymore. 7 We've heard a lot tonight about the wild. The 8 wild is not wild. It's where our families live. It's 9 where we make a living. It's where we live every day. 10 The ecosystem is not what it was 50 years ago. We 11 weren't here when the decision was made to extirpate the 12 wolves. But trying to force them back in is not working 13 for anybody, least of all them. 14 We were really proud in 1998 when we stopped 15 wolves from being released directly into New Mexico. We 16 soon learned that Fish &amp; Wildlife Service had a way 17 around that, and within months, they were releasing 18 wolves that were nuisance wolves. 19 With that in mind and in hindsight, perhaps 20 the part of the Mexican wolf rule to release directly in 21 New Mexico makes more sense. At least we don't start 22 out with someone else's problem. 23 The breadth of what you're talking about doing 24 for wolf recovery is impossible. If you talk to the New 25 Mexico Game and Fish, there are not predator populations</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 MR. DIAMOND: Good evening. My name is John 2 Diamond, J-O-H-N, D-I-A-M-O-N-D. As a hunter, I could 3 address the devastating impacts the Mexican gray wolf 4 has had on the wildlife population. As a rancher, I 5 could address the devastating impacts the Mexican gray 6 wolf has had on livestock profitability. 7 But my greatest concern is the public safety of 8 my four- and five-year old daughters who have come 9 within yards of too many wolves too many times. Before 10 changing the rule, I ask the Fish &amp; Wildlife Service to 11 enforce public safety by ending this nonessential 12 experiment. Thank you. 13 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Diamond. 14 MS. COWAN: My name is Caren, C-A-R-E-N, 15 C-O-W-A-N. I'm speaking tonight on behalf of the New 16 Mexico Wolf Growers Association. The association, we 17 support the delisting of the northern 48, but we'd like 18 to see the Mexican wolf included in that population. 19 This experiment has gone on for way too long. It has 20 been a failure, and most of all a failure for the 21 wolves. 22 If I treated my dog the way these wolves are 23 treated and turned loose without feed, I would be liable 24 under New Mexico law for animal cruelty. It's time to 25 take a step back and take a look and try to work with</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 to support wolves outside of the Gila National Forest. 2 That's clear and simple. 3 And so, the more wolves that you turn out, the 4 more you're going to subject them to the harm that 5 they're now facing. Thank you. 6 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Cowan. I 7 appreciate that. Next speaker, please. 8 MR. BIXBY: My name is Kevin Bixby. I'm the 9 executive director of the Southwest Environmental Center 10 in Las Cruces. K-E-V-I-N, B-I-X-B-Y. Approximately 11 2,000 members, most of them who live in southern New 12 Mexico, support the proposed direct change to allow 13 releases anywhere in the expanded Blue Range Wolf 14 Recovery Area. 15 We urge you to drop the rest of the proposal 16 and finish the recovery plan. Doing it this way, as you 17 have proposed, is putting the cart before the horse. We 18 need to have numerical goals based on the best available 19 science, as many others have said, even some of those 20 tonight who are in opposition to wolves anywhere. 21 If you go forward, we oppose the nonessential, 22 the continuation of the nonessential designation. To 23 call the only wild population of the Mexican wolves in 24 the world nonessential to the continued survival of 25 species in the wild defies logic and it defies science.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 We urge you to either expand the boundaries of 2 the Mexican wolf experimental population area all the 3 way down to Mexico and up to I-70, or eliminate the idea 4 of capturing and retrieving wolves that leave the 5 experimental population area. 6 As others have mentioned, the best available 7 science, the scientists on the Fish &amp; Wildlife Service's 8 own recovery team have recommended a metapopulation of 9 750 wolves distributed over three core areas, two of 10 which are not within the New Mexico experimental 11 population area. 12 Finally, we urge you to keep that little sliver 13 of Texas in the experimental population area. Not only 14 would that allow for the re-establishment of wolves in 15 Guadalupe National Park, but it would make our members 16 in Texas thrilled to have Texas as one of the states 17 that hosts Mexican wolves. Thank you. 18 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Bixby. Next, 19 please. 20 MR. WILSON: Good evening. My name is Rex 21 Wilson, W-I-L-S-O-N. I am an ecosystem manager in 22 Lincoln County, New Mexico. I'm also the president of 23 the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association and our 24 membership is made up of ecosystem managers in New 25 Mexico, all 33 counties as well as 19 other states.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Wilson. Thank you 2 for your comments. I want to call a few more people up. 3 Thank you. Go ahead, sir. 4 MR. JONES: My name is Donald Jones, J-O-N-E-S. 5 I've heard a lot of discussion about science-based 6 decision-making, and I find that curious, because the 7 Department Manual 305, Chapter 3, Integrity of 8 Scientific and Scholarly Activities, makes it a 9 requirement that the US Fish &amp; Wildlife, and all 10 departments of the Department of the Interior follow the 11 best available science. 12 Now, there is another qualification in Section 13 3.1.A. It says other factors that inform decision- 14 making may include economic, budget, institutional, 15 social, cultural, legal and environmental 16 considerations. I hope the statement means that these 17 factors may require consideration in the best manner of 18 executing the best science available, because if it 19 means that science can be ignored or set aside for 20 commercial or other special interests, then science is 21 not the primary driver in management of American 22 ecosystems and 305 DM3 is a hollow document with no 23 practical effect. 24 You know as well as I that ignoring science has 25 negative consequences. Therefore, I request that the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 The New Mexico Cattle Growers Association 2 supports the delisting of all wolves. We all know that 3 there is ample scientific evidence for delisting of the 4 northern and eastern wolves. When it comes to the 5 so-called Mexican wolves, they are released in the wild 6 of Arizona and New Mexico as an experimental 7 nonessential population. 8 After 15 years, it is clear -- let me repeat -- 9 it is clear that the experiment has failed. These 10 animals have not had the genetic capacity to reproduce 11 in numbers that even come close to the goals of the 12 program. 13 The US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service has been unable 14 to even develop a modern recovery plan after numerous 15 attempts. The current recovery team hasn't even met in 16 well over a year. If the Mexican wolf were to remain 17 listed, the regulatory changes that are proposed now are 18 at best premature without a recovery plan. 19 The wolves have been unable to take hold in the 20 highest prey-based densities of New Mexico. The 21 contemplated expanded area takes a failed program into 22 territory where it is again doomed to fail. There is 23 not enough wildlife in New Mexico to allow for the 24 growth of the wolves. These animals will be forced to 25 prey on our pets and our livestock, perhaps worse.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 United States return to science-based policies starting 2 by reinstating all gray wolves in the United States' 3 endangered species list including Wyoming, Colorado, 4 Idaho and Montana. Institute the original plan to 5 release the lobo <i>Canis lupus baileyi</i> in the Grand Canyon 6 in southern Colorado. 7 Permit lobos to travel outside of their release 8 sites to the other three sites including (inaudible), 9 and change the status of the lobo to essential rather 10 than nonessential status. I submitted about 2- or 3,000 11 words of written, so I will finish now. Thank you very 12 much. 13 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you Mr. Jones. Next 14 speaker, please. 15 MS. GEORGE: Thank you. My name is Roxane, 16 R-O-X-A-N-E, George, G-E-O-R-G-E. Getting critically 17 endangered Mexican gray wolves Endangered Species Act 18 protection in their own right is long overdue and I 19 strongly support that proposal. But not in the context 20 of stripping protections for gray wolves. 21 I strongly support science-based changes to the 22 Mexican wolf rule that will further the lobos recovery, 23 but as others have said, very little in that rule will 24 actually do that. 25 We, in our public lands, stand to benefit</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 tremendously from restoring wolves to their essential 2 natural role, and I support expanding the area where 3 wolves can roam and allowing initial releases throughout 4 the Blue Range. But the rest of the proposal should be 5 discarded as inconsistent with recovery. 6 The lobo is essential on many levels. It will 7 be a great tragedy if these important native animals go 8 extinct in the wild a second time because some are 9 unwilling to share public lands with native wildlife and 10 those responsible for their recovery play politics with 11 their future. Thank you. 12 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. George. Next 13 speaker, please. 14 MS. RODOLPHI: Good evening. My name is 15 Isabelle R-O-D-O-L-P-H-I. I'm a citizen of the United 16 States of America, and I'm here to speak for future 17 generations. Thank you, Ms. Mossotti. And I love 18 nature, and I love the wild, so that I support the 19 preservation of the wild, and when we take over so much 20 land, as our population expands. 21 And I support the full recovery of the Mexican 22 wolf and the gray wolf. It is the most endangered 23 mammal in North America. I oppose delisting because 24 delisting of the gray wolf would be detrimental for the 25 survival of this animal and species, as it is still</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 -- well, the group formerly known as the Mexican 2 Livestock Interdiction, now called the Co-existence 3 Council, which was renamed by members of the council. 4 We work together to find solutions for 5 wolf-livestock conflicts. There are numerous concerns I 6 have with the proposed rule, but you can see our summary 7 of those concerns in both our comments on the draft of 8 our impact statement and the proposed rule. 9 I want to focus on just one component which I 10 think is a fatal flaw, and I'll try to explain my 11 rationale. In our written comments, please consider 12 both the legal and scientific reasons why experimental 13 essential is the appropriate classification for wolves 14 at this point in time. But on a more practical matter, 15 I think the essential designation could be extremely 16 valuable in fostering greater cooperation and 17 coordination between the agencies. 18 In support, remember that recovery takes place 19 in the wild, not in captivity. Essential designation is 20 not only important to further the conservation of 21 Mexican gray wolves in the wild, but it can also 22 increase the much needed communication and coordination 23 between agencies which share the responsibility of the 24 recovery of Mexican gray wolves. 25 Many of the agencies in the region, including</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 struggling to recover itself in nature. 2 Yellowstone National Park has shown us how 3 essentially important the wolf is to nature, and to the 4 health of the landscape, and the natural regulation of 5 wildlife populations, the health of the forest and the 6 streams and the presence of a variety of other species 7 that would otherwise not be there, like the beaver and 8 birds and many other species that the wolf brings back 9 to nature. 10 And delisting would be -- would open the door 11 to irresponsible action like trophy hunters that just 12 kill out of fun. And I really believe that this species 13 has no chance to survive if we don't protect it. 14 MR. BUCKLEY: Please speak into the mic. 15 MS. RUDOLPHI: Yes. And the gray wolf must be 16 protected and for the wealth -- protect the wealth of 17 our nature. And we're part of nature, and nature never 18 belonged to us alone in the first place. 19 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you very much. 20 MS. RUDOLPHI: Be nice to share our resources. 21 MR. BUCKLEY: Ms. Rudolphi, thank you very 22 much. Next speaker. 23 MR. MILLER: I'm Craig Miller, C-R-A-I-G, 24 M-I-L-L-E-R. I'm the Southwest representative for 25 Defenders of Wildlife. I am also on a group called the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 most of the forest organizations, are included in the 2 proposed rule are completely oblivious to the needs of 3 the Mexican wolf conservation. Because they did not 4 have a recovery plan to refer to, all of the regional 5 forests with a nexus to wolf recovery are nearing 6 completion of their forest management plans, which will 7 lock them into a 20-year paradigm without the benefits 8 of having a recovery plan to guide them. 9 Without such provisions, they'll be less likely 10 to exercise the flexibility needed to prevent conflicts 11 between local livestock and other land uses. 12 Consultations that would follow from an essential 13 designation would benefit ranchers because it would help 14 implement quick and creative solutions such as 15 community -- 16 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Miller. 17 Appreciate your comment. 18 Next, please. 19 MS. SWEATT: Yes, hi, my name is Deborah, 20 D-E-B-O-R-A-H, Sweatt, S-W-E-A-T-T. I don't mind if you 21 call me sweet, but my name is really Sweatt. 22 I strongly believe in the preservation of the 23 wolf. Many hunters believe that listing or relisting of 24 the wolf will seriously reduce or eliminate elk as a 25 viable game species. Wolves, elk and native man</p>

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<p>1 co-existed in North America for many thousands of years. 2 The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in 2010 stated "Prior 3 to the European colonization of North America, there 4 were an estimated 10 million elk on the continent. The 5 arrival of immigrants began to radically change this 6 balance with eradication of both elk and wolves in 7 inhabited areas." 8 William Clark of Lewis and Clark, wrote, quote, 9 "At one point along the Yellowstone River existed an 10 incredible abundance of elk, bison and wolves, in such 11 numbers that he figured no one would ever believe him." 12 These statements evidenced that left alone, elk 13 and wolves will reach and retain large balanced 14 population levels. Unfortunately, we live in a changed 15 world that is out of natural balance. The natural world 16 is so interconnected that we cannot totally understand 17 the long-term implications of species eradication. 18 I can think of many instances when man has 19 tried to outsmart nature, only to find out after the 20 fact that even small changes can be devastating to a 21 natural world. 22 We need to have more scientific data concerning 23 exactly what numbers of individuals represent balanced 24 relationships. We have made major advances with 25 scientific inquiries like the Yellowstone Wolf Project,</p>	<p>1 Two of the items on which the Service is 2 currently requesting comments would not only take us 3 backwards, but would make recovery even less likely. 4 Item 19 would allow taking Mexican wolves for killing, 5 wounding or biting pets on private or tribal land. This 6 prohibition is frankly an open invitation to baiting 7 wolves with bound puppies. 8 Item 20 would provide for the issuance of 9 permits to allow livestock owners or other agents to 10 kill or injure any Mexican wolf that is present on 11 private or tribal land under specified conditions. 12 The potential for abuse of this provision 13 staggers the imagination. The Service should reject 14 these harmful provisions, instead of those revisions to 15 the rule allowing for a greatly expanded area in which 16 initial releases may occur and the removal of all 17 artificial boundaries of wolf movements should be 18 expedited. 19 Other changes should be put on hold until the 20 new recovery plan informed by current science is 21 completed. Thank you. 22 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Ossorio. 23 MS. LOWE: My name is Rosemary Lowe, 24 R-O-S-E-M-A-R-Y, L-O-W-E. I think it's evident tonight 25 to most of us who care about what is happening to the</p>
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<p>1 but delisting the wolf and allowing hunting is 2 threatening any further understanding of predator-prey 3 relationships and hunting collared wolves or wolves 4 involved in scientific study should be immediately 5 stopped. 6 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Sweatt. 7 Appreciate that. 8 Next speaker, please. 9 MS. OSSORIO: Good evening, Director Frazer and 10 the rest of the panel. My name is Jean Ossorio. 11 J-E-A-N, O-S-S-O-R-I-O. I have spent 330 nights camping 12 in a tent in occupied Mexican gray wolf home ranges. 13 I've seen a total of 43 lobos in the wild. Every 14 encounter with this rarest of all wolves is frankly 15 electrifying. Imagine four Francisco pups playing in 16 the snow while their parents walk sedately across Double 17 Cienega in 2000. 18 An uncollared saddle pack wolf pausing for a 19 drink from university tank in 2006. Four Paradise 20 wolves crossing Forest Road 117 southeast of Greens Peak 21 in 2007. 22 Too many of these wolves and their offspring 23 have been removed to captivity, their wild experience 24 and precious genetic inheritance squandered under 25 Draconian removal policies of the past.</p>	<p>1 wild that the line has been drawn. And the line is 2 you're either on the side of the natural world and what 3 is happening to it, or you're not. 4 And I think that the Fish &amp; Wildlife need to 5 take control of this. It is not going to be allowed to 6 be left up to the states. We see what's happening in 7 Washington State. The wolves are being decimated up 8 there. And the Mexican wolf, hey, many of us have been 9 around to know for a couple of decades that this is not 10 working. 11 The reason the gray wolf in Yellowstone is 12 working is because of something that is missing at 13 Yellowstone. And that is the destructive livestock 14 industry. That is why those wolves are doing so well. 15 Now, down in the Apache National Forest, what 16 do we have down there? We have cattle everywhere, and 17 sheep. The livestock industry, which has been 18 subsidized for decades upon decades have gotten a free 19 ride, and then they have wildlife services of which 20 wildlife services is a part of your program. That is 21 the most infamous and barbaric of agencies, a federal 22 agency which largely works for the livestock industry. 23 So in order for this to work, I think that the 24 greatest experiment that has taken place since the 25 1800s, since the late 1800s, on our public lands needs</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 to go. And that is the livestock industry. We need, if 2 we want to be successful with the wolves and other 3 wildlife, we need to get livestock off of public lands. 4 Let them graze on their private lands. The Soil 5 Conservation Service I'm very disappointed with. 6 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Lowe. Appreciate 7 that. Next speaker, please. 8 MS. SYNDER: Hello. My name is Patricia 9 Snyder, S-N-Y-D-E-R. I'm coming from Santa Teresa, New 10 Mexico this evening. And I would just like to say that 11 I think that the proposed rule changes are taking a 12 couple of steps forward and many steps back. 13 I absolutely support the direct releases of 14 Mexican wolves into the entirety of the Blue Range Wolf 15 Recovery Area. I think that's a step that's been needed 16 for a long time. Unfortunately, you -- I don't support, 17 I vehemently oppose any loosening of restrictions to 18 remove wolves from the wild. It's absolutely contrary 19 to the goal of re-establishing the species. We need 20 more wolves in the wild, not the ability to remove them 21 more often. 22 I would also like to say that I support the 23 allowing of changing the border to the US-Mexico border. 24 This is an important step. It can allow connectivity 25 between different populations. But I would urge the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 B-E-D-N-E-R. Earlier this year, an agent of USDA 2 Wildlife Services was caught in the act of killing a 3 Mexican wolf. The agent, described by his employer as a 4 wildlife specialist, claimed to have misidentified the 5 wolf, presumably confusing it with one of the coyotes 6 routinely slaughtered by this agency. 7 The proposed change to the Mexican wolf rule 8 would reward this behavior by adding language to clarify 9 that Wildlife Service's personnel will not be in 10 violation of the Endangered Species Act or this rule for 11 any taking of a Mexican wolf. This is exactly the 12 opposite direction in which the wolf program needs to be 13 going. 14 USDA Wildlife Services should be removed 15 entirely from the Mexican wolf program. Presentation at 16 the beginning mentioned the anti-predator campaign. 17 This was largely carried out by USDA Wildlife Services 18 and its predecessor agency, Predator and Rodent Control, 19 which was set up to kill wolves, coyotes and other 20 predators, along with prairie dogs and other such 21 dangerous creatures on behalf of the livestock industry. 22 USDA Wildlife Services needs to be removed from 23 this program if wolves are to succeed. Thank you. 24 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Bedner. The group 25 now is John Snyder, Laura Schneberger, Tallan Melton,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 Fish &amp; Wildlife Service to eliminate all boundaries to 2 the wolves' movement. 3 As many people have said here tonight, wolves 4 are not privy to political boundaries, they don't 5 understand maps, and they're going to go where the best 6 habitat for them is. And many of those areas would be 7 -- they would be unable to go to those areas if you 8 limit their boundaries. 9 I would just finally like to urge U.S. Fish &amp; 10 Wildlife Service to be implementing changes that reflect 11 the very best available science and not political 12 pressure. Thank you. 13 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Snyder. We're 14 going to have one more speaker. Then we're going to 15 take a five-minute break, and then we'll resume with the 16 folks that are waiting now in queue. 17 MS. HALL: Hello. MY name is Monique Hall, 18 H-A-L-L. I support the full recovery and protection of 19 the Mexican gray wolf. I oppose delisting of gray 20 wolves. Canis lupus baileyi is essential. Thank you. 21 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Hall. At this 22 time, we're going to take a five-minute break. Please 23 return at 12 after. 24 (Recess taken from 8:07 to 8:12 p.m.) 25 MR. BEDNER: My name is Mark Bedner,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 Brad Christmas, if you're in the room. Followed by 2 Ernest Torrez, Randell Major and Tink Jackson. 3 MR. SNYDER: Good evening. My name is John 4 Snyder, S-N-Y-D-E-R. I'm a high school student from El 5 Paso, Texas. I would just like to say that the current 6 plan that the Fish &amp; Wildlife Service has implemented 7 does not meet the current needs of the Mexican gray 8 wolves. 9 This plan that has been going on for 30 years 10 is not meeting the requirements that these wolves need. 11 They deserve to have the absolute best of available 12 science to meet the needs to increase their population, 13 because the 100 population standard that has not been 14 met needs to be met. I don't know how else to say that. 15 But that's all I have to say. 16 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Snyder. Next 17 speaker, please. 18 MS. SCHNEBERGER: Good evening. My name is 19 Laura Schneberger, S-C-H-N-E-B-E-R-G-E-R. Thank you for 20 this opportunity. I want to say right now that I am one 21 of two families here tonight who are directly affected 22 stakeholders with the New Mexico Wolf Recovery Program. 23 We have a small ranch in the Gila. Our ranch 24 became into existence in 1888, way before any of these 25 federal agencies existed. Our little ranch is what my</p>

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<p>1 family makes its livelihood off of. I want to say that 2 we also represent other stakeholders in the Gila who are 3 impacted by Mexican wolves. 4 Our association, our little livestock 5 association has dwindled by membership in no small part 6 due to the Mexican wolf expansion and the lack of 7 appropriate mitigation techniques by the Fish &amp; Wildlife 8 Service to massive depredation, massive weight loss and 9 other problems with our kids and our families. 10 We are disproportionately burdened by this 11 program. We support the delisting of the -- of all gray 12 wolves, including the Mexican gray wolves. We do not 13 believe that the limited gene pool of this wolf allows 14 for a recovery. A recovery, a scientific recovery is up 15 to 2,000 animals. They cannot breed that many animals 16 and have an expanded gene pool. You are going to have 17 to do genetic recovery using some other animal. What is 18 the limit on how far this goes? 19 I want to also say that the will of the 20 majority does not violate the rights of the minority in 21 this country. Our communities deserve equal protection 22 under the law. Our communities have low income, high 23 minority. We cannot compete with this kind of media and 24 -- we can't compete. We're here tonight trying to make 25 our living and come here. These people are being paid</p>	<p>1 releasing Mexican wolves will soon be increased, but you 2 also have to remember you can increase the zone, but if 3 you don't increase the number of releases, it's not 4 going to do any good. So I do think we should have more 5 releases in the future as well. 6 I'm personally tired of going to zoos, wolf 7 sanctuaries and the like and reading on the little 8 plaque that despite extensive recovery efforts, the 9 Mexican great wolf remains critically endangered. It's 10 getting kind of old, unfortunately. 11 I do think this proposed revision is a good 12 small first step towards full recovery of the Mexican 13 gray wolf, but there are several other sideway steps 14 that need to be eliminated, I think, such as keeping the 15 goal of a hundred gray wolves. 16 There are a lot of other changes that I think 17 would be good. I don't have time to dwell on them, but 18 my other pro wolfers have already given you a good 19 summary of how I feel. So thank you. 20 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Melton. 21 MR. MAJOR: Good evening. My name is Randell 22 Major, R-A-N-D-E-L-L, M-A-J-O-R. Thank you for the 23 opportunity to speak tonight. I am a rancher from 24 Socorro and Catron County. When the government 25 implemented this wolf program, I don't believe they knew</p>
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<p>1 to be here. 2 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you very much, 3 Ms. Schneberger. Appreciate your comments. 4 MR. MELTON: Hello, my name is Tallan Melton. 5 You pronounced it correctly. T-A-L-L-A-N, M-E-L-T-O-N. 6 I'm just a concerned citizen, no organization. I do 7 support the full recovery of the New Mexico gray wolf. 8 The Mexican gray wolf is currently listed as 9 experimental and nonessential, despite being limited to 10 just one single isolated population. 11 Now, I ask you this. If the Mexican wolf 12 subspecies is limited to only one population, how is 13 that one population considered nonessential? If they 14 disappear, then won't they be gone? I request that the 15 nonessential labeling of the Mexican gray wolf be 16 changed to essential for this reason. 17 Perhaps they were considered in the past 18 nonessential for the survival of the gray wolf species 19 as a whole, encompassing all the wolves in the United 20 States, but if they're soon to be labeled under the 21 Endangered Species Act separate from the gray wolf, then 22 I do think they should be considered essential. 23 In addition, every captive wolf is just as 24 essential to the whole population as the ones in the 25 wild. I am pleased that the expansion zone for</p>	<p>1 how it would hurt the local communities and citizens. 2 Besides the rancher, I also am a ranch broker. 3 I personally felt the negative impact on the economy 4 that the very presence of these wolves have created. 5 Many times when I was driving out there taking potential 6 buyers, ranch buyers and even residential buyers, once 7 they find out that the property that they are interested 8 in is in the wolf recovery area, the fear of putting -- 9 okay. 10 They were interested in the wolf recovery area 11 for fear of putting their livestock in potential danger 12 or being stuck with a property that they can't sell. 13 This is just another example of what the wolf recovery 14 has done by losing local dollars from county and gross 15 receipts taxes on property exchange. The old saying 16 holds true: "Give an inch and they'll take a mile." 17 The present wolf situation being highly 18 expensive is not enough. Now they want to expand the 19 wolf program, expanding the strain on its local 20 citizens. Please delist the wolf and do not expand. 21 Thank you. 22 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Major. 23 MR. TORREZ: My name is Ernest R. Torrez, 24 T-O-R-R-E-Z. I raise cattle and horses near La Jara, 25 New Mexico. I'm the commissioner for the La Jara</p>

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<p>1 Community Ditch Association. It's about water rights. 2 I'm a native New Mexican. I'm opposed to the existence 3 of any wolf in my state. My ancestors were combatants 4 in the Mexican-American war. The gringos beat us. We 5 lost. 6 We were allowed the choice. We could move back 7 across the new southern borders, go back to Mexico, or 8 we can stay here and the government would recognize our 9 property rights. The treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo 10 allowed us property rights, inviolate. 11 We have property rights. We're solid on that. 12 My property rights, my family's property rights are 13 solid and secure. So you need to determine what's got 14 bigger medicine, your Endangered Species Act or my 15 treaty rights. You need us if you're going to expand 16 this wolf program. You need the beaners. You need us. 17 These wolves aren't going to make it out there, 18 because we're going to shoot them, I'm going to shoot 19 them if they are on my property. So help us help you. 20 Pay us for trespassing, pay us for loss of animals, 21 domestic, whatever. Bring money. Pay us. Okay? Thank 22 you. 23 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Torrez. 24 MS. NICHOLS: Good evening. My name is Karen 25 Nichols, K-A-R-E-N, N-I-C-H-O-L-S. I want to speak for</p>	<p>1 More foliage helps to cleanse water resources, 2 which benefits all. The people of the Southwest need 3 healthy land. We need to let the wolf do his job in the 4 ecosystem by bringing balance. 5 US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service's archaic plan 6 drafted in 1982 of needing only a hundred Mexican gray 7 wolves in the wild to call the species recovered is not 8 based on any sound science. Nor have they been unable 9 to achieve that in even 15 years with only 75 wolves are 10 in the wild today. 11 I agree with the portion of the plan that gives 12 the Mexican gray wolf full protection. However, nature 13 evolves, so the Service's plan must evolve. The health 14 of the Southwestern landscape depends on it. 15 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you. 16 MS. NICHOLS: Do not let the fierce green fire 17 go out. 18 Mr. BUCKLEY: Thank you. Next speaker. 19 MS. TOIVONEN: Hi. My name is Lauren 20 L-A-U-R-E-N, T-O-I-V-O-N-E-N, and I am from St. Louis, 21 Missouri. As a person whose background is in wildlife 22 biology and also as a volunteer coordinator of a canine 23 conservation organization, the future of the gray wolf 24 and the Mexican gray wolf is a part of my profession. 25 The gray wolf should not be delisted from the</p>
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<p>1 the wolf. The American Southwest is a uniquely 2 beautiful land with a rich and long history. Its people 3 are strong and resilient. Aldo Leopold chose to write 4 about this land more than 70 years ago. 5 He spoke of the vital relationship the mountain 6 has with the Mexican gray wolf. His own personal 7 perspective changed after he had a shot a wolf and 8 watched the fierce green fire die in her eyes. He then 9 wrote, "Since then, I have lived to see state after 10 state extirpate its wolves. I have watched the face of 11 many a newly wolf-less mountain, and seen the 12 south-facing slopes wrinkle with a maze of new deer 13 trails. I have seen every edible bush and seedling 14 browsed to the height of a saddle horn. 15 I now suspect that just as a deer herd lives in 16 mortal fear of its wolves, so does a mountain live in 17 mortal fear of its deer," unquote. 18 The mountain knows the value of the wolf in the 19 ecosystem. The deer and the elk populations are 20 directly competing with the rancher for resources to 21 feed its herds. Left unchallenged, wild ungulates can 22 decimate the foliage in one area before moving on. 23 Hunters can only take individual deer out of the herd. 24 The wolf will make the whole herd move around, thus 25 allowing better resources for the rancher.</p>	<p>1 Endangered Species Act and here's why. Since being 2 listed under the Endangered Species Act, the gray wolf 3 has rebounded to an estimated 5,400 individuals in the 4 lower 48 states. 5 They are just starting to recover, but the 6 population is not yet completely sustainable, nor do 7 these wolves occupy even close to a majority of the 8 historic range, including my state of Missouri, among 9 many others. 10 When federal protection is lost to the wolves, 11 their care falls into states' hands who has a history of 12 destructive management practices. Decades of recovery 13 efforts of the species are at very high risk of having 14 been in vain if management is given to the states. 15 Wolves are an integral part of the love of life. 16 The Yellowstone ecosystem is a perfect example 17 of what happens when a keystone species like the gray 18 wolf is returned to its native habitat. Once barren 19 land, the park now flourishes. Without wolves and other 20 keystone species, are land will end up like any other 21 land that's been stripped barren by the arrogance and 22 willful ignorance of its inhabitants. 23 As many of us already logically know, wolves 24 are not a menace to society. They do not cause a reason 25 to be terrified, and they occupied this land long before</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 we did. We need to live harmoniously with wildlife on 2 the land that we share, and we also have the 3 responsibility to protect and take care of those who 4 need our help, no matter what species they may be. 5 This is why it is imperative that the gray wolf 6 remain on the Endangered Species Act. Please base your 7 decision on sound science because myself and many 8 Missourians want to welcome the wolf back to their 9 habitat. Thank you. 10 MR. BUCKLEY: Next speaker, please. 11 MS. REISER: Good evening. My name is 12 Dr. Hildegard Reiser, R-E-I-S-E-R. Many people have 13 spoken eloquently about many points that I would 14 probably cover, and I'll just concentrate on a few 15 points. 16 I've been a wildlife professional for over 30 17 years. I'm at a point in my profession where I am 18 profoundly ashamed of my profession. We are going back 19 to the days of the 1940s and 1950s in how we manage 20 wildlife. I am utterly and completely, scientifically, 21 spiritually, humanly opposed to the delisting of any 22 gray wolves in the lower 48 states. 23 You claim, and people have talked about state 24 agencies being able to manage wolves. They're not. 25 They're allowing slaughter of wolves to occur to meet</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 that focuses on free markets, private property rights, 2 and on behalf of the taxpayer. 3 We are opposed to expansion of the Mexican gray 4 wolf program and support delisting of all gray wolves. 5 Gray wolves are not in danger of extinction, they never 6 have been. There are tens of thousands of gray wolves 7 all across Canada, Alaska and Asia, so there's no danger 8 of extinction. 9 This idea that we have to take certain 10 ecosystems back to a bygone era is just unrealistic. I 11 live in the state of California. We used to have a very 12 thriving grizzly bear population in California, tens of 13 thousands, including the San Gabriel Mountains of Los 14 Angeles. We have a grizzly bear on our state flag; we 15 have a grizzly bear on our state seal. There are no 16 grizzly bears in California. 17 There's a reason for that. Some predators 18 simply don't mix well with populated areas. And wolves 19 are actually a much more difficult species to manage as 20 a predator than grizzly bears and mountain lions. So 21 there's a reason why wolves were removed from the lower 22 48 states, which is a mostly settled area now, is 23 because they're a very difficult species to manage. 24 As a predator, they're very hard on livestock, 25 and they're very hard on wildlife populations. These</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 political objectives. The State of Wisconsin proposed 2 to be able to put female dogs that are in heat, staked 3 out to draw in wolves to just shoot them. That's not 4 wildlife management. 5 I was taught wildlife management at the 6 University of Wisconsin at Madison, where a founder of 7 wildlife ecology, Aldo Leopold, started the program of 8 field and wildlife ecology. So it's unfathomable to be 9 taught that that type of activity is okay. To allow 10 aerial shooting, reallowing poisonings, trappings, 11 snaring, going nearly year-round; that is not wildlife 12 management. 13 Please use scientific, sound scientific 14 premises in your decision-making. I understand the 15 pressures that wildlife agencies people are under, and 16 especially U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service. I have many, 17 many friends that work for your agency. But if you fall 18 back and you rely on science, let the politician, let 19 the legislators dictate poor policy. You, as 20 individuals of a great agency, should use science. 21 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you very much for your 22 comments, Dr. Reiser. Next speaker, please. 23 MR. SPADY: My name is David Spady, S-P-A-D-Y. 24 I'm the state director for Americans for Prosperity from 25 California. We're a national grassroots organization</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 decisions should be made by local communities and 2 states, not the federal government. So we support the 3 program that you are proposing to delist the wolves, and 4 thank you very much for your time. 5 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Spady. Next 6 speaker. 7 MR. HENDERSON: Thank you for the opportunity 8 to speak my name is Colin Henderson, C-O-L-I-N, 9 H-E-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. My wife and I have a 300-acre sheep 10 ranch just north of the New Mexico border in La Jara, 11 Colorado. We've been raising Navajo sheep for the last 12 18 years. We had two ewes wounded and one sheep killed 13 last week, either by dogs or coyotes, so we understand 14 the difficulty that ranchers have in having predators. 15 But we have to live with them. 16 But we both support the expansion of the 17 Mexican wolf into a greater area for its range, because 18 we believe that that's necessary for genetics and good 19 science seems to point to that. We think that the 20 artificial barrier of I-40 is probably not, in the long 21 run, going to be an effective way to manage the wolf, 22 and allowing the wolf to go up to the areas of the 23 southern Colorado and San Juan wilderness, which is 24 right near where we live in the San Luis Valley, and 25 also in the Grand Canyon area, ultimately would probably</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 be necessary for a healthy wolf population. 2 We ask that you consider that in your 3 deliberations and we thank you for your time. 4 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you Mr. Henderson. Next 5 speaker, please. 6 MS. GODFREY: Good evening. My name is 7 Elizabeth Godfrey, G-O-D-F-R-E-Y. I'd like to go back 8 to the mission of the Fish &amp; Wildlife Service, which is 9 and I quote "to work with others to conserve, protect 10 and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats 11 for the continuing benefit of the American people." 12 One of the objectives of the Fish &amp; Wildlife 13 Service is to develop and apply an environmental 14 stewardship ethic for our society based on ecological 15 principles, scientific knowledge of Fish &amp; Wildlife, and 16 a sense of moral responsibility. 17 Keeping wolves on the Endangered Species List 18 and by adding, expanding the area for the Mexican gray 19 wolves. By using those ecological principles and 20 scientific knowledge conserves and restores wildlife 21 habitat, which is one of the functions of the Fish &amp; 22 Wildlife Service, while delisting will lead to the total 23 degradation of those habitats to the detriment of all 24 other species living in there from the elk and the deer 25 to the smallest fish in the streams, and will create a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 Wildlife Service had is just being very clear with a 2 variety of constituents involving as many people as 3 possible. 4 And I think that all this talk about going 5 north at interstate boundaries, we just need to be very 6 clear about ecology. One thing is that a lot of large 7 carnivores don't like to cross interstates or populated 8 areas. The grizzly bears in Yellowstone are the most 9 inbred grizzly bears in North America and have serious 10 genetic issues with a population of about 600. All the 11 different talk, 750, a thousand, whatever is going do 12 with wolves, seriously needs to consider wolf dynamics 13 and also look south. 14 I noticed one of the places that they're 15 considering releasing in Mexico is across from Big Ben. 16 I've been there. There's no fence yet. And it's very 17 easy to cross the river. And that's very unpopulated 18 territory. 19 And that may be an area that's hard to connect 20 with these northern populations. But I think it's very 21 important to not just look politically where to release, 22 but ecologically. I think the plan has serious flaws in 23 that regard. 24 So, I urge you to keep thinking creatively. 25 And it's also very seriously necessary to release wolves</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>1 de facto open season on the gray wolf. 2 The gray wolf -- sorry. The gray wolf 3 population is stable right at the moment, but any 4 delisting will continue the downward slope which you 5 showed on one of your slides, as beginning because the 6 states cannot and will not regulate the wolves for the 7 maximum benefit of the wolves and the people. Thank you 8 very much. 9 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Godfrey. Next 10 speaker, please. 11 MR. CAVEN: Hello. MY name is Andrew Caven, 12 C-A-V-E-N. I've been living in New Mexico since 2010. 13 I'm just here as a concerned citizen, but I am a natural 14 research scientist. I have a master's in wildlife 15 ecology, moved down here for work in that field, but I'm 16 someone who can kind of understand a variety of 17 perspectives. 18 I grew up in northern Minnesota where there are 19 also wolves. Between Minnesota and South Dakota, my 20 uncle, Caven Lure, for some of the hunters and fishermen 21 out here, is famous for making good lure for hunting in 22 northern Minnesota, and trapping. 23 My point is that -- every ones made great 24 points. One thing I want to say is that it's very 25 important to be clear. I think one issue U.S. Fish &amp;</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 on the Mexican side, but also involve as many people as 2 people. Be very frank with people about the goals the 3 agency and so forth. Thank you have much for your time. 4 MR. BUCKLEY: Next speaker, please. 5 MS. NONIES: Hello, sirs, ma'am: My name is 6 Leilani Nonies, N-O-N-I-E-S. I am a grad student with 7 the University of New Mexico, and I'm also the 8 co-founder of the Albuquerque Environmental Action 9 Coalition. It's a group that is not funded and it is 10 nonprofit. So I am here of my own accord. 11 I'd like to start off by staying in 1993, I 12 moved here to New Mexico, and I was already a little 13 environmentalist child. And I did not see the lobo at 14 the Rio Grande zoo for years. I looked for him years 15 and years and years and seeing that sign that said they 16 were endangered. 17 The first time I saw a lobo was at a wolf 18 sanctuary in Colorado, of all places that's not even 19 supposed to supposedly have gray wolves. I support the 20 expansion of the suggestion that you guys have there. I 21 think it is necessary. 22 Wolves don't have -- they have the boundaries 23 that they know. They don't understand our boundaries. 24 And to have this little area, and to take them out of 25 there and put them back in captivity because they wander</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p> <p>1 out of those locations is just asinine. 2 Also, I mean this state just makes so much 3 money off of an icon, the lobos, for example, the 4 university. And yet, there seem to be so many people 5 that hate the lobos. And it's just ridiculous, we have 6 this icon that everyone's so proud to be part of, and 7 then when they see it, which is, you know, very little 8 chance in the wild, all of that is disregarded. And I 9 just don't -- with how much pride they put into it, I 10 don't think we need to take that icon out of our 11 environment. 12 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Nonies, very much. 13 Next speaker, please. 14 MS. BAUMGARTEL: Good evening. My name is 15 Carol, B-A-U-M-G-A-R-T-E-L. Good evening. Thanks for 16 having us here. And the proposed rule change to delist 17 the gray wolf would be a disaster, not just for the gray 18 wolf, but for the environment and the habitat that it 19 lives in. We all know that what Senator Ortiz y Pino so 20 eloquently said is true. We need to follow the science. 21 The gray wolf has proven in Yellowstone specifically 22 that by taking it out, it destroys the habitat. 23 Especially in New Mexico, with the Aspen. It's needed 24 to incorporate all of the environment that it 25 participates in in order for not only the wolf to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p> <p>1 Wolf-human interactions were 178. 126 of those were on 2 private property; 52 on nonprivate property. 3 So, out of the 374 wolf-related incidences, you 4 had 214 that were on private property, 160 that were 5 not. What this shows is the problem with habituation. 6 The US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service, they feed supplemental 7 feed. They feed horse meat. I think that contributes 8 to food conditioning, which contributes to habituation, 9 where wolves seek out humans in human use areas. Thank 10 you very much. 11 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Carey. Next 12 speaker, please. 13 MR. FOX: My name is Charles Fox, F-O-X, and I 14 do not support the delisting of the gray wolf. It's too 15 early to delist wolves as an endangered species because 16 they're only present in a small fraction of the former 17 range, and they are still subject to massive 18 persecution. Thousand of wolves have been killed in 19 recent years in some states. The states have not been 20 reliable partners in maintaining those recovered 21 populations. 22 I think we've heard some sentiments here 23 tonight that it shows that the threat of hate and 24 violence still runs too strong to delist these animals. 25 I do support the increasing of range for the Mexican</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p> <p>1 survive, but for elk and deer and fish. 2 I'm a fly fisher woman, and I really see the 3 decimation to our habitats for trout. I'd really like 4 you to not delist the gray wolf. Thank you. 5 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you Ms. Baumgartel. Next 6 speaker, please. 7 MR. CAREY: My name is Jess Carey, C-A-R-E-Y. 8 I'm the Catron County wildlife investigator. I want to 9 thank you, Mr. Frazer, and panel for having an 10 opportunity to speak here. First of all, I think that 11 the new plans for expansion into the Mexican wolf 12 experimental population area doesn't afford the people 13 that live up there around south I-40 the opportunity to 14 know what's really coming to their community. 15 Especially the minority rural areas. 16 Since April of 2006, I've been investigating 17 wolf livestock-wolf human interactions. Of 317 18 complaints received, 196 of those were wolf related. Of 19 the 121 nonwolf related, 75 of those were unknown. 20 Consisted of livestock not being found in time, or 21 necropsy, advanced decomposition, etc. 22 Of the 46 remaining, death injuries were 23 attributed to lightning, motor vehicle, natural, bear 24 lion, coyotes and dogs. 88 of those incidents were on 25 private property. 108 were on nonprivate property.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p> <p>1 gray wolf. But the structural conflicts with cattle 2 raising -- cattle grazing have to be resolved. Grazing 3 areas within critical recovery areas should be 4 permanently retired from livestock use to mitigate 5 conflicts. 6 Releasing wolves into the prime habitat at the 7 Gila National Forest appears to be a critical step in 8 recovery. When conflicts do occur, nonlethal methods 9 should be the primary approach to resolution. The 10 Mexican wolf gene pool is precariously limited and 11 cannot be further compromised without threatening the 12 survival of the species. 13 Arbitrary boundaries for wolf recovery are 14 strongly discouraged by the science. I agree with some 15 of the sentiments that have been expressed here that 16 biological reality has to be the driving force in wolf 17 recovery. 18 Wolves must be present in ecologically 19 significant numbers in order to heal the land. With 20 only 75 individuals and three breeding pairs, the 21 Mexican wolf has yet to establish itself in numbers 22 sufficient to benefit ecosystems. 23 The recovery of the Mexican gray wolf and 24 southwestern ecosystems is a totally worthwhile goal. 25 Wolves belong in the Southwest if we have the will to do</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 it. Thank you. 2 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Fox. Next 3 speaker, please. 4 MS. RANDALL: Hello. My name is Kitty Randall. 5 K-I-T-T-Y, R-A-N-D-A-L-L, here speaking mostly for 6 myself. Although I would like to believe that perhaps I 7 also speak for Gaia, which for those who don't know is 8 the planet we live on. 9 Wolves and other large predators are a key part 10 of a healthy ecosystem. And human survival depends on a 11 healthy ecosystem. Neither wolves, nor humans, nor any 12 other animal exists in a vacuum. All are 13 interdependent. 14 The fact is, that we don't know how fragile the 15 web of life and the planetary ecosystem is. We just 16 don't know. We don't know how much human damage it can 17 take, how many species we can drive to extinction before 18 everything collapses and we have nothing to eat or 19 breathe or drink. 20 I do not support the delisting of northern gray 21 wolves. We've already seen in some states what 22 happens. Immediately, they become fair game for all 23 hunters, and state agencies have not prevented this. We 24 should redouble our efforts to expand the habitat and 25 population of the Mexican gray wolf. They should be</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1 desperately searching for a male, and was shot before 2 she found one. A lot of wolves are shot here. Nobody's 3 ever been prosecuted, nobody has ever gone to jail for 4 any of them. Over 30 of them have been shot. 5 So, direct releases, absolutely. Part of the 6 reason for that is that we're getting these 7 trans-locations, some of them hard releases. And hard 8 releases are incredibly hard on the animal. You want to 9 talk hard, that's hard. 10 They usually disrupt the entire pack if the 11 pack is dropped hard. And they certainly are not 12 positive for the individual wolves dropped hard. 13 Boundaries; get rid of the boundaries. Let 14 them go. Let them go all the way to Mexico. We have 15 wolves in Mexico now. The genetic viability would only 16 improve with both direct releases and them having 17 boundaries all the way to Mexico. Expand boundaries. 18 Make them fully endangered. 400 wolves on the 19 planet. That's pretty essential. I think that's very 20 essential. They should be fully endangered, fully 21 protected, no take whatsoever. As I said, plenty of 22 them already been shot illegally. Takes by our own 23 government. Absolutely absurd. Please protect them as 24 much as you can. Thank you. 25 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Kaminski.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 listed as essential, given a wider range, and the target 2 numbers should be raised well above 100. 3 We have heard the folks who are concerned about 4 loss of livestock. The average nationwide is about one 5 out of 500. We've heard people concerned about property 6 rights and local control and state rights, and even 7 constitutional issues. And these are all important. 8 But do you know what? Preserving a healthy 9 environment trumps all of that, because future 10 generations depend on our environment for survival. I 11 would rather give my grandchildren an intact and healthy 12 planet than some property with nothing left alive on it. 13 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Randall, very 14 much. 15 MS. KAMINSKI: Nancy Kaminski, K-A-M-I-N-S-K-I. 16 I'm here tonight representing the Southwestern Mexico 17 Audubon Society, New Mexico's oldest chapter of the 18 Audubon Society. And I would just to like to state that 19 I believe direct releases into New Mexico is a real 20 positive advantage for the wolves. It opens up the best 21 of the habitat. 22 I live just south of the Aldo Leopold 23 Wilderness and wolves dispersing there or being 24 translocated there have not survived because they're 25 just weren't enough wolves. The last wolf was a female,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 MS. OLAJOS: My name is Marcy, M-A-R-C-Y, 2 Olajos, O-L-A-J-O-S. I represent the Center for 3 Biological Diversity and Great (inaudible) for 4 Wilderness. 5 Today we are hearing impassioned opinions 6 regarding the wolf introduction. I feel impassioned 7 about the subject and hope that the US Fish &amp; Wildlife 8 Service will make a decision to release the Mexican gray 9 wolf directly into New Mexico, helping to ensure a 10 healthier biodiversity into the American Southwest. 11 Right now, I just wanted to state some facts. 12 According to the USDA report of 2011, cattle and calf 13 losses from predators and nonpredator causes in the US 14 totaled 3.9 million head during 2010, excluding Alaska. 15 This represents 4.3 percent of the 93 million cattle and 16 calves in the US at the beginning of 2010. 17 Cattle and calf losses from animal predators 18 totaled nearly 220,000 head during 2010. This 19 represented 5.5 percent of the total deaths from all 20 causes. Coyotes and dogs caused the majority of cattle 21 and calf predator losses, about 53 percent and 9.9 22 percent respectively. Nationwide, the losses from 23 wolves is about 1 percent. 24 The wolf does not understand the boundary lines 25 that we set. If we are going to have a healthy</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 ecosystem, please do not implement the rule change which 2 would call for the capture of animals roving beyond a 3 boundary. Thank you. 4 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you. Next speaker, please. 5 MS. RAVENWOLF: Thank you for this opportunity. 6 I'm Jan Ravenwolf, R-A-V-E-N-W-O-L-F. If wolves could 7 read maps, they'd still go where they need to be. 350 8 captive wolves and wolf dogs over 35 years have taught 9 me that what humans think is best for them, they often 10 disagree with. 11 It takes a cognitive link past thinking what's 12 best for wolves in human terms to view the world as 13 wolves. Our Mexican wolves don't leave release areas to 14 be naughty. Their DNA says find a better place. 15 Repeatedly putting them back risks injury to the wolves 16 and disrupts these genetically unique more ancient 17 wolves. 18 Less than 1 percent of the original gray wolves 19 in the lower 48 states now remain. Why the rush to take 20 them off the Endangered Species List and immediately 21 hunt them, done by stealth in Montana and Idaho, in 2011 22 and Wyoming in 2012? 23 Your delisting proposal says wolf populations 24 are remarkably resilient as long food supply... Habitat 25 and regulation of human-caused mortality...are adequate</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 debating the fate of a species we drove to near 2 extinction with our arrogance, ignorance, greed and 3 fear. And we're about to do it again. We stand here 4 acting like we're gods, like we're the only ones here 5 that matter. And the more we destroy our planet, the 6 more it's going to affect us. I'm also disgusted that 7 people here tonight say that gray wolves aren't in 8 danger. They are clearly not seeing the same pictures 9 I'm seeing of hunters with their trophy, their slaughter 10 trophies. 11 Also, when are we going to stop living our 12 lives simply by how cattle owners and livestock owners 13 want us to live it? As soon as the last wolf is shot, 14 they're going to complain that their cattle are fighting 15 for grazing land from elk. Then they'll want all the 16 elk dead, until every last species is destroyed. 17 We need to humble ourselves before nature 18 before we destroy ourselves. Thank you. 19 MR. BUCKLEY: Next, please. 20 MS. RAY: My name is Mary Katherine Ray, 21 M-A-R-Y, K-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E, R-A-Y. I'm a volunteer 22 wildlife chair for the Rio Grande chapter of the Sierra 23 Club, but I'm also here speaking on behalf of myself. 24 I'm a wildlife enthusiast and 23 years ago, our 25 family chose to live in now what is just outside the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 in naturally occurring populations where harvest occurs, 2 high levels of reproduction and immigration can 3 compensate for mortality rates of 17 to 48 percent. 4 Recent studies suggest the sustainable mortality rate 5 may be lower, and that harvest may increase total 6 mortality beyond the effect of direct killing itself. 7 One of their references Creel and Rotella, 8 state, "For wolves, it's widely argued that human 9 offtake has little effect on total mortality rates, so 10 that a harvest of 28-50 percent per year can be 11 sustained. Contrary to current conventional wisdom, 12 there was a strong association between human offtake and 13 total mortality rates across 21 North American wolf 14 populations. Population declined as human offtake 15 increased, even at low rates of offtake. 16 Then came the real heart center for me in your 17 proposal. You said when populations -- 18 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Ravenwolf. Next 19 speaker, please. We're almost at the end tonight. 20 MS. MIRABAL: Alexandra M-I-R-A-B-A-L. Good 21 evening, Ladies and Gentlemen: I'd like to start out by 22 quoting Rachel Carson. "Man is a part of nature. And 23 his war against nature is inevitably a war against 24 himself." 25 I'm disgusted that we stand here tonight</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 Gila Wolf Recovery Area. We celebrate our wild 2 surroundings every day. In the early part of the 3 reintroduction, I stepped off our back porch one morning 4 and saw two canines just outside our fence on the 5 national forest boundary. 6 I could tell they were not coyotes by their 7 coloration and their gait. As soon as they saw me, they 8 took off running. It was not a frightening experience. 9 It didn't make the papers. We never told anyone. 10 Several days later, I heard in the distance a 11 single howl. It confirmed that I had seen a pair of 12 wolves. Hearing that single howl come echoing down the 13 canyon, where such a sound has not been heard for 14 decade, convinced me of the rightness of it. 15 Humans destroyed wolves. That's not a plan of 16 nature or by nature or for nature. We want wolves to be 17 successful, and some of the proposals you're making will 18 help foster that, but some of them will undermine it. 19 Among them, 100 wolves does not a sustainable population 20 make. You know that, and we know you know it. So 21 please stop insisting on it. 22 Wolves are essential. A species as imperiled 23 as this one, if it were to disappear could never be 24 replaced. To call them nonessential makes no sense. So 25 they should be considered essential. They should</p>

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<p>1 probably be completely protected by the Endangered 2 Species Act. 3 Finally, regarding delisting, we've seen what 4 delisting looks like in the states that have it, and it 5 is ugly. You turn states -- you turn management over to 6 the states, and what that means is wolves get killed. 7 And often that killing is incredibly brutal. Don't let 8 wolves bare the brunt of human greed, human fear, and 9 human -- 10 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Ray, very much. 11 Next speaker, please. 12 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you for letting us be here 13 to testify. My name is Mary Louise Williams, 14 W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S. And I want to follow from what one 15 previous speaker said by taking us back a bit to the 16 middle of the last century, when we had so many 17 passenger pigeons in this world. 18 That as (inaudible) talked about, it clouded 19 the sky and made it dark. By 1880s, we began to see 20 such a carnage that even the state legislatures and 21 states themselves began to worry. The first was Ohio. 22 That brought forth a bill which the -- and the wisdom of 23 the state legislature voted down. They didn't need 24 protection. 25 By 1892, the State of Michigan realized that</p>	<p>1 captive-to-wild release events. And these animals 2 really need to be designated as essential. It really 3 rings true on so many levels. 4 But right now, being designated as a 5 nonessential experimental population suggests that if 6 the wild population is lost, it's not going to impact 7 the recovery of the rare species. And recovery cannot 8 take place in captivity alone. And I think that's 9 really important. 10 I'm also here as an individual and a mother. I 11 was lucky enough to camp with my daughter, my six-year- 12 old daughter, who is on her iPad back there right now in 13 the lobo recovery area in Arizona over the summer. 14 Amazing experience. We went there to learn 15 there about the wild lands that the lobos roam in. And 16 we went to the Green Fire Trail, and I was able to 17 introduce to her this magnificent spot that inspires 18 some of the most famous essays of Aldo Leopold. 19 It really didn't take me long to explain to her 20 why this was a significant spot. And she understood 21 that without wolves, the mountain gets sick. And for 22 the sake of my daughter, her future, her being able to 23 bring her children one day to that very spot, science, 24 wolves, and the environment, I really think we need to 25 show an increased commitment to the recovery of this</p>
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<p>1 this species was in trouble, having gone from several 2 billion now to numbers that even they could see was 3 critical. 4 They passed a law, and it was too late. By 5 1900, the last passenger pigeon in the wild died. And 6 we all know the story of Martha the passenger pigeon 7 named after Washington's wife, died in a Cincinnati zoo 8 in 1914. 9 And the reason I go back to this is that when 10 we say we have enough wolves, the gray wolf in the 11 Rockies and in Great Lakes, that is a mistake. Because 12 we never know, based on the next part of what the plan 13 is, to turn it over to the states to make decisions. We 14 know that that will spell the end of the gray wolf. 15 And I want to applaud you, first of all, for 16 supporting the states endangered Mexican wolf and for 17 some of the boundaries. So thank you very much. 18 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Thank 19 you. Our next speaker. 20 MS. HOWELL: Hi, my name is Maggie Howell, 21 H-O-W-E-L-L. I'm here today from the Wolf Conservation 22 Center. And I'm going to echo many of the same points 23 of the last person. 24 And that you know, these wolves need a wider 25 place to roam. We need to increase the number of</p>	<p>1 endangered species because it really is about time we 2 do. Thank you. 3 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you very much, Ms. Howell. 4 Ladies and Gentlemen: We've come to the end of the 5 evening. I know there's a lot of people that have 6 signed up to speak, and I apologize that we haven't been 7 able to get to all of you tonight. 8 It was just an overwhelming number for the time 9 that we had here this evening. I would encourage you to 10 submit your comments to us in writing or electronically. 11 The instructions are on our wolf website. And we have 12 perhaps a few more sheets in the back. 13 I want to thank you all very much on behalf of 14 my Fish &amp; Wildlife Service colleagues for coming out 15 here this evening, giving us your time and your valuable 16 comments. This hearing is now over. Thank you. 17 (The hearing was concluded at 9:06 p.m.) 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>

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1 IN RE:  
2 Wolf Public Hearing

3  
4 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

5  
6 I, DEBORAH E. TRATTEL, CCR #153, DO HEREBY  
7 CERTIFY that on November 20, 2013, the Proceedings in  
8 the above-captioned matter was taken before me, that I  
9 did report in stenographic shorthand the Proceedings set  
10 forth herein, and the foregoing pages are a true and  
11 correct transcription to the best of my ability.

12 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by  
13 nor related to nor contracted with (unless excepted by  
14 the rules) any of the parties or attorneys in this case,  
15 and that I have no interest whatsoever in the final  
16 disposition of this case in any court.

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19  
20  
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22 Deborah E. Trattel, CRR, RPR,  
23 Certified Court Reporter #153  
24 License Expires: 12-31-13  
25

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