



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Quarterly Update

Third Quarter 2025 (July, August, September)

The following is a summary of Mexican Wolf Recovery Program activities in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona, including the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), San Carlos Apache Reservation (SCAR), and New Mexico. Additional Program information can be obtained by calling (928) 339-4329 or toll free at (888) 459-9653, or by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department website at azgfd.gov/wolf or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf. For information on the FAIR, call (928) 338-4385 ext. 226 or visit wmatoutdoor.org. Past updates may be viewed at these websites. Interested parties may [sign up](#) to receive this update electronically by visiting azgfd.com and clicking on the E-news Signup tab on the top left corner of the webpage. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose. The Mexican Wolf Recovery Program is a multi-agency cooperative effort among the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), USDA Forest Service (USFS), USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (WS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. National Park Service (NPS).

To view semi-monthly wolf location information please visit <https://arcg.is/bLyPO>

Please report any wolf sightings or suspected livestock depredations to the Alpine wolf office (928) 339-4329, Pinetop wolf office (928) 532-

2391 or toll free at (888) 459-9653. For sightings or suspected depredations on the FAIR, please call the WMAT wolf office in Whiteriver at (928) 338-4385 ext. 226. To report incidents of take or harassment of wolves, please call the AZGFD 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at (800) 352-0700.

Overall Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Quarterly Updates

10(j) litigation: Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, WildEarth Guardians, and Western Watersheds Project submitted an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on June 6th, 2025. Plaintiffs' opening brief is due October 14, 2025, and USFWS answering brief is due November 13, 2025.

On July 31 and August 1, 2024, representatives from the USFWS, AZGFD, and NMDGF participated in the annual Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE) Mexican Wolf meeting. Comprised of approximately 60 zoological institutions across the United States and Mexico, the SAFE Mexican Wolf is a binational captive breeding program housing more than 350 Mexican wolves to support recovery, education, and research. During this meeting, agreement was reached to release up to 10 wolves into Durango and five into Chihuahua. Permit applications are being processed at this time with the US CITES permit being the first step to be completed.

On August 15, members of the New Mexico State Game Commission met at the Reserve Independent Schools Gymnasium to discuss the status of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. Discussion topics included an overview of the program, livestock depredations in Catron County, and public comment.

Numbering System: Mexican wolves are given an identification number recorded in an official studbook that tracks their history. Capital letters (M = Male, F = Female) preceding the number indicate adult animals 24 months or older. Lower case letters (m = male, f = female) are used to indicate wolves younger than 24 months. A lowercase letter "p" preceding the number is used to indicate a wolf pup born in the most recent spring. The capital letter "A" preceding the letter and number indicates breeding wolves.

Definitions: A "wolf pack" is defined as two or more wolves that maintain an established territory. In the event that one of the two breeding (dominant) wolves dies, the remaining breeding wolf, regardless of pack size, retains the pack status. The packs referenced in this update contain at least one wolf wearing a radio telemetry collar. The Interagency Field Team (IFT) recognizes that wolves without radio telemetry collars may also form packs. If the IFT confirms that wolves are associating with each other and are resident within the same home range, they will be referenced as a pack.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

The end of year count for 2024 generated a minimum abundance of 286 Mexican wolves in the wild (124 in AZ and 162 in NM). This was a 11% increase in the population from the minimum of 257 wolves counted at the end of 2023. The increase documented from 2023 to 2024 marks the ninth consecutive year of population growth, the longest continuous streak since recovery efforts began. At the end of 2024, there were a minimum of 60 packs documented (23 in AZ and 37 in NM). Annual counts are conducted in the winter when the population experiences the least amount of natural fluctuation (i.e., the population increases dramatically in the spring with the birth of new pups and declines throughout the summer and fall as pup mortality generally occurs in this period). Thus, the IFT summarizes the total number of counted wolves in winter. Counting the population at the end of each year allows for comparable year-to-year trends at a time of year when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

WOLF PACK UPDATES:

For each documented wolf pack in the table below, wolves fitted with functioning collars at the end of the quarter are listed by studbook number. Studbook numbers of wolves without collars or with non-functioning collars are not listed in the pack updates. Not all wolves in the population are collared or have assigned studbook numbers. Captures, mortalities, removals, and food caching are listed in the corresponding column for the listed period. If a pack was food cached at any time within the quarter, the food cache column will indicate the type of food cache. The primary reason for food caching will be noted with “S” for supplemental and “D” for diversionary; the reason for a food cache may change over time. If a wolf dies, becomes fate unknown, or is removed in the current period, its studbook number will be removed from the pack column in the following quarterly report. After three months of consistent dispersal behavior away from pack territory, a dispersing wolf is no longer considered a member of its originating pack and will be added to a new row as a single wolf or member of a different pack. Packs that have raised pups in the quarter will be listed as “Yes” in the “Raising pups” column. This will remain for the calendar year if the pack was documented rearing pups in the period of April through September. Any fields that require further comment will be annotated with “*” and further comments are listed in the “Comments” column.

ARIZONA:

Wolf Pack Collared Wolves	Captures	Mortalities	Removals	Food cache	Raising pups (April – Sept)	Foster (April/May)	*Comments
Bear Canyon AM2563	0	0	0	0	No	No	

Castle Rock M1921	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Crow Poison AF2849, AM2995	0	0	0	0	Yes	Yes	
Eagle Creek M1477, F1548	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Elderberry AF2977, AM2766	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Elk Horn AM1838, AF1866	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Fantasia AF2759	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Firebox AM1881	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Hoodoo AF2752, AM1789, M1893	0	0	0	D	No	No	
Juniper Bench AF1920, M2859	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Lightning Ridge* AM1852	0	0	0	0	No	No	In August, AM1852 formed the Lightning Ridge pack after traveling with an uncollared wolf for two months.
New Pack* F2992, M3008	0	0	0	0	No	No	In August, F2992 and M3008 were designated as a New Pack after traveling together for two months.
Pancho Spring AM2770	0	0	0	0	No	No	

Prime Canyon AM1471, AF1488	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Pumpkin Spring AM2848, fp3082*	1*	0	0	0	Yes	No	In September, the IFT captured, collared and released fp3082.
Pyramids M2889, F3001	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Quakie Patch* M3000	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Rocky Prairie AM1383, AF1489, M3070, m3081*	1*	0	0	0	Yes	No	In September, the IFT captured, collared and released m3081.
Rose AM1704	0	1*	0	0	N/A	No	In August, an uncollared wolf in the Rose Pack was found dead in Arizona. The mortality is under investigation. In September, AM1704 was documented alive.
Saffel AM1854, AF1939, m2991	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Sierra Blanca AF1550, m2990*	0	0	0	0	No	No	In September, m2990 became a member of the Sierra Blanca pack after traveling with the pack for two months.
Snake Creek AM2709	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Timber Island* AF2769*	0	1*	0	0	No	No	In July, AF2769 was found dead in Arizona. The mortality is under investigation. AF2759 was the last known member of the Timber Island pack. The pack is now defunct.
Warm Springs	0	0	0	S	Yes	Yes	

AF1938, AM2796, f2993							
Single F2868	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single M2556	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

FAIR:

Wolf Pack Collared Wolves	Captures	Mortalities	Removals	Food Cache	Raising pups (April – Sept)	Foster (April/May)	*Comments
Baldy AM1347	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Pacheta Creek M3059, AF3076*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In August, the IFT captured, collared and released AF3076.
Tu dil hil F2758, M2883	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single AM1382	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single M1857	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single F2767	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

**The number of wolf packs reflected at the end of each quarter differs from the number of packs recorded during the end of year counts due to the formation and loss of pack within the quarter, which is illustrated in the table above.*

Total number of wolf packs in Arizona at end of the current quarter: 27

NEW MEXICO:

Wolf Pack Collared Wolves	Captures	Mortalities	Removals	Food Cache	Raising pups (April – Sept)	Foster (April/May)	*Comments
Agua Frio AM1875, F2997	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Aldo AM2561	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Beaver Point AF2884*, AM2998, fp3042*, mp3043*	3*	0	0	S	Yes	Yes	In September, the IFT captured, collared and released fp3042 and mp3043. The IFT also captured, recollared and released AF2884.
Burnt Peaks M2557*	0	1*	0	0	No	No	In August, M2557 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
Buzzard Peak AM2567	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Canovas Creek AM1584	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Cassidera Canyon AF2806	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Centerfire AM2697	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Chimney Canyon m2945, f2953	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Cimmaron Mesa AM2702	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Cottonwood Canyon AM1859, fp3079*	1*	0	0	S	Yes	No	In September, the IFT captured, collared and released fp3079.
Dark Canyon AM1354, AF1456	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Dillon Mountain AF1865, m3006, f3013, M3080*	1*	0	1*	D	Yes	No	In July, the IFT lethally removed an uncollared wolf in the Dillon Mountain Pack.

							In September, the IFT captured, collared and released M3080.
El Torro AF2861	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Frieborn AF1443, AM2765*, F3083*	1*	1*	0	0	Yes	No	In July, AM2765 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation. In September, the IFT captured, collared and released F3083.
Gallinas Canyon AF2588, AM2700	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Hardcastle Canyon AM2814	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Hail Canyon AF2690, m2922, f2929	0	0	0	D	Yes	No	
Holdup Mountain AF2743, AM2847	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Indio Canyon AF3069	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Iron Creek M2549	0	0	0	0	No	No	
La Ventana AF3005, fp3078*	1*	0	0	D	Yes	No	In August, the IFT captured, collared and released fp3078.
Leon AM1824, AF1578	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Leopold AM1855	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	

Lonesome AF2694	0	0	0	D	Yes	No	
Luna AF1487, AM3009*	1*	0	0	S	Yes	Yes	In September, the IFT captured, recollared and released AM3009.
Mariano Mesa AM3011	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Mangas AF2775	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Milligan Gulch AM2687	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Neko Canyon AM2873	0	0	0	S	Yes	No	
New Pack* AF2865	0	0	0	D	Yes	No	
Noble Mountain AM2886, F3002	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Piney Park AM2760*	1*	0	0	0	Yes	No	In August, the IFT captured, recollared and released AM2760.
Pinon Knob AF2713, AM2773	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Pitchfork Canyon AF1853, AM2566	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Point of Rocks AM1717, AF2515, m2939, m2936	0	0	0	S	Yes	Yes	

Quartz AF2754*, AM1966*	2*	0	0	S	Yes	No	In August the IFT captured, collared and released AM1966 and AF2754.
Saddle Mountain F2540	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) AF1553, AM2719	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Six-Shooter Saddle AM2867	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Snow Lake AF2746, M2772	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Tres Lagunas AF2763 AM3010	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Wagontongue M3071	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Whiskey Creek AM1842, m3007, M3012, f3014	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Willow Creek AF1890, AM1555	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Single M1888	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single M2821	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single m2952*	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In July, m2952 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.

Single f2950	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single m2933	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single M3065	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single m2809*	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In July, m2809 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.

**The number of wolf packs reflected at the end of each quarter differs from the number of packs recorded during the end of year counts due to the formation and loss of pack within the quarter, which is illustrated in the table above.*

Total number of wolf packs in New Mexico at end of the current quarter: 45

MORTALITIES

Six Mexican wolf mortalities were documented in the third quarter (2 in AZ and 4 in NM). The total number of documented mortalities from January 1 through September 30, 2025 is 24 (6 in AZ and 18 in NM). Cause of death for each mortality is under investigation by USFWS Law Enforcement. Due to Mexican wolf population expansion, to ensure accurate inter-annual comparisons in mortality rates, these data are presented as the total number of documented mortalities per 100 Mexican wolves. Using these data for the last five years, the values calculated are: 2024 10 mortalities/100 wolves, 2023 12 mortalities/100 wolves, 2022 5 mortalities/100 wolves, 2021 13 mortalities/100 wolves, and 2020 16 mortalities/100 wolves. Cause of death for each mortality will be reported in the 2024 annual report when all the necropsies are finalized. The impact of these mortalities is uncertain but based on the 2017 Population Viability Assessment (PVA) completed for recovery planning purposes, continued population growth is again expected in 2025.

GENETIC MANAGEMENT

Captive pups fostered (since 2016)	Captive pups fostered in 2025	^a Fosters documented alive at the end of the quarter	^a Documented foster mortality	^{a,b} Fosters surviving to breeding age	^a Fosters documented producing pups	^a Documented litters produced by fosters
143	17	11	20	21	13	31

^aThese are only **MINIMUM** values that have been documented by the IFT. The IFT does not affix radio collars on pups at the time of the foster, as the pups are too small. Pups are collared opportunistically when fostered wolves are captured later in the year or in subsequent years. Not all fosters that survive are captured and collared.

^bAt the end of the quarter, three more fostered wolves that had been collared by the IFT reached breeding age (considered two years of age or greater).

INCIDENTS

The following are investigations of livestock depredations conducted by Wildlife Services during the quarter that were determined to be caused by wolves. Investigations of dead and injured livestock conducted by Wildlife Services during this period that were determined to be from causes other than wolves (i.e., vehicle strike, illness, coyote predation, bear predation, or unknown cause) are not listed in this quarterly update.

DEPREDATIONS

	Confirmed Wolf (Current Quarter)		Yearly Total Confirmed Wolf Killed or Died from Injuries	Probable Wolf (Current Quarter)		Yearly Total Probable Wolf by State
	Killed or Died from Injuries	Injured		Killed or Died from Injuries	Injured	
Arizona	1	0	19	0	0	0
New Mexico	25	5	108	4	0	22

2025 Total		127		22
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Unshaded cells contain totals for the current quarter, gray cells contain totals for the year.

The yearly total number of confirmed wolf depredation incidents in 2024 (106) was down from the yearly total of confirmed wolf depredation incidents in 2023 (111). The number of depredations per 100 Mexican wolves, using the yearly total confirmed wolf depredations (killed or died from injuries) compared with the final minimum population count for 2024 was 37 depredations / 100 wolves. Depredations/100 wolves for the prior three years is as follows: 63 depredations / 100 wolves in 2021, 56 depredations / 100 wolves in 2022 and 43 depredations / 100 wolves in 2023.

PUBLIC INCIDENTS

On August 5, 2025, the IFT received a report of a possible wolf in Nutrioso, AZ. The reporting party (RP) stated that they saw a wolf on their private property on the night of July 31, 2025. They stated that their dog started barking in the middle of the night and a motion-activated light on the porch was triggered. The RP opened the door and saw what they believed to be a wolf standing in the yard. Based on the description of the animal provided, the location of the sighting and radio collared wolf GPS locations near the outer boundary of the community, the IFT believes that the animal reported was a wolf. The RP stated they would notify the IFT of any additional sightings. The IFT has not received any additional reports from the area following the incident.

On September 10, 2025, the IFT received a call from a RP stating they saw a wolf in their apartment complex parking lot in Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ on the morning of August 28, 2025. The RP stated the animal approached them and starting growling. The RP yelled at it but the animal got more aggressive. The RP and their spouse were able to quickly scare the animal off. They reported that the animal was large, white with some black markings and had a curled, upright tail. The IFT was able to determine that the animal was a dog.

PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT

State	Monitoring efforts (monitoring with intent to haze a wolf)	Hazing events (successful hazing of a wolf)	*Diversionary food caches maintained	Carcasses removed	Proactive equipment projects (RAG boxes, fox lights, fladry)
Arizona	74	11	2	27	1

New Mexico	9	5	8	0	0
2025 Totals	389	160	17	41	2

Unshaded cells contain totals for the current quarter, gray cells contain totals for the year.

**Includes supplemental food caches, as these also served as diversionary food caches this year.*

PROGRAM PERSONNEL

In August, Nicholas Riso was promoted into the Mexican Wolf Field Team Leader position for New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

REWARDS OFFERED

The USFWS is offering a reward of up to \$50,000, the AZGFD Operation Game Thief is offering a reward of up to \$1,000, and the NMDGF is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting deaths of Mexican wolves. A variety of non-governmental organizations and private individuals have pledged additional funding for a total reward amount of up to \$51,500, depending on the information provided. The total amount is up to \$103,500.

Individuals with information they believe may be helpful are urged to call one of the following agencies: USFWS Special Agents in Pinetop, Arizona, at (346) 254-0515; the WMAT at (928) 338-1023 or (928) 338-4385; AZGFD Operation Game Thief at (800) 352-0700; or NMDGF Operation Game Thief at (800) 432-4263. Killing a Mexican wolf is a violation of state law and the Federal Endangered Species Act and can result in criminal penalties of up to \$50,000, and/or not more than one year in jail, and/or a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.