



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Quarterly Update

First Quarter 2026 (January, February, March)

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. Appellants filed an opening brief on October 14, 2025, and USFWS filed an answering brief on February 13, 2026. Appellants final answering brief is due April 6, 2026.

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 2025 generated a minimum abundance of 317 Mexican wolves in the wild (142 in AZ and 175 in NM). This was a 10.8% increase in the population from the minimum of 286 wolves counted at the end of 2024. The increase documented from 2024 to 2025 marks the tenth consecutive year of population growth, the longest continuous streak since recovery efforts began. At the end of 2025, there were a minimum of 71 packs documented (29 in AZ and 42 in NM). *An abundance of 319 was previously reported, however, an error was detected in the data reflecting that two mortalities had not properly been accounted for.* 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
Castle Rock M1921	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Crow Poison AF2849*, AM2995	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, AF2849 was found dead in Arizona. The mortality is under investigation.
Dutch Oven F2992, M3008	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Eagle Creek M1477, F1548	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

Elderberry AF2977, AM2766*	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In November, AM2766 started displaying dispersal behavior but frequently returned to the pack. In March, AM2766 became a Single after traveling alone for three months.
Elk Horn AM1838, AF1866*, mp3090	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, the IFT captured, recollared and released AF1866.
Fantasia AF2759	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Firebox AM1881, AF3104*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released AF3104.
Hoodoo AF2752, AM1789, M1893	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Juniper Bench AF1920, AM1897*, M2859	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released AM1897.
Pancho Spring* AM2770*, F3085*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, F3085 was documented traveling with an uncollared wolf and formed the Yellow Jacket pack. In March, AM2770's collar was found in Arizona and became Fate Unknown. AM2770 was the last remaining member of the pack. The pack is now defunct.
Prime Canyon* AM1471*, AF1488*	0	2*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, AF1488 was found dead in Arizona. Cause of death was a vehicle strike. In March, AM1471 was found dead in Arizona. Cause of death was interspecific conflict.

							AF1488 and AM1471 were the last collared wolves in the Prime Canyon pack. AF1488 and AM1471 were traveling with an uncollared wolf, which has not been documented since the mortalities occurred. The pack is now defunct.
Pumpkin Spring AM2848, fp3082	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Pyramids M2889, F3001	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Quakie Patch M3000*, F3103	1*	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released F3103. In March, M3000 was found dead in Arizona. The mortality is under investigation.
Rocky Prairie AM1383, AF1489*, M3070*, m3081	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, recollared and released AF1489. In February, M3070 dispersed from the Rocky Prairie pack. In March, he became a Single after traveling alone for three months.
Rose AM1704*	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	AM1704 has continued to be documented alive and traveling with an uncollared wolf.
Saffel AM1854, AF1939, f3102*, m2991*	1*	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released f3102. In March, m2991 was found dead in Arizona. The mortality is under investigation.
Sierra Blanca AF1550, m2990	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Slaughter Draw M3084, M3105*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released M3105.

Snake Creek AM2709	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Trinity* M3106*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, the IFT captured, collared and released M3106. In March, M3106 formed the Trinity pack after traveling with an uncollared wolf for two months.
Warm Springs AF1938, AM2796	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Whitetail Spring* F2868*	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, F2868 was found dead in Arizona. Necropsy results showed cause of death was unable to be determined. F2868 was traveling with an uncollared wolf, which has not been documented since the mortality occurred. The pack is now defunct.
Single M3070	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, M3070 became a Single after traveling alone for three months.
Single M2556	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, M2556 became Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months.

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	
Lightning Ridge AM1852, AF3092*	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, AF3092 became Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months.
Pacheta Creek AF3076	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Star Creek F2767, M3091	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

Tu dil hil F2758, M2883	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Yellow Jacket* F3085	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, F3085, formerly a member of the Pancho Spring pack, formed the Yellow Jacket pack after traveling with an uncollared wolf for two months.
New Pack AM1382	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In December, AM1382 was documented traveling with an uncollared wolf. They are now designated as a New Pack after traveling together for two months.
Single M1857	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 packs within the quarter, which is illustrated in the table above.*

Total number of wolf packs in Arizona at end of the current quarter: 31

NEW MEXICO:

Wolf Pack Collared Wolves	Captures	Mortalities	Removals	Food Cache	Raising pups (April – Sept)	Foster (April/May)	*Comments
Agua Frio AM1875*, F2997	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, the IFT captured, recollared and released AM1875.
Aldo AM2561*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, recollared and released AM2561.
Bear Canyon AM2563	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Beaver Point AF2884, AM2998, fp3042, mp3043	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Buzzard Peak AM2567, F3099*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released F3099.

Cassidera Canyon AF2806	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Centerfire AM2697	0	0	0	D	N/A	N/A	
Chimney Canyon AM2821	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Cimmaron Mesa AM2702*, mp3093*	2*	0	0	D	N/A	N/A	In Januaryy, Wildlife Services Catron County trapper captured m3093 and AM2702 on private land. The IFT was notified and collared and released both wolves on public land.
Cottonwood Canyon AM1859, fp3079, fp3109*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, the IFT captured, collared and released fp3109.
Dark Canyon AM1354, AF1456, f3098*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released f3098.
Dillon Mountain AF1865, M3080	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
El Torro AF2861, M3088, mp3086*, m3087	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, mp3086 returned to his natal pack.
Frieborn AF1443, F3083, m3100*, m2922*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released m3100. In March, m2922 became a member of the Frieborn pack after traveling with the pack for two months.
Gallinas Canyon AF2588, AM2700*	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, AM2700 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
Gasoline Lake AF2865, m3007*	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	m3007, formerly of the Whiskey Creek pack, became a member of the Gasoline Lake pack after traveling with AF2865 for two months.

Hail Canyon AF2690*, M2797*	2*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, recollared and released M2797. In March, a private trapper captured AF2690 on private land. The IFT was notified and recollared and released AF2690 on public land.
Hardcastle Canyon AM2814*, F3089*, M3108*	3*	0	2*	D	N/A	N/A	In March, a private trapper captured F3089, AM2814 and M3108 on private land. The IFT was notified and released F3089 on public land. AM2814 and M3108 were removed to captivity.
Holdup Mountain AF2743, AM2847	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Indio Canyon AF3069	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
La Ventana AF3005, M3110*	1*	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, the IFT captured, collared and released M3110. He died two days later. This is considered to be a program personnel capture-related mortality.
Leon AF1578	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Leopold AM1855	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Lonesome AF2694*, M3094*	1*	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released M3094. In March, AF2694 was found dead in New Mexico. Cause of death was electrocution from a down power line.
Luna AF1487, AM3009	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	

Mariano Mesa AM1824	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Mangas AF2775, f3111*	1*	0	1*	D	N/A	N/A	In March, Wildlife Services Catron County trapper captured f3111. The IFT was notified and removed f3111 to captivity.
Milligan Gulch* AM2687*	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, AM2687 was found dead in NM. The mortality is under investigation. AM2687 was the last remaining member of the Milligan Gulch pack. The pack is now defunct.
New Pack NM* f3013*	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In February, f3013 formed a New Pack after traveling with an uncollared wolf for two months.
Noble Mountain AM2886, F3002	0	0	0	D	N/A	N/A	
Piney Park AM2760, F3096*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released F3096.
Pinon Knob AF2713, AM2873	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Pitchfork Canyon AF1853, AM2566	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Point of Rocks AM1717, AF2515*, m2939, m2936, mp3051*, fp3057*	2*	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, AF2515 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation. In January, the IFT captured, collared and released mp3051, a captive pup fostered into the Point of Rocks den during the spring of 2025, and wild born fp3057.
Quartz AF2754, AM1966*, fp3063*, fp3064*	2*	1*	0	S	N/A	N/A	In February, the IFT captured, collared and released captive born pups fp3063 and fp3064 released with the Quartz pack in August 2025.

							In March, AM1966 was found dead in New Mexico.
Saddle Mountain F2540, M3101*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released M3101.
Sheepherders Baseball Park (SBP) AF1553, AM2719	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Tres Lagunas AF2763, AM3010*, mp3095*	1*	2*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In October, AM3010 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation. <i>This comment was not included in the prior Quarterly Report and has been retroactively included in the current Report.</i> In January, the IFT captured, collared and released mp3095. In February, mp3095 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
Uncertain* mp3107*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, a private trapper captured mp3107 on private land. The IFT was notified and collared and released the wolf on public land. At this time, the IFT is uncertain of mp3107's natal pack.
Wagontongue AM3071, M2804* (previously M3097)	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, collared and released M3097. Genetics analysis showed that AM3071 was previously handled as a pup in 2023 and was issued the studbook number 2804. Moving forward, he will retain the studbook number M2804.
Whiskey Creek AM1842*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, the IFT captured, recollared and released AM1842.

Willow Creek AF1890, AM1555	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single M1888	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single f2929*	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, f2929, formerly of the Hail Canyon pack, became a Single after traveling alone for three months.
Single f3014*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, f3014, formerly of the Whiskey Creek pack, became a Single after traveling alone for three months. In February, f3014 was captured by a private trapper. The IFT was notified and removed f3014 for veterinary care before being released back into her natal pack territory.
Single m2945*	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, m2945, formerly of the Chimney Canyon pack, became a Single after traveling alone for three months.
Single fp3078*	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In March, fp3078 was found dead in New Mexico. Cause of death was vehicle strike.
Single f2950*	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, f2950 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
Single m2933	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, m2933 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality in under investigation.
Single M3065*	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In January, M3065 was found dead in New Mexico. Cause of death was vehicle strike.

**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: 41

MORTALITIES

Seventeen Mexican wolf mortalities were documented in the first quarter (6 in AZ and 11 in NM). Cause of death for mortalities are under investigation by USFWS Law Enforcement unless cause of death is determined to be of natural causes upon initial investigation; where cause of death is clear, such as vehicle strikes, it will be included in the appropriate quarterly report. 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: 2025 9 mortalities/100 wolves, 2024 10 mortalities/100 wolves, 2023 12 mortalities/100 wolves, 2022 5 mortalities/100 wolves, 2021 13 mortalities/100 wolves. Cause of death for each mortality will be reported in the 2026 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 2026.

GENETIC MANAGEMENT

Captive pups fostered (since 2016)	Captive pups fostered in 2026	^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	N/A	11	17	21	13	37

^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.

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 Killed or Died from Injuries
	Killed or Died from Injuries	Injured		Killed or Died from Injuries	Injured	
Arizona	7	6	7	0	0	0
New Mexico	50	1	50	4	2	4
2026 Total			57			4

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

**The two previously pending investigation in Arizona from 2025 Fourth Quarter were confirmed by Wildlife Services Regional Review. The Yearly Total Confirmed Wolf Killed or Died from Injuries in Arizona was 22. The 2025 Total is 147.*

The yearly total number of confirmed wolf depredation incidents in **2025 (147)** was up from the yearly total of confirmed wolf depredation incidents in **2024 (106)**. 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 2025 was 46 depredations/ 100 wolves. Depredations/100 wolves for the prior three years is as follows: 56 depredations / 100 wolves in 2022, 43 depredations / 100 wolves in 2023 and 37 depredations/ 100 wolves in 2024.

PUBLIC INCIDENTS

In March, the IFT received a call from a concerned citizen in the Reserve, NM area. The reporting party communicated that they had noticed 2-3 wolves on several occasions near their residence, one of which was wearing a collar. On one of those occasions, the reporting party mentioned the wolves dispersed after being spotted and began howling nearby. They were not seen after that. Based on the location of this report, the IFT believes these wolves to be part of the Frieborn pack.

In March, the IFT received a call from a member of the public that had been shed hunting around Apache Creek, NM. While shed hunting, the reporting party (RP) got out of their vehicle to look at a possible carcass. During this time, the RP observed a large wolf. The RP was frightened and fell down

while running to his vehicle and communicated that the wolf was approaching him and not deterred away from yelling and rocks being thrown in the animal's direction. The reporting party safely reached his vehicle and left the area. Based on the location of this report, the IFT believes that this was likely an uncollared pup or sub-adult from one of three packs in the area.

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	12	17	0	3	0
New Mexico	23	12	3	0	0
2026 Totals	35	29	3	3	0

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 February, Annie Norland, Mexican Wolf Technician with Arizona Game & Fish Department, left the program.

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.