



Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Quarterly Update

Fourth Quarter 2025 (October, November, December)

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 6, 2025. Plaintiffs' filed an opening brief filed on October 15, 2025, and due to federal government furlough from October 1, 2025 to November 12, 2025, USFWS answering brief was due 2/13 after the Ninth Circuit granted DOJ's request for an extension. The AZGFD is an intervenor in this case and also filed a brief in this litigation.

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	
Dutch Oven F2992, M3008	0	0	0	0	No	No	In December, F2992 and M3008 formed the Dutch Oven pack after traveling together for two months.
Eagle Creek M1477, F1548	0	0	0	0	No	No	

Elderberry AF2977, AM2766	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Elk Horn AM1838, AF1866, mp3090*	1*	0	0	0	Yes	No	In December, the IFT captured, collared, and released mp3090.
Fantasia AF2759	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Firebox AM1881	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Hoodoo AF2752, AM1789, M1893	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Juniper Bench AF1920, M2859	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Lightning Ridge AM1852, AF3092*	1*	0	0	0	No	No	In December, the IFT captured, collared and released AF3092.
Pancho Spring AM2770, F3085*	1*	0	0	0	No	No	In October, the IFT captured, collared and released F3085.
Prime Canyon AM1471, AF1488	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Pumpkin Spring AM2848, fp3082	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Pyramids M2889, F3001	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Quakie Patch M3000	0	0	0	0	No	No	

Rocky Prairie AM1383, AF1489, M3070, m3081	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Rose AM1704*	0	0	0	0	No	No	AM1704 has continued to be documented alive and traveling with a single uncollared wolf.
Saffel AM1854, AF1939, m2991	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Sierra Blanca AF1550, m2990	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Slaughter Draw M3084*	1*	0	0	0	Yes	No	In October, the IFT captured, collared and released M3084. M3084 was documented traveling with other uncollared wolves for two months. They were named the Slaughter Draw pack.
Snake Creek AM2709	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Warm Springs AF1938, AM2796, f2993*	0	1*	0	0	Yes	Yes	In December, f2993 was found dead in Arizona. The mortality is under investigation.
Whitetail Spring F2868	0	0	0	0	No	No	In December, F2868 formed the Whitetail Spring pack after traveling with an uncollared wolf for two months.
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
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Baldy AM1347	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Pacheta Creek M3059*, AF3076	0	1*	0	0	N/A	N/A	In December, M3059 was found dead in Arizona. The mortality is under investigation.
Tu dil hil F2758, M2883	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Star Creek F2767, M3091*	1*	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In October, F2767 formed the Star Creek pack after traveling with an uncollared wolf for two months. In December, the IFT captured, collared and released M3091.
Single AM1382	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
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 pack within the quarter, which is illustrated in the table above.*

Total number of wolf packs in Arizona at end of the current quarter: 29

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	0	0	0	S	Yes	Yes	

Buzzard Peak AM2567	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Canovas Creek* AM1584	0	0	0	0	No	No	AM1584 went Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months. AM1584 was the last known member of the Canovas Creek pack. The pack is now defunct.
Cassidera Canyon AF2806	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Centerfire AM2697	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Chimney Canyon AM2821, m2945	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	In July, AM2821 joined the Chimney Canyon pack after traveling with the pack for two months.
Cimmaron Mesa AM2702	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Cottonwood Canyon AM1859, fp3079	0	0	0	S	Yes	No	
Dark Canyon AM1354, AF1456	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Dillon Mountain AF1865, f3013, M3080	0	0	0	D	Yes	No	
El Torro AF2861, M3088*, m3087*	2*	0	0	0	Yes	No	In November, the Catron County Sheriff's Office Public Safety and Depredation Control Officer captured M3088 and m3087 on private land. The IFT was notified and collared and released M3088 and m3087 within the El Torro pack territory.
Frieborn AF1443, F3083	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Gallinas Canyon AF2588, AM2700	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	

Gasoline Lake AF2865	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Hail Canyon AF2690, m2922, f2929	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Hardcastle Canyon AM2814, F3089*	1*	0	0	0	Yes	No	In December, Wildlife Services Catron County trapper captured F3089 on private land. The IFT was notified and collared and released the F3089 on public land.
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	In August, M2549 went Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months. M2549 was the last known member of the Iron Creek pack. The pack is now defunct.
La Ventana AF3005	0	0	0	D	Yes	No	
Leon 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	0	0	0	0	Yes	Yes	

Mariano Mesa AM1824*	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	In September, AM1824, formerly of the Leon pack, dispersed and joined the Mariano Mesa pack.
Mangas AF2775	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Milligan Gulch AM2687	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Neko Canyon* AM2873	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	In September, AM2873 joined the Pinon Knob pack after traveling with the pack for two months. AM2873 was the last known member of the Neko Canyon pack. The pack is now defunct.
Noble Mountain AM2886, F3002	0	0	0	0	No	No	
Piney Park AM2760	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Pinon Knob AF2713, AM2773*, AM2873*	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	In August, AM2773 became Fate Unknown after not being documented for three months. In September, AM2873 became a member of the Pinon Knob pack after traveling with the pack for two months.
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	0	0	0	S	Yes	No	

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	In July, AM2867 went fate unknown after not being documented for three months. AM2867 was the last known member of the pack and the pack is now defunct.
Snow Lake* AF2746, M2772	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	In July, AF2746 went fate unknown after not being documented for three months. In July, M2772 went fate unknown after not being documented for three months. AF2746 and M2772 were the last known members of the Snow Lake pack. The pack is now defunct.
Tres Lagunas AF2763, AM3010	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Uncertain* mp3086	2*	0	0	0	N/A	No	In November, the Catron County Sheriff's Office Public Safety and Depredation Control Officer captured mp3086 on private land. The IFT was notified, and the animal was temporarily removed for veterinary care. In December, the IFT collared and released mp3086 near the initial capture location. Later in the December, mp3086 was captured a second time by a private trapper. The IFT was notified and released the animal nearby on public land. The IFT is uncertain at this time of mp3086 natal pack.
Wagontongue M3071	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	

Whiskey Creek AM1842, m3007, M3012*, f3014	0	1*	0	0	Yes	No	In December, M3012 was found dead in New Mexico. The mortality is under investigation.
Willow Creek AF1890, AM1555	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	
Single M1888	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Single fp3078	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	In December, fp3078, formerly of the La Ventana pack, became a Single animal after 3 months of traveling alone.
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	

**Due to government furlough in October and November 2025, US Fish & Wildlife Service was unable to complete portions of the Third Quarterly Report. Updates missing in the Third Quarterly Report pertaining to the Wolf Pack Updates in New Mexico have been included in this report.*

**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: 44

MORTALITIES

Four Mexican wolf mortalities were documented in the fourth quarter (2 in AZ and 2 in NM). The total number of documented mortalities from January 1 through December 31, 2025 is 29 (9 in AZ and 20 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: 2025 awaiting final annual count data, 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 2025 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	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 by State
	Killed or Died from Injuries	Injured		Killed or Died from Injuries	Injured	

Arizona	0	0	20	0	0	0
New Mexico	13	1	125	2	0	24
2025 Total			145			24

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

All previously pending investigations throughout the year are included in the totals for the year.

**There are two investigations in Arizona from the current quarter that are still pending Wildlife Services Regional Review. Updated yearly totals will be reflected on the following quarter report.*

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. Confirmed wolf depredations per 100 wolves for 2025 will be calculated after the population count is finalized.

PUBLIC INCIDENTS

On October 8, 2025, the IFT documented two social media posts about a possible wolf in Eagar, AZ. The IFT was able to contact one of the reporting parties (RP) to obtain additional information. The RP stated that the animal had run through their pasture and described the animal as brown and larger than a coyote. The IFT investigated the area and located several coyote tracks. Following these reports, another RP reported they had been hearing coyotes yipping during the night. Monitoring of the area continued for several days following the sightings, however, no further sign was found. There were no GPS points from collared wolves nearby before, during or following the time of the sightings. Additionally, VHF signals were not detected in either Eagar or surrounding areas. No additional reports have been made. The IFT believes that this animal was a coyote.

On October 9, 2025, the IFT documented a social media post and video about a wolf sighting near a camp site east of Reservation Lake on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The reporting party described that when they were going to bed for the night, they turned on their headlamp and saw a wolf about 40 yards away. The IFT reached out to the RP to obtain additional information. The RP stated that they tried to shine light on the animal to get it to run away. They also yelled at it and the animal retreated a short distance but did not leave. The RP stated that they ultimately left it alone and went to bed. They additionally remarked that the wolf did not seem threatening, but curious. The IFT advised on proper wildlife hazing techniques. The animal shown in the video was a wolf.

On November 12, 2025, the IFT received photos and a video of two possible wolves east of Portal, AZ. The IFT was able to determine that these animals were coyotes.

On November 17, 2025, the IFT received a report from an RP that believed they had captured a wolf on one of their personal trail cameras. The RP sent the photos they obtained and the IFT was able to confirm that the animal was a coyote.

On November 26, 2025, the IFT received a report about a possible sighting of multiple wolves in the Stoneman Lake area in Arizona. The RP stated that the wolves walked the road in front of their home several times. The RP provided several photos and videos of the animals and the IFT was able to confirm that these animals were coyotes.

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	31	13	0	3	0
New Mexico	0	0	1	0	0
2025 Totals	420	173	18	44	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

There are no program personnel updates for this quarter.

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.