

Mexican Wolf Recovery Program



Mexican wolves

- Most unique subspecies of gray wolf in North America
- Smallest (50-80 lbs)
- Southern-most occurring
- Ecological generalist – Generally in forested areas with adequate prey



Anti-Predator Campaign (1890-1930)



Extirpated in SW United States by 1970
Extirpated in Mexico by mid 1980s

Recovery of Mexican Wolves

- 1976 - listed as endangered
- 1977 – Initiated Bi-National captive breeding program with 7 wolves
- 1982 – Finalized recovery plan
 - *Maintain captive breeding program*
 - *and re-establish self-sustaining population of at least 100 Mexican wolves in the wild*



Mexican Wolf Captive Population



- ~ 300 wolves in 52 captive breeding facilities in U.S. and Mexico
- 3 pre-release facilities
- Managed as one population under Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan

Mexican Wolf Wild Population

- 1998: designated an experimental population in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas
- 1998: First Mexican wolves released in wild
- Managed by Interagency Field Team



Mortality 1998-2013

Illegal mortality –	54
Vehicle collisions –	14
Other/Unknown –	14
Awaiting necropsy –	0
Natural –	17

(predation, starvation, disease, snake bite, euthanasia, toxemia, ingestion of foreign object, lightning)

Total 99

Data Current as of January 2014



Current* Wild Population

- Minimum of 83 Wolves (Doubling of population since 2009)
- 14 Packs
- 100% were wild-born



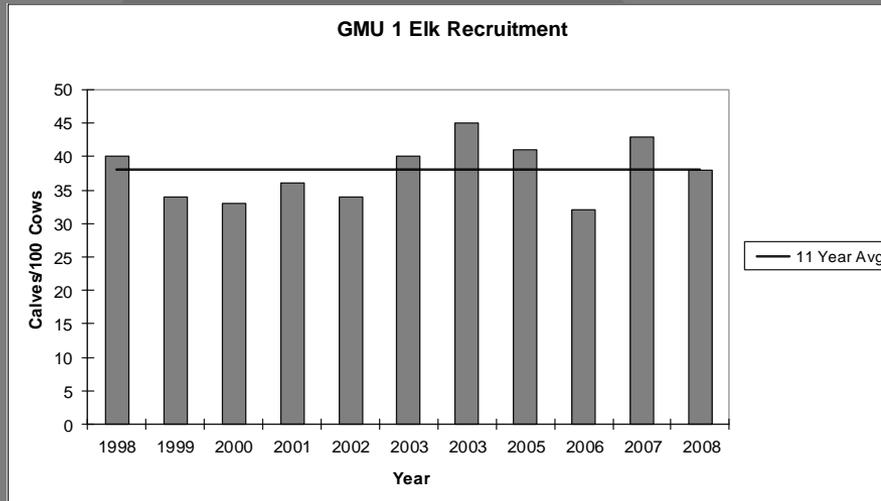
MWIFT

*Current as of December 31, 2013

Predation



- 80% of diet is elk
- State game agencies have not yet measured an impact on wildlife populations from wolves
- Working with States on threshold for management of ungulate populations



Depredation

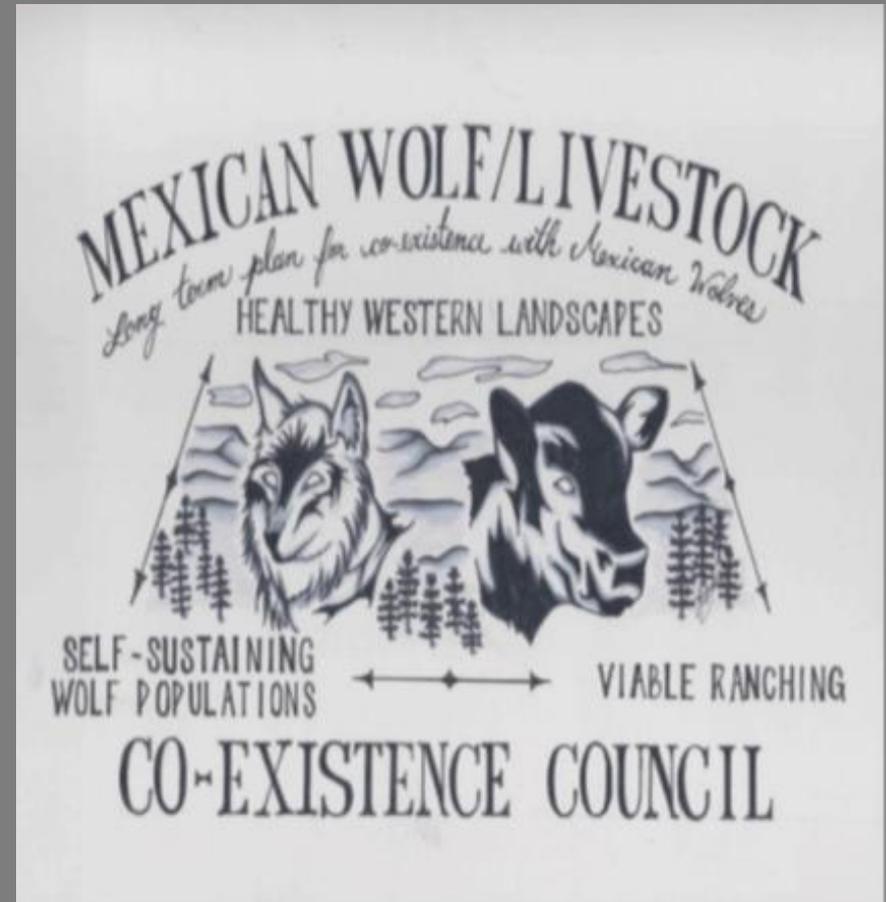
- Depredations of livestock do occur
- work with ranchers to implement measures to reduce conflicts
 - Supplemental hay
 - Development of water sources
 - Alter grazing rotations away from wolf dens
 - Range riders
 - Telemetry equipment loan
 - Diversionary feeding





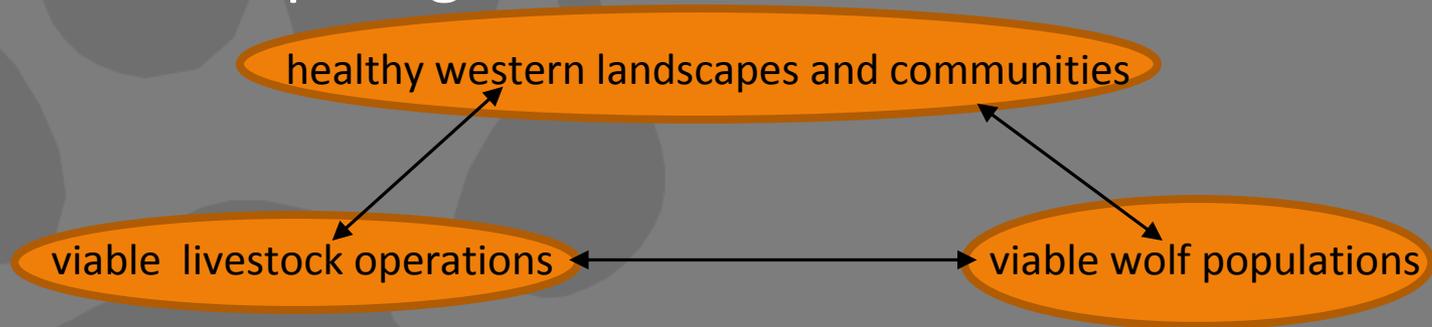
Coexistence Council

- 11 Ranchers, environmental groups, tribes, and county coalitions
- Grass root effort to develop solutions to conflicts
- Recently finalized a coexistence program for payments for wolf presence, conflict avoidance, and depredation compensation



Mexican Wolf/Livestock Coexistence Council

Coexistence plan goal:



Maintain healthy western landscapes and communities while supporting viable ranching operations and viable wolf populations

Plan is formula based

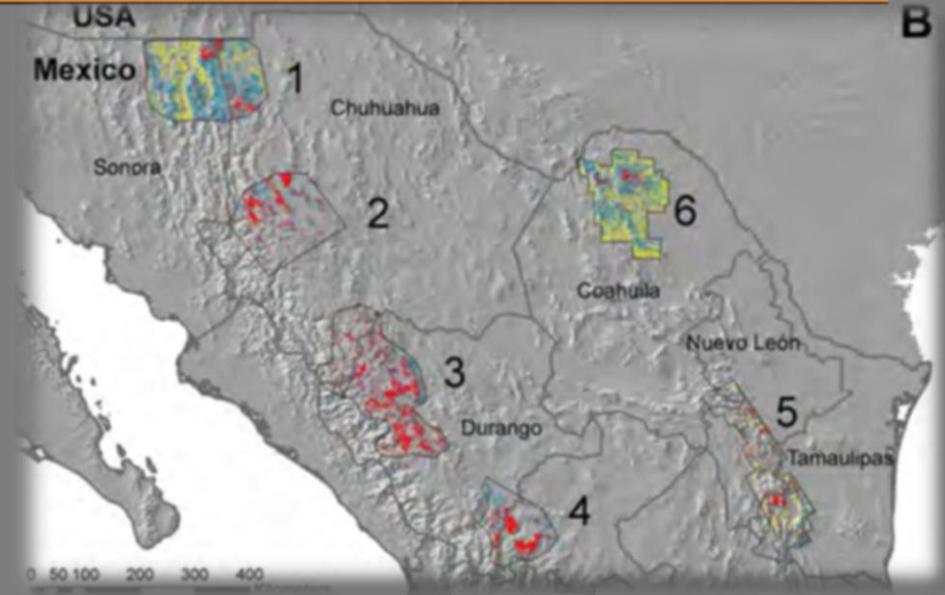
- wolf territories, core areas, pups
- no. of livestock exposed to wolves

Requires funding



Mexico Releases of Wolves

- Mexico began reintroducing wolves October 2011
- Mexico is continuing education, law enforcement, and additional releases



Go to <http://procer.conanp.gob.mx/>, put the cursor on the left side of the page, the menu appears: click on "DIFUSIÓN" and then on "NOTICIAS", you will see the list of updates

Proposal: delist gray wolves in US & Reclassify Mexican wolf as endangered subspecies

≈ 70,000 gray wolves in Alaska and Canada

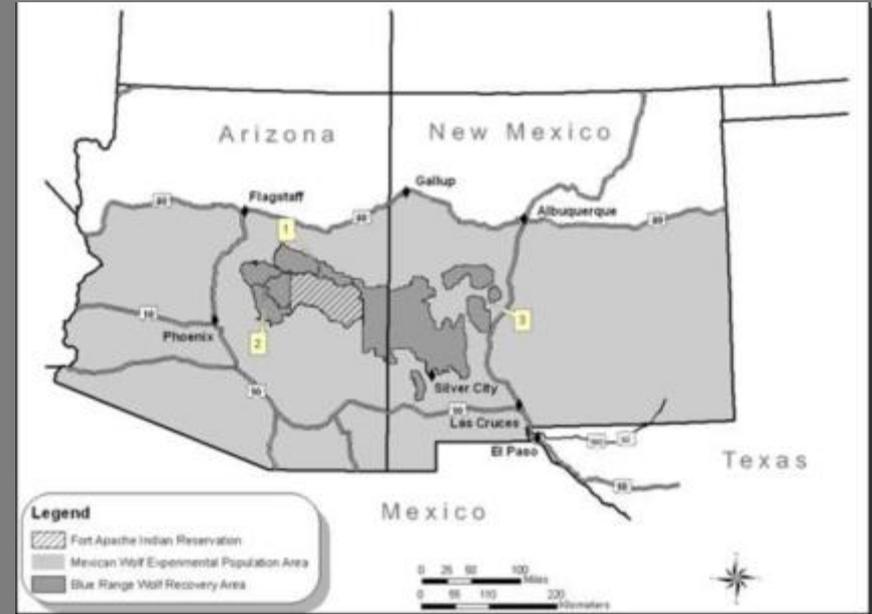
83

Endangered
Red wolf

Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area

1998 Rule

Proposed Changes



EIS Process

- Draft EIS Summer 2014 – will include a public hearing
- Finalize EIS and make decision on revisions to experimental population in early 2015



<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/NEPA.cfm>