

**QUAY COUNTY
2013-2014
RESOLUTION NO. 11**

**CONCERNING THE PROPOSED LISTING OF THE MEXICAN WOLF
AND NONESSENTIAL EXPERIMENTAL POPULATION RULE**

WHEREAS, the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has issued a proposed rule under which the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) will be removed from the list of endangered and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) based on the large numbers of wolves across the species' range in North America;

WHEREAS, the USFWS also intends to reclassify reintroduced wolves in the southwestern United States as a new wolf subspecies called the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*), and to list this new subspecies as endangered under the ESA;

WHEREAS, the USFWS also is proposing to issue a revised experimental population rule under Section 10(j) of the ESA that would cover the new Mexican wolf subspecies and facilitate the introduction of additional wolves into Arizona and New Mexico;

WHEREAS, Congress enacted Section 10(j) of the ESA to mitigate fears that reestablishing populations of endangered species would negatively impact landowners and other private parties, and recognized that flexible rules, developed in consultation with local governments and private citizens, could encourage recovery partners to actively assist in the establishment and hosting of such populations on their lands;

WHEREAS, to the maximum extent practicable, Section 10(j) rules are intended to represent an agreement between the USFS, affected State and Federal agencies, and persons holding any interest in land that may be affected by the establishment of an experimental population;

WHEREAS, the objective of 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan is the establishment of a viable, self-sustaining population of at least 100 Mexican wolves in the wild;

WHEREAS, as of 2012, there are approximately 75 wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico, 97 percent of which were conceived and born in the wild as a direct result of previous wolf introduction efforts;

WHEREAS, the reclassification and listing of the Mexican wolf and the adoption and implementation of the revised experimental population rule will allow additional wolves to be introduced within Arizona and New Mexico;

WHEREAS, the introduction of wolves into Arizona and New Mexico has resulted in significant adverse impacts on private landowners and resource users, as well as hunting and other recreational activities, which are vital to our local and regional economy;

WHEREAS, under its regulations, the USFWS must consult with appropriate State fish and wildlife agencies, local governmental entities, affected Federal agencies, and affected private landowners in developing and implementing experimental population rules.

WHEREAS, in developing its experimental population rules for the Mexican wolf, the USFWS has failed to meaningfully consult with local governmental entities, whose citizens will be adversely affected by the introduction of wolves, and with private land and resource users who will be adversely impacted by the introduction of wolves;

WHEREAS, the proposed listing and experimental population rules for the Mexican wolf indicates that the USFWS intends to expand the areas in which releases of captive-bred wolves will occur, and to introduce additional wolves into that expanded area, creating even greater conflicts with private landowners and resource users;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. Future Mexican wolf introduction efforts should focus on remote areas within the northern Sierra Madre Occidental mountain range, which contains substantial habitat suitable for Mexican wolves and, in many places, is largely uninhabited.
2. The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish should have primary responsibility for the administration of the Mexican wolf introduction program in Arizona and New Mexico.
3. No additional introductions of Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico should take place unless and until it has been determined that wolves cannot be introduced successfully in northern Mexico and the natural expansion of the existing wolf population in Arizona and New Mexico is not capable of achieving the 100-wolf population goal in the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan.
4. In the event that future introductions of Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico take place, they should be limited to the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and, if appropriate, the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.
5. Wolves that leave the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and the Fort Apache Indian Reservation should be captured and returned to captivity or, if appropriate, reintroduced in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area or the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.
6. The 10(j) rule governing the management of Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico should authorize private landowners and their agents, following reasonable notice and reporting requirements, to take Mexican wolves that enter private land, unless the landowner has entered into a management agreement with the USFWS allowing wolves to enter private land.

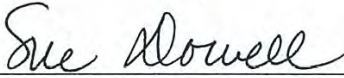
7. The 10(j) rule governing the management of Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico should authorize private landowners and their agents to take Mexican wolves engaged in killing, wounding, biting, chasing, threatening or harassing humans, pets, livestock on private land, subject to reasonable notice and reporting requirements.

ADOPTED this 9th day of September, 2013.

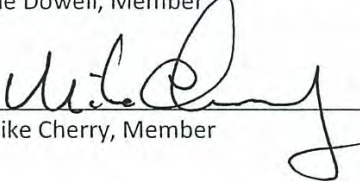
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
QUAY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Brad Bryant, Chairman

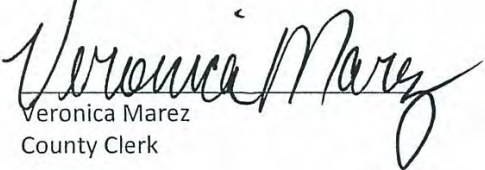


Sue Dowell, Member



Mike Cherry, Member

ATTEST:



Veronica Marez
County Clerk