



Letter to USDI Secretary Zinke re. Mexican Wolf Recovery Program Economic Impact on AZ Ranchers & AGFD

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Forest Restoration Program

Fire behavior without restoration treatments

Fire behavior after restoration treatments



Watershed Restoration Program

Watershed without restoration treatments



Watershed with restoration treatments



Water Program

Agriculture without water



Agriculture with water



Recreation and Public Lands Programs

Recreation and Public Lands access without local government involvement

Recreation and Public Lands access with local government involvement



Listed Species Program

Current experimental recovery population

Upcoming experimental recovery populations ???



Other species...



Natural Resources Planning Program



ECO 2016 Natural Resources Planning Legislative field trip

ECO 2017 Natural Resources Planning Legislative field trip



ECO 2015 Natural Resources Planning Legislative field trip

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- Core Principle #1: the Mexican Wolf is here, we need to manage it.
- Core Principle #2: if the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program is an asset to society, it cannot be managed as a liability to Arizona and New Mexico ranchers and the states' Game & Fish departments.
- Core Principle #3: all costs must be included in an economic impacts offset program:
 - I. direct costs (depredations compensation, proactive conflict avoidance measures, increased ranching costs, etc.)
 - II. indirect costs (decreasing foraging efficiencies, weight gain loss, conception rate drop, increased veterinary costs, etc.)

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- 1) The annual funding requirements for the expanding Mexican Wolf Recovery Program are estimated by AGFD to be:
 - a. \$250,000 annually for depredations compensation;
 - b. \$250,000 annually for proactive conflict avoidance measures;
 - c. \$1,500,000 annually for all-inclusive "Pay for Presence."
- 2) Current economic impacts are funded by annual USFWS Wolf Livestock Demonstration Project Grants that typically award approximately \$200,000 annually in Prevention Grants and Compensation Grants to Arizona and New Mexico combined.
- 3) This level of compensation will rapidly become woefully insufficient (10% of escalating needs for expanding population).

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- 4) The annual funding requirement for the full staffing of the Arizona Game & Fish Department Mexican Wolf team is \$600,000.
- 5) The New Mexico Department of Game & Fish funding requirements are likely similar.
- 6) U.S. Fish & Wildlife expects that recovery and delisting is going to take 25 to 35 years. An annual inflation cost escalator is required.
- 7) Access to USFWS Wolf Livestock Demonstration Project Grants money relies on NGOs match funding.

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- 8) 10% of the historical Mexican Wolf habitat is located in the United States, and 90% is located in Mexico.
- Successful recovery and delisting in the U.S. require a successful recovery in Mexico.
 - Funding for recovery in Mexico is in place, but is limited and insufficient.
 - Supporting financially recovery in Mexico is a strategic imperative to meet the end-goal of delisting in the U.S.
 - If 90% of the recovery is to take place on 90% of the historical Mexican Wolf in Mexico, the program costs in Mexico may be up to 9x the program costs in the U.S.

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- 9) \$38 million have been spent on the program as of end of 2017, for a population count as of February 2018 of a minimum of 114 Mexican wolves. This represents a societal investment of over \$330,000 per wolf.

Avoiding the half dozen annual illegal mortalities alone, plus the few lethal removals of problem wolves each year, would finance - at the rate of \$330,000 lost per wolf - well over \$2 million per year.

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Conclusion

If it continues as is, the funding of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program is not sustainable and will not be sufficient to address the economic impact of the program on AZ Ranchers & AGFD, as well as NM ranchers & NMDGF.

Ask

Bring a fresh perspective to the issue of fair compensation of the economic loss incurred by the communities that host the Mexican Wolf recovery effort, and the State agencies that manage them, and consider that fair compensation is probably one of the cheapest and fastest action to be taken to develop social consensus around the program and further the societal conditions for its success.

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Thank you.

Questions?