SELECTED CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: MEXICAN WOLF

Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program
Arizona Game and Fish Department
October 16, 1991

1630	First wolf bounty in New World established. Massachusetts Bay Colony authorizes one penny per wolf.
1697	Livestock introduced into southern Arizona by Spanish at San Xavier del Bac.
Mid-1700s	Livestock population reaches peak in Southwest. Livestock numbers fluctuate due to relations with Indians but remains high into mid-1800s.
1758	First scientific description of gray wolf (Canis lupus), by Linnaeus.
1849-1851	Wolves reportedly abundant in southeastern Arizona, southern New Mexico and northern Mexico.
1851	Earliest reported use of strychnine by Mexican ranchers to kill wolves and coyotes.
1853	Wolves reported in east-central Arizona.
Late 1870s	Anglo cattle ranches begin establishing in Southwest.
1890s	Wolves considered to be more abundant and widespread in Southwest than at any other time. Possibly related to numerous and more widely distributed livestock and a corresponding reduction in native prey.
1893	Territorial Bounty Act passed by Arizona-New Mexico Territorial legislature which allowed bounties for dead wolves.
1914	Predatory Animal and Rodent Control (PARC) established by Congress with responsibility for eliminating wolves, prairie dogs and other pests injurious to agriculture and animal husbandry interests in the Southwest. This agency established in response to requests from livestock growers, sportsmen and conservationists.
1915-1918	263 wolves reported destroyed by PARC in Arizona & New Mexico.
1918-1927	336 wolves reported destroyed by PARC in Arizona only.
Mid-1920s	Last wolves trapped on Kaibab Plateau.

1928-1937	97 wolves reported destroyed by PARC in Arizona.
1929	First scientific description of Mexican wolf (C. l. baileyi).
1937	First scientific description of intermountain wolf (C. l. youngi) and Mogollon mountain wolf (C. l. mogollonensis).
1938-1947	49 wolves reported destroyed by PARC in Arizona.
1940s	"Coyote-getter" or cyanide gun believed to have been introduced into the Southwest.
1942	Last wolf from north of the Mogollon Rim trapped southwest of Winslow.
	Last known wolves born in the wild in Southwest (Huachuca Mountains). Male and pups killed by PARC agent Bill Castro, the female escaped.
Dec 29	Reported wolf aggression on a railroad worker near Poulin, Ontario, Canada. The worker was not injured during the 25 minute encounter.
1943	Last wolves trapped in Baboquivari Mountains.
1947	Bounty Law of 1893 revised by Arizona Legislature authorizing $50 bounty on wolves. Bounty later increased to $75 per wolf.
1948-1957	10 wolves reported destroyed by PARC in Arizona.
Early 1950s	Compound 1080 introduced in Southwest and Mexico for predator control.
1958-1967	10 wolves reported destroyed or captured by PARC in Arizona.
1960	
Feb 5	One wolf killed with a coyote getter in Santa Cruz County by Mammal Control Agent Alfred Merrill. The point of capture was north of the Mexican Border and a few miles northeast of the Nogales Airport.
Mar 28	One male wolf was killed by Mammal Control Agent Russell Culbreath, assigned to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The wolf was taken in an area known as the "Grasshopper district" on the reservation's west end. A wolf had been reported on the reservation in 1959, and later that same

year, cattleman reported seeing a wolf near this area but off the reservation.

Aug — One wolf was trapped by a cattleman on the Schilling Ranch north of Willcox. Livestock Sanitary Board paid the bounty. This wolf was credited with killing three calves on local ranches before it was trapped.

1961

May 2 — Mammal Control Agent Alfred N. Merrill killed one wolf with a coyote getter a few miles north of the AZ-Mexico border near Red Rock Canyon on the Vaca Ranch.

Nov — Mammal Control Agent Alfred N. Merrill took one wolf with coyote getter. No further information is available.

Female wolf donated to Arizona Sonora-Desert Museum (ASDM) by a tourist; wolf became founder of the ASDM/Ghost Ranch lineage.

1962 — Mammal Control Agent Lawrence Bernell killed one wolf in Mohave County (November). No further information is available.

1963 — Last documented wolves killed in Arizona (March); one in Pinal County by Mammal Control Agent Darrell Martin with a Cyanide gun and one in Mohave County by Mammal Control Agent Edwin Riggs.

1965 — Pair of wolves obtained from an animal dealer by Wild Canid Survival and Research Center, which began another lineage.

Mid-1970s — Aravaipa wolf reportedly killed by trapper paid by cattlemen. USFWS photos of skull (only proof) indicate it was a wolf. This is the last suspected wolf killed Arizona.

1972 — Agreement reached between U.S. and Roy McBride for capture of Mexican wolves for captive propagation. First certified Mexican wolf captured in Durango, Mexico by McBride. This male died in 1979 prior to any genetic contribution. Six Mexican wolves eventually captured by Roy McBride between 1972 and 1980. Three of the 6 plus the uncaptured sire of the pregnant female have contributed to the captive population.

Compound 1080 use canceled by EPA.

1973		Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) eliminated open hunting of Mexican wolves.
		Mexican wolf designated by U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife (later became U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) as threatened.
1974		Chuck Hanson, Curator of Birds and Mammals at ASDM, heard of an active wolf den in the Whetstone Mountains north of the old Canelo Hills wolf runway. Dan Miles Gish, an Animal Damage Control (ADC) Agent, investigated all traditional runways in the area and located no evidence of wolves.
1976		
	Apr 28	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a proposed rule in the Federal Register listing C. l. baileyi as an Endangered Species.
	May 4	Mexican wolf listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.
1977		
	Jun 9	USFWS issued a proposed rule in the Federal Register listing the species C. lupus as Endangered in Mexico and the 48 contiguous states of the U.S. except Minnesota. At the same time, the rule deleted listing of all previously listed subspecies, which included baileyi.
	Summer	Reported wolf aggression toward a scientist on Ellesmere Island, Northwest Territories, Canada. "The wolf grazed her cheek, leaving it wet with saliva." Event later discounted by L. David Mech.
		Two male Mexican wolves captured by Roy McBride for USFWS breeding program; one from Durango and one from Chihuahua (the latter died in 1978 prior to any genetic contribution).
		Mexican wolf protected in New Mexico by state regulations.
1978		First and only female Mexican wolf captured by McBride in Durango. She was pregnant when captured.
		Another male Mexican wolf captured by McBride in Durango; died in 1981 prior to any genetic contribution.

1979		
	Feb	Mexican Wolf Workshop sponsored by ASDM and USFWS in cooperation with the Mexican government.
	Fall	Mexican Wolf Recovery Team formed.
Late 1970s		Original 2 captive lineages removed from propagation program due to uncertain genetic heritage.
1980		Last male Mexican wolf captured by McBride in Chihuahua.
		McBride estimated about 50 Mexican wolves remain in the wild in northern Mexico.
1981		Jose Trevino, Mexican biologist and member of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Team, estimated about 30 Mexican wolves in the wild in Mexico.
1982		
	Sep 15	Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan approved.
		Mexican wolf listed by AGFD as extirpated from Arizona.
		Endangered Species Act amended authorizing experimental-nonessential classification for reintroduced species.
1984		
	Jun 29	Reported wolf pack "aggression" toward three scientists near Twin Lakes, Manitoba, Canada. No one was injured. A den was later discovered within 4 km from the encounter site and possible wolf pup tracks were found nearby.
1985		First meeting of Mexican Wolf Captive Management Committee (November), established by USFWS to direct and oversee certified Mexican wolf captive propagation program.
1986		
	Mar 12	Letter from USFWS initiating a search for wolf reintroduction sites.

Jun 26	Meeting of representatives from New Mexico, Texas and Arizona Game and Fish Departments, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) AND USFWS to discuss Mexican wolf reintroduction sites.
Jul 14	Letter from USFWS to AGFD requesting consideration of four sites in Arizona as possible reintroduction sites.
Jul 17	Nomination by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish of White Sands Missile Range as candidate site for possible reintroduction.
Jul 28	Letter from AGFD to USFWS identifying 15 sites, including the previously identified four, as areas to be considered for wolf reintroduction.
Oct 9	Letter from AGFD to USFWS indicating that AGFD would not participate in further reintroduction discussions until procedures for reintroductions were approved by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (AGFC).
Nov 18	Letter from USFWS to AGFD that they agreed with Department's position.

1987

Apr 15	Letter from Major General of White Sands Missile Range to USFWS authorizing evaluation of the biological potential of White Sands as a wolf reintroduction site.
Spring	Mexican wolf feasibility studies conducted on White Sands Missile Range.
Jun 9	Letter from AGFD to USFWS, putting wolf and grizzly bear reintroduction on the "back burner" because of negative publicity and pressure from special interest groups. Suggests development of educational program with USFWS.
Jul	AGFD authorized the Department to conduct a public opinion survey on the Mexican wolf.
Aug	Proposal submitted to the AGFC, USFWS and USFS for a public opinion survey on the Mexican wolf in Arizona.
Aug	Approval by AGFC of "Procedures for Nongame Wildlife and Endangered Species Re-Establishment Projects in Arizona."

Sep	FS agreed to fund attitude survey.
Sep 29	Letter from Major General of White Sands Missile Range to USFWS, withdrawing White Sands as a potential reintroduction site.
Oct 7	Letter from USFWS to White Sands terminating wolf reintroduction efforts at White Sands Missile Range.
Nov 24	AGFC updated on Mexican wolves and awaiting promised funding for attitude survey.
	Texas precluded by state law from reintroducing wolves.

1988

Mar	USFWS agreed to fund publication and distribution of educational material and survey results.
Jul	Phase 1 of public opinion survey conducted (personal or telephone interviews); Phase 2 (the questionnaire) was postponed.
Jul 21	Mexican wolf listed by AGFD as Endangered in the list of Threatened Native Wildlife in Arizona.

1990

Feb/Mar	Phase 2 of public attitude survey conducted.
Mar 23/24	Arizona Wolf Symposium held in Tempe.
Apr 20	Letter from Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army to USFWS reapproving White Sands Missile Range for further evaluation as a Mexican wolf reintroduction site.
Apr 23	Lawsuit filed against the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Interior by the Wolf Action Group, Mexican Wolf Coalition, Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Fund and the National Audubon Society. Plaintiffs claim that the Secretary of the Interior failed to implement the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and the Secretary of Defense failed to cooperate in the implementation of the Recovery Plan.
Apr 23	Bounty on predators law repealed by Governor Mofford.

Aug 4	AGFC updated on wolf issues, results of Phase 2 of attitude survey presented and the commission approved seeking outside funding for surveys of potential reintroduction sites.
Sep	Possible Arizona reintroduction sites reduced from 15 to 4
Oct	Yellowstone "Wolf Management Committee" legislation passed by House and Senate Interior Appropriations Conference Committee. Committee must develop management plan and recovery plan for reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone and Central Idaho Wilderness Areas. Must report to Congress by 5-15-91. Members chosen by Secretary of Interior, Manuel Lujan.
Oct	Mexican Wolf Population Viability Assessment and Conservation Plan Workshop held at Fossil Rim Ranch in Texas regarding maintenance of captive Mexican wolves.
Oct	USFWS appointed David Parsons as Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator.
Dec 17	AGFD proposal to USFWS to fund an evaluation of 4 reintroduction sites: Blue Primitive Area, Chiricahua Mountains, Galiuro/Pinaleno Mountains and Atascosa/Huachuca Mountains.

1991

Jan 7	USFWS approved proposal for determining suitability of 4 sites in Arizona as Mexican wolf habitat and funded $53,296. AGFD funded an additional $17,765.
Feb 9	Mexican Wolf Symposium hosted by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Feb 25/27	Public Scoping Meeting held in Las Cruces and Tucson. USFWS's "Proposal and General Plan for an Experimental Release of the Mexican Wolf" formally released at the meetings.
Feb 27	Arizona Wool Producers Association announced a resolution to not oppose wolf reintroduction if certain criteria were met. Resolution ratified by members.
Mar 26	Defenders of Wildlife announced the development of the Mexican Wolf Compensation Fund with a goal of $100,000.

Apr 25	Informal meetings (2) held by AGFD in the Springerville area to discuss Mexican wolf issues with livestock growers and other concerned citizens.
May 15	Wolf Management Committee report, "Reintroduction and Management of Wolves in Yellowstone National Park and the Central Idaho Wilderness Area" released to Congress.
Jul	Original Mexican Wolf Recovery Team disbanded and a new team established.
	USFWS decides to prepare an EIS instead of a less intense EA for the experimental release of Mexican wolves.
Aug	"Preliminary Results Of A Public Opinion Survey Of Arizona Residents And Interested Groups About The Mexican Wolf" distributed by AGFD.
Aug 7/10	Arizona Cattle Growers' Association Annual Meeting, in Tucson. Resolution developed indicating they would not oppose wolf reintroduction if certain criteria were met. Resolution not yet ratified by members.
Aug 8	Defenders of Wildlife filed suit against the U.S. Department of Interior to restore wolves to Yellowstone National Park as called for in the recovery plan.
Summer	Neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate Appropriations Committees included funding for Mexican wolf recovery in the 1992 budgets. Operating funds for next year will have to be allocated from the USFWS general species recovery fund.
Sep	Arizona Cattle Growers' Association distributed ratified resolution regarding wolf reintroduction.
Dec	Target date for finalization of results of habitat evaluation study on four sites in Arizona.
<u>1992</u>	
Jan	Target date for initiating production of EIS.