



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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August 12, 2014

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Letters to the Editor
The Arizona Republic
P.O. Box 1950
Phoenix, AZ 85001

Editor:

A recent *Arizona Republic* editorial inaccurately portrayed the motives of the Arizona Game and Fish Department in the recovery of the Mexican wolf in Arizona ("What are wolves supposed to do? Order a pizza?" August 4, 2014). Our Department has only one agenda on the Mexican wolf: to help this native subspecies recover to the point where it is in balance with man and nature.

Arizona Game and Fish Department wildlife managers are the backbone of the Mexican wolf recovery field team. They're in the field at high elevation, braving scorching summers and snowbound winters, performing high-risk activities such as low-level aerial surveys, wolf captures and handling operations. We have taken risks and invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in wolf recovery because it is work we believe in.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has consistently reiterated its support for Mexican wolf conservation, managed in balance with other elements of the ecosystem such as deer, elk and other wildlife populations, and the people who live, work and recreate on the landscape. We've attached a drawing rendered by one of our biologists, Randy Babb, to illustrate our belief in the need for balance, and we reiterate our interest in working with all parties to achieve it as part of a successful wolf conservation program.

To see what's really being done to repatriate the Mexican wolf, read the special Mexican wolf edition of *Arizona Wildlife Views* magazine (<http://wolfissue.azgfdportal.com/>).

Sincerely,

Larry D. Voyles
Director