

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
CONCERNING SCOPING HEARINGS ON THE EXPANSION
OF MEXICAN WOLF CONSERVATION**

WHEREAS, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) have been partners with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Mexican wolf conservation since the effort's inception; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) envisions a significant role for state fish and wildlife agencies in endangered species conservation and recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, since the Mexican Wolf conservation effort promulgated under section 10(j) of the ESA, Arizona has been the only state in which primary releases of Mexican wolves have been allowed; and

WHEREAS, the primary capacity for the Interagency Field Team has been supplied by personnel from AGFD, and

WHEREAS, the congressional record clearly reflects congressional intent that rules promulgated under section 10(j) of the ESA will reflect an agreement between the USFWS and the effected states; and

WHEREAS, the National Environmental Policy Act requires adequate public notice and opportunity to comment which should involve public hearings near the location of the proposed action; and

WHEREAS, the USFWS has received written requests to hold public scoping hearings in Arizona directly from the AGFD, Graham County, Greenlee County, Navajo County, Apache County, Gila County, and specifically from US Congressman Paul Gosar, US Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick, and Senator Jeff Flake; and

WHEREAS, the USFWS has publicly announced its decision to hold scoping hearings in Washington, DC, where there are no plans to conserve Mexican wolves; and to hold public scoping hearings in Sacramento, CA where there are no plans to conserve Mexican wolves; and

WHEREAS, the USFWS has elected to hold a public scoping hearing in Albuquerque, NM as the only state in which Mexican wolf conservation would be involved; and

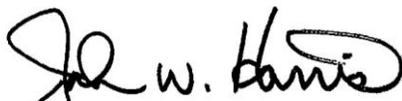
WHEREAS, the USFWS has specifically not elected to hold any public scoping hearings in Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Arizona will unarguably be the most affected by the decisions to be made;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission expresses its extreme concern that the USFWS has refused to hold public scoping hearings in Arizona regarding proposals to expand Mexican Wolf conservation efforts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission demands that the Secretary of the Interior and Director of the USFWS reconsider this decision and schedule public scoping hearings in the State of Arizona with at least one meeting to occur in a community geographically located within the proposed 10(j) area.

ADOPTED on the 6th day of September, 2013 by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.



John W. Harris
Chairman
Arizona Game and Fish Commission

