



THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
**GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT**

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TY E. GRAY



September 9, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Dan Ashe  
Director  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell and Director Ashe:

It is my duty as Chairman of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to forward the attached Commission Resolution passed by this body at our September 6 Commission meeting in Show Low, Arizona, to express our disappointment at the refusal to hold public scoping hearings in Arizona regarding the proposed expansion of Mexican wolf conservation, an expansion that will almost certainly deliver a preponderance of the program's social, financial, and biological costs to the citizens of Arizona.

As your partners in this effort since the program's birth, the passion of the resolution's language reflects our regret at what seems like an opportunity being missed by the Department of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to show their respect for those who share the working lands of Arizona with this species and who will live with the consequences of this program, potentially in perpetuity.

The best meetings in Sacramento, Albuquerque, or even the nation's capital, will not suffice as substitutes for meeting on the affected land with the affected parties.

Sincerely,

John W. Harris  
Chairman

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission

Secretary Jewell and Director Ashe

September 9, 2013

2

cc: The Honorable Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona  
The Honorable John McCain, Senator from Arizona  
The Honorable Jeff Flake, Senator from Arizona  
The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick, Representative from Arizona  
The Honorable Ron Barber, Representative from Arizona  
The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Representative from Arizona  
The Honorable Paul Gosar, Representative from Arizona  
The Honorable Matt Salmon, Representative from Arizona  
The Honorable David Schweikert, Representative from Arizona  
The Honorable Ed Pastor, Representative from Arizona  
The Honorable Trent Franks, Representative from Arizona  
The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema, Representative from Arizona  
Mr. Drew John, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Graham County, Arizona  
Mr. David Gomez, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Greenlee County, Arizona  
Mr. Jonathan Nez, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Navajo County, Arizona  
Mr. Tom White, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Apache County, Arizona  
Mr. Michael Pastor, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Gila County, Arizona  
Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, Director, Region 2, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**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 affected 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

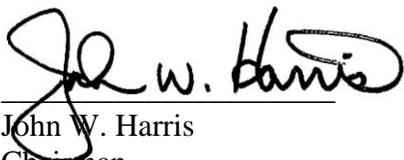
**WHEREAS**, the USFWS has specifically not elected to hold any public scoping hearings in Arizona; and

**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 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013 by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.



John W. Harris  
Chairman

Arizona Game and Fish Commission

