

MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Final Summary Notes for Conference Call on January 17, 2006

Location: Conference Call
Date: January 17, 2006
Time: AZ Time: 1300 – 1630
Host: AGFD
Participants: AMOC Lead Agencies: AGFD – Bill Van Pelt, Sharon Hansen; USDA FS – Wally Murphy; USFWS – John Morgart, Colleen Buchanan, John Oakleaf, Jose ?, Liz Slown.; USDA APHIS WS – Dave Bergman; NMDGF – Lisa Kirkpatrick, Chuck Hayes

AMWG Signatory Cooperators: Greenlee County AZ – Hector Ruedas

A. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Bill Van Pelt called the conference call meeting to order at 1300 local time. After a brief welcome and introductions, the agenda was followed.

B. Agenda Items

1. 2006 Moratorium Issues and End-of-Year Count for 2005 - The moratorium would be initiated if 6 or more breeding pairs were met. John Oakleaf reviewed recently sighted wolves:
 - San Mateo - 3 wolves, one was a pup (breeding pair); Rim Pack - 1 animal was viewed but they know 2 were present; Hon Dah - viewed 4 to 5 animals (not counted as a breeding pair previously, but now are); Bluestem Pack – viewed of 4 collared animals consisting of alpha male and female, yearling and pup; Hawk’s Nest – 2 were viewed.
 - Confirmed cattle kill today in NM by 1008 and other wolves near the North Fork of Negro. WS will set traps and attempt to obtain a collar.
2. Jose discussed commissioner press releases for the 5-Year Review and 2006 Moratorium. It’s a formal process with more detail than the other types of press releases. Hector needs wolf count information by COB January 20, 2006.
3. Reviewed dates, times, and locations for the January 25-26 AMOC meeting and January 26 and 27 AMWG meetings. The January 25 AMOC meeting will start at 1 pm in Thatcher, AZ.
4. January 25 evening dinner meeting with Frank Hayes (and **NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION REDACTION**), IFT and AMOC members at Cattlemen’s Restaurant in Safford. Hector voiced concern about AMOC/IFT communications regarding upcoming releases and who is notified of what information when. Ranchers knew about a potential release site before Hector’s team did.

5. 5-Year Review: Loose Ends - FWS is drafting a letter on the 5-Year Recommendations. It is currently going through signature process at FWS with the intent to have it ready for the AMWG meeting next week.

6. Other Pending AMOC/IFT Action Items

Comments on workshop were to have been provided to Dave Bergman by 12/31/05. Workshop topics should have been submitted to Dave Bergman by 12/26/05.

7. Follow-up on Action Items from 12/21/05 AMOC conference call:

Action Item #5 - Draft changes to SOP 17.0, 18.0 (and others?) to address access issues on **TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION**. Action: Wally Murphy suggested the SOP changes and will work with the appropriate IFT members to craft them for AMOC consideration. **(discuss at the 1/26/06 AMOC meeting & possibly re-assign)**

Action Item #7 - The Monthly Updates must clearly identify current numbers of breeding pairs and total (collared vs. uncollared) wolves, and clearly distinguish between them. Breeding pairs, packs, family groups, and whatever other terms are used in those reports must be defined in them so readers can understand the numbers. Action: IFT (John Oakleaf, IFT Leaders, and Shawna Nelson) to modify the report before the next draft is due, January 2, 2006. **(clarify at 1/26/06 AMOC meeting)**

Action Item #10 - AMOC and the IFT will start looking for more ways to improve communication throughout the Project, to ensure that "surprises" do not occur and that everyone is "on the same page" with regard to important issues. **(put on 1/26/05 AMOC agenda)**

Action Item #11 - Each AMOC representative needs to ensure that conference calls and meetings are covered by their surrogate when the representative cannot participate. **(on-going, discuss further at 1/26/05 AMOC meeting)**

8. New Action Items:

Action item - Wally wants 2006 budget information submitted to him by COB 1/20/06

Action item – Distribute Agenda for 1/25-26/06 AMOC meeting in Thatcher, AZ (start time 1 pm).

9. The meeting was adjourned at 1430.