

MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Summary Notes for Conference Call on March 13, 2006

Location: Conference Call
Date: March 13, 2006
Time: AZ Time: 1000 – 1630
Host: AGFD
Participants: AMOC Lead Agencies: AGFD – Bill Van Pelt, Sharon Hansen, Shawn Farry; USDA FS – Wally Murphy; USFWS – John Morgart, Colleen Buchanan; NMDGF – Lisa Kirkpatrick; USDA Bud Starnes.

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 1000 local time. After a brief welcome and introductions, the agenda was followed.

B. Review of Outstanding Action Items - Sharon Hansen

- **Action Item:** AMOC will follow-up with **TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION**.
- **Action Item:** IFT will meet with WMAT representatives, Cynthia and Krista, in February 2006 to discuss wolf survey sightings and program coordination efforts. **Completed - Dan Groebner and John Oakleaf met with WMAT representatives.**
- **Action Item:** The IFT will submit a written process documenting flight pattern protocol, an assessment of the process and costs by February 20, 2006. The IFT will provide Hector Ruedas a 1-page synopsis of the same information. **Completed.**
- **Action Item:** John Morgart will follow-up with AMOC officials by February 28, 2006 regarding trans-jurisdictional issues. **The USFWS determined that wolves can be translocated.**
- **Action Item:** Jon Cooley of Region 1 will meet with Forest Supervisor and Frank Hayes to discuss the wolf release, elk population and Rodeo Chediski issues. **Jon Cooley has not met with Frank Hayes yet.**
- **Action Item:** IFT will draft the Annual Operating Plan for 2006 for AMOC review by February 28, 2006. **Shawn Farry indicated John Oakleaf wrote it up, but AMOC has not seen it yet. A copy will be forwarded via e-mail.**
- **Action Item:** USFWS will draft a letter for current assessment to determine any change of conditions from the original EA. AGFD and WMAT will review and provide concurrence as appropriate. **John Morgart indicated that the IFT is working directly**

with the USFS, Cathy Taylor, to get this taken care of. IFT will follow-up with Cathy Taylor to make sure she has everything she needs.

- **Action Item:** USFS will check all Arizona sites to determine whether they have updated special use permits. **In process – Wally Murphy and John Morgart are following-up with Cathy Taylor on a special use permit.**
- **Action Item:** IFT will meet with the Clifton Ranger District Game Ranger, Steve Nahar, regarding the wolf program and wildlife prey base populations by February 10, 2006. **The IFT has met several times with the Ranger District. Mike Godwin attended the February IFT meeting to discuss prey base populations.**
- **Action Item:** **TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION.**
- **Action Item:** The IFT will reassess the initial and reintroduction releases for AMOC discussion via a conference call on February 28, 2006. **Completed.**
- **Action Item:** The IFT will provide a firm cost for two hard releases in the Blue Range primitive area. **Completed - To be discussed under the IFT portion of the agenda.**
- **Action Item:** AMOC will invite big game representatives to discuss prey bases. This activity is also included in the 5-Year Review recommendations. **On-going - NMDGF and AGFD are working with prey base experts.**
- **Action Item:** The USFWS will meet with Brian Arroyo and move the Service's recommendations acceptance process forward by February 2, 2006. John Morgart will determine which dates the USFWS is available to meet with AMOC regarding progress on the recommendations. **USFWS has acknowledged receipt of the recommendations. USFWS believes additional review is required. A Federal Register announcement of a 30-day review should be published on March 16, 2006 and the comment period will end on April 14, 2006**
- **Action Item:** Chuck Hayes will ensure that NMDGF is represented by himself or his surrogate at future AMOC meetings and conference calls. **Completed.**
- **Action Item:** AMOC comments on the draft agenda are due to Dave Bergman by February 5, 2006. **Completed**
- **Action Item:** AMOC will supply Mr. Ruedas a finalized needs list for FY 2007 by February 28, 2006. **Completed. Hector Ruedas and Kay Gale briefed Senators Kyl**

and McCain while in Washington D.C. Mr. Rick Renzi, Congressmen will be sending a representative to the October 2006 Morenci meeting.

- **Action Item:** Each agency will provide to Wally Murphy 2006 budget needs and footnotes defining the numerical references by February 10, 2006. Agencies are to also approximate 2007 needs. **Completed, but no WMAT budget was submitted. Cynthia Dale, WMAT, will provide their budget when it becomes available.**
- **Action Item:** There will be an AMOC conference call on March 13, 2006 at 10:00am to discuss budgets. **Completed**
- **Action Item:** Terry Johnson will take over action item # 5 to work with IFT on draft changes to SOP 17.0 and 18.0 addressing WMAT access issues. **Bill Van Pelt to follow-up with Terry Johnson to determine status.**
- **Action Item:** Carcass Movement - SOP #9 moving tested carcasses across county lines is alright with NMDGF. Chuck will send out text changes to Terry for SOP update. **Lisa Kirkpatrick to follow-up.**
- **Action Item:** Chuck Hayes will provide the latest Mythbusters document for conversion by AGFD to pdf and post on the website. **Lisa Kirkpatrick to follow-up.**

C. Discussion of IFT recommendations to AMOC for 2006 Initial Release-Shawn Farry
IFT reviewed the considerations analyzed for each of the recommendations. The IFT re-evaluated prey bases below the Blue Ridge Rim. AMOC supports Option #4 - two initial releases in the Blue Ridge Primitive Area to include Bear Valley and Rossen Stock locations.

D. Discussion of IFT recommendations to AMOC for 2006 Translocations- Shawn Farry
IFT provided background information on the recommendations. AMOC supports the IFT translocation recommendations #1, #2, and #3.

E. Discussion on Helicopter Evaluation and Annual Report

Action Item: AMOC comments and any clarifying questions are due to John Oakleaf by March 24, 2006.

F. Finalize August Workshop Information/Input

Action Item: Bill Van Pelt to follow-up with Dave Bergman to determine why some keynote speakers dropped out.

G. Five-Year review in Federal Register and public announcement-John Morgart/Colleen Buchanan

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The USFWS process requires that the wolf reintroduction program five-year review recommendations go through a 30-day comment period. The Federal Register announcement should occur on March 15, 2006. **Action Item:** The USFWS will provide AGFD an announcement for an Endangered Species update.

H. Other Business

John Morgart, USFWS, discussed the possibilities of establishing a wolf reintroduction program with Mexico officials. The Tri-lateral Committee will meet in San Diego in May 2006. **Action Item:** The USFWS will investigate writing a letter to Mexican officials encouraging cooperation on a wolf reintroduction program. USFWS asked the states to determine whether the States of Arizona and New Mexico would also write supporting letters.

2006 Meeting Locations

April 20- 21, 2006, Pinetop, AZ, 1:30 – 5pm
AGFD Region 1
2878 E. White Mountain Blvd.
Pinetop, AZ 85935

July 20 - 21, 2006, Reserve, NM, 1:30 – 5pm
Community Center
Reserve, New Mexico

August Workshop 29 – 31, 2006 with Hon-Dah, hotel rooms held for 28, 29 and 30th.
Hon-Dah
777 Highway 260
Pinetop, Arizona 85935-9699

October 19 - 20, 2006, Morenci, AZ, 1:30 – 5pm
October 19, 2006
Morenci Club
314 Plaza Drive
Morenci, AZ 85540

October 20, 2006
Courthouse
253 5th Street
Clifton, AZ 85533

AMOC would meet with the IFT on Dec 6 (10 am to 5 pm)) in Phx at the WS office.
Director's Summit - Dec 7 (10 am to 5 pm) at the same location.

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USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
8836 N. 23rd Avenue, Suite B-2
Phoenix, AZ

New Mexico Catron County Commission Agricultural Emergency
Bud Starnes announced that Catron County, New Mexico has issued an Agricultural
Emergency to obtain money to hire more people help Wildlife Services with the Mexican
Wolf Program. **Action Item:** Bud Starnes will e-mail the agricultural emergency notification.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 1220.