

# MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

DRAFT SUMMARY NOTES FOR MEETING ON JANUARY 13, 2009

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

FINAL: JANUARY 26, 2009

Location: Conference Call  
Date/Time: January 13 at 1300-1700 (AZ-NM Time)  
Convener: Arizona Game and Fish Department  
Participants: Lead Agencies: AGFD, NMDGF, USFS, USFWS, WS, and WMAT  
Signatory Cooperators: GRECO, NMDA  
IFT: AGFD, NMDGF, USFWS  
OTHERS: None

1. Welcome, opening comments, and ground rules. Chair Terry B. Johnson (AGFD) welcomed all attendees. No opening comments were made and the usual ground rules were employed.
2. Agenda review, additional discussion points, and special announcements. No items were added to the agenda and no special announcements were made.
3. Discussion of Summary Notes from Previous AMOC and/or AMWG Meeting(s). All previous AMOC and AMWG Summary Notes have been finalized and posted to the Project Web site (<http://azgfd.gov/wolf>), so there was no discussion on this item.

## Current Action Items

1. Evaluate how to increase effectiveness of public participation in AMWG meetings (assigned 4/22/08). Discussed in AMOC on July 29-31 and in AMWG on July 30. Consensus to cut-back AMOC and AMWG meetings to three times per year in 2009 et seq. In 2009 et seq., move AMWG meetings back to end (1600-2000) of AMOC and Director Summit sessions. Explore possible changes in AMWG meeting format that might engage more attendees in substantive matters, such as issue-based discussions. Consider implementing changes in October 2008 AMWG meeting, with results-driven adjustments in subsequent meetings.
  - a. Kay Gale (assigned 10/29/08) to reconvene a work group to reconsider all available comment on possible changes in AMWG meetings (frequency, timing, and format) and report back to AMOC in writing by 12/19/08. **Status: completed; work group report discussed in 1/13/09 AMOC conference call; agreement reached on which elements to implement and which to consider further.**
2. Nail down specific dates and locations (meeting rooms, facility contacts) for 2008-2010 AMOC, Director Summit, and AMWG meetings (assigned 4/22/08, revised 7/29/08). AMOC

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<sup>1</sup>The Reintroduction Project is a state- and tribally-led collaborative effort among six Lead Agencies and five Signatory Cooperators. Lead Agencies are: Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD); New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services (WS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT). Signatory Cooperators are: Graham, Greenlee, and Navajo counties, Arizona; New Mexico Department of Agriculture; and Sierra County, New Mexico.

and Director Summit meeting rooms must be large enough for 30 and preferably 40 participants. AMWG meeting rooms must be large enough for 75 participants. Discussed in AMOC on July 29-31; 2008-2010 schedule revised and approved.

- a. Terry Johnson (assigned 10/28-29/08): update AMOC **Status: completed.**
3. Ensure complete coverage of all FTE allocations to IFT (assigned 4/22/08). All Lead Agency Directors committed to ensuring that significant gaps in IFT coverage do not occur due to employee resignation, leave, and other priority assignments. However, some positions in NMDGF and USFWS have remained unfilled for months, and TDAs are not being used to fully cover short-term or other vacancies, resulting in gaps in IFT coverage and pressuring remaining IFT members to handle the workload.
  - a. Maggie Dwire (assigned 7/30/08): resolve gaps in USFWS backup coverage for John Oakleaf at field level (i.e. FPC, co-investigation, SCAT, and other field responsibilities) and TDA coverage for short and long-term vacancies in USFWS component of IFT. **Status: pending; issue referred to Directors in November 2008.**
  - b. Matt Wunder (assigned 7/30/08): resolve gaps in TDA coverage for short and long-term vacancies in NMDGF component of IFT. **Status: pending; issue referred to Directors in November 2008.**
4. Determine whether to establish a temporary holding facility for Project use (assigned 4/22/08). Various interim steps completed in May-July 2008, including AMOC discussion with Directors on July 30, but final decision package not yet produced.
  - a. Cynthia Dale (assigned 4/23/08): work with IFTLs and FPC to add FAIR information to recommendation for temporary holding facility. **Status: pending; WMAT considering alternatives for FAIR.**
  - b. IFT (assigned 10/29/08): submit detailed cost estimate to AMOC Chair by November 28 for pen construction at remote site on USFS lands. **Status: completed; final draft proposal discussed in 1/13/09 AMOC conference call and awaiting review and decision by USFS (scoping process underway).**
5. 2006 NEPA Addendum to 2003 AMOC MOU (assigned 4/22/08).
  - a. Cynthia Dale (assigned 7/29/08): determine whether WMAT wants to become a NEPA Cooperator and apprise AMOC Chair of decision. **Status: pending; WMAT action deferred until overarching NMDGF issues with 2003 MOU resolved.**
  - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/29/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 regarding acceptance of additional AZ and NM counties that have requested status as NEPA Addendum Cooperators under 2003 MOU. **Status: pending; discussion deferred until overarching NMDGF issues with 2003 MOU resolved.**
6. Resolve whether funding is sufficient to cover helicopter and fixed-wing flight support for Project in FY2009 (assigned 5/20/08). Update July 31: total projected need \$179,217 for fixed-wing and helicopter flights (including weekly monitoring, capture/removal, end-of-year count, and contingency flights). NMDGF providing at least \$47,000 and AGFD providing at least \$98,202, so minimum shortfall is \$34,015 and maximum shortfall would be \$85,217 if AGFD cuts back to \$47,000 (i.e. same level as current NMDGF commitment).
  - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): by August 22, inform Lead Agency Directors that funds available are not sufficient for helicopter and fixed-wing flight support for FY2009. **Status: closed out per 6d below.**

- b. Lead Agency Directors (assigned 7/30/08): provide guidance to AMOC on how to resolve shortfall (e.g. cut back flights, cut back area of coverage, and/or secure more funds). **Status: closed out per 6d below.**
  - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 regarding Directors guidance on funding for flights. **Status: closed out per 6d below.**
  - d. Terry Johnson (assigned 1/13/09): advise AGFD Director that per 1/13/09 AMOC conference call NMDGF will not commit additional funding for flights to meet its one-third share obligation (AGFD, NMDGF, WMAT [AGFD covers the WMAT share]) of the total annual costs; determine how AGFD will proceed; and advise AMOC of the AGFD decision in 2/10/09 AMOC conference call. **Status: pending.**
7. IFT activity priorities and possible need for additional resources, including more personnel (assigned 5/20/08). Update July 31: AMOC discussed issue in April, May, June, and July. AMOC consensus: disagreements among Lead Agencies not resolvable at AMOC level.
- a. AMOC representatives (assigned 7/30/08): discuss IFT FTE table with Director and report back to AMOC on guidance received. **Status: pending; AMOC unable to resolve conflicts; issue referred to Directors in November 2008.**
  - b. Lead Agency Directors (assigned 7/30/08): by September 15, provide guidance to AMOC on preferred solutions to disagreements. **Status: pending.**
8. Public comment periods for draft Project SOPs and Clarification Memos (assigned 5/20/08). Need to reaffirm Lead Agency Director consensus (or lack thereof) on AMOC providing public comment periods for all draft SOPs and Clarification Memos. Issue scheduled for July 2008 Directors Summit, but time constraints precluded discussion.
- a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): notify Directors that further guidance is needed for AMOC on whether “public comment periods” for Project SOPs and Clarification Memos are mandatory or discretionary. **Status: pending; issue referred to Directors in November 2008.**
9. Draft “roles and responsibilities” document (assigned 7/31/08).
- a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 to discuss Lead Agency feedback on draft “roles and responsibilities” document. **Status: pending; document will be revised and finalized by 1/31/09.**
10. Revision of draft Clarification Memos for SOPs 11.0 and 13.0.
- a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): submit AMOC-revised draft Clarification Memos to Lead Agency Directors for consideration and further guidance to AMOC. **Status: completed; final draft memos forwarded to Directors on 11/22/08.**
11. Update BRWRA Project summary of costs-to-date (assigned 7/30/08).
- a. AMOC Lead Agency Representatives (assigned 7/30/08): by August 31, provide revised information for 2008 and 2009 to Terry Johnson. **Status: pending; missing only the NMDGF contract information for FY08 and FY09.**
  - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): update Project costs-to-date summary and re-post on Project Web site by September 30. **Status: Status: pending; TBJ awaiting NMDGF response to preceding Action Item but will post update on January 31 with or without the NMDGF information.**

12. Complete AMOC white paper on management response to Mexican wolf population losses (assigned 9/16/08).
  - a. AMOC et al.: discuss agency head comment in AMOC meeting on October 28-29 and determine course of action. **Status: pending; final draft forwarded to Directors on 12/10/8 and awaiting their action.**
13. AMOC meeting scheduled for October 28-29 in Glenwood NM.
  - a. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators (assigned 9/23/08): by November 7, submit review comments on draft Summary Notes to Terry Johnson. **Status: completed 11/7/08.**
  - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 9/23/08): by November 10, disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes and post them to Project Web site. **Status: completed 11/12/08.**
14. Renewal of 2003 MOU for BRWRA Reintroduction Project (assigned 9/9/08).
  - a. AMOC and Signatory Cooperators: provide update on their Director's perspective (or decision) on renewal in the October 28-29 AMOC meeting. **Status: pending; AMOC unable to resolve NMDGF conflicts; issue forwarded to Lead Agency Directors for resolution and awaiting their action.**
15. Submit revisions as appropriate for the three Project contact information summaries: Directors, AMOC, and SOP 0.C.
  - a. AMOC submits update information to AMOC Chair as changes occur (i.e. ongoing assignment). **Status: ongoing.**
  - b. AMOC Chair disseminates updated contact lists to AMOC, Signatory Cooperators, IFT, Lead Agency Directors, and Project Web site on the first of February, April, June, August, October, and December. **Status: ongoing.**
16. Complete 2009 Annual Work Plan.
  - a. IFT submits final draft to AMOC by November 7. **Status: completed; IFT submitted revised FTE table on 11/7/08 and AMOC Chair revised the actual plan on 11/12/08.**
  - b. AMOC, IFT, and Director final discussion of FTE table in December 11 meeting. **Status: pending; final draft referred to Directors FYI as 12/9-11/08 AMOC meeting was canceled.**
  - c. AMOC Chair posts final to Project Web site and disseminates pdf to AMOC and notice of public availability in *ES Update* by January 23. **Status: completed; Annual Work Plan posted to Web site in 11/08.**
17. AMOC meeting scheduled for November 12 (conference call).
  - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 11/12/08): by November 13, disseminate draft Summary Notes for cooperator review. **Status: completed 11/12/08.**
  - b. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators (assigned 11/12/08): by 11/20/08, submit review comments on draft Summary Notes to Terry Johnson. **Status: completed 11/20/08.**
  - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 11/12/08): by November 27, disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes and post them to Project Web site. **Status: completed 11/27/08.**
18. AMOC meeting scheduled for January 13 (conference call).
  - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 1/13/09): by January 15, disseminate draft Summary Notes for cooperator review. **Status: completed 1/14/09.**
  - b. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators (assigned 1/13/09): by 1/22/09, submit review comments on draft Summary Notes to Terry Johnson. **Status: pending.**

- c. Terry Johnson (assigned 1/13/09): by 1/25/09, disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes and post them to Project Web site. **Status: pending.**
- 19. Conduct and report on 2008 End-of-Year Count (assigned 1/13/09).
  - a. IFT to complete the count and provide a final report to AMOC no later than 2/07/09, in accordance with SOP 27.0. **Status: pending.**
- 20. Complete planning for near-term possible translocations (assigned 1/13/09).
  - a. John Oakleaf to provide final IFT January update to Terry Johnson ASAP. **Status: completed 1/14/09.**
  - b. Terry Johnson to disseminate final IFT January update to AMOC ASAP for Director briefings and concurrence on newly proposed translocations (one each in AZ and NM). **Status: completed 1/14/09.**
  - c. IFT to complete compliance with SOP 6.0 for the two newly proposed translocations. **Status: pending.**
- 21. Complete and implement changes in future AMWG meetings (assigned 1/13/09).
  - a. Terry Johnson: revise work group's recommendations per AMOC discussion on 1/13/09 and disseminate for comment. **Status: completed 1/14/09.**
  - b. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators provide comment on AMWG changes and meeting evaluation form by 1/30/09. **Status: pending.**
  - c. Terry Johnson: lead final AMOC discussion of AMWG changes and meeting evaluation form in conference call on 2/10/09. **Status: pending.**
- 22. AMOC meeting scheduled for February 10 (conference call).
  - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 2/10/09): by 2/13/09, disseminate draft Summary Notes for cooperator review. **Status: pending.**
  - b. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators (assigned 2/10/09): by 2/20/09, submit review comments on draft Summary Notes to Terry Johnson. **Status: pending.**
  - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 2/10/09): by 2/24/09, disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes and post them to Project Web site. **Status: pending.**
- 23. AMOC meeting scheduled for March 10 (conference call).
  - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 3/10/09): by 3/13/09, disseminate draft Summary Notes for cooperator review. **Status: pending.**
  - b. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators (assigned 3/10/09): by 3/20/09, submit review comments on draft Summary Notes to Terry Johnson. **Status: pending.**
  - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 2/10/09): by 2/24/09, disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes and post them to Project Web site. **Status: pending.**