

MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE¹

SUMMARY NOTES FOR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 10, 2009

NOTE: THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

FINAL: February 20, 2009

Location: Conference Call
Date/Time: February 10 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, and GRAHCO and NAVCO by proxy
IFT: AGFD, NMDGF, USFS, 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. 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.**

¹The 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.

2. 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; comment period ends February 16).**
3. 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 (a) overarching NMDGF issues with 2003 MOU resolved and (b) USFWS responds to WMAT inquiry as to whether additional funding will be provided to cover WMAT participation in NEPA.**
 - 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.**
4. 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 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 flight cost information from Dave Cagle.**
5. 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; issue referred to Directors in November 2008.**
6. 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.**
7. 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: completed.**
8. 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.**
9. 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: completed.**
 - 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: completed; henceforth information will only be posted annually (January).**
10. 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.**
11. 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.**
12. 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 (February 2009 completed).**
13. 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: completed.**
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 1/13/09): by 1/25/09, disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes and post them to Project Web site. **Status: completed.**
14. 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: completed.**
15. Complete planning for near-term possible translocations (assigned 1/13/09).

- a. IFT to complete compliance with SOP 6.0 for the two newly proposed translocations.
Status: completed.
16. Complete and implement changes in future AMWG meetings (assigned 1/13/09).
 - a. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators provide comment on AMWG changes and meeting evaluation form by 1/30/09. **Status: completed.**
 - b. Terry Johnson: lead final AMOC discussion of AMWG changes and meeting evaluation form in conference call on 2/10/09. **Status: completed.**
17. 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: completed.**
 - 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: completed.**
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 2/10/09): by 2/24/09, disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes and post them to Project Web site. **Status: completed.**
18. 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.**
19. Discussion of possible improvements in proactive outreach on field activities assigned February 10, 2009).
 - a. IFT to discuss issue in context of AMOC comments in February 10 conference call and provide recommendations to AMOC on or before March 10, 2009. **Status: pending IFT response; discussed in conference call but no IFT comment received subsequently.**
 - b. Matt Wunder to discuss issue with NMDGF Director Stevenson in context of AMOC comments in February 10 conference call and provide recommendations to AMOC on or before March 10, 2009. **Status: pending NMDGF response.**
20. Develop suggestions for SWIN to consider regarding possible “white papers” on important issues pertaining to the BRWRA Reintroduction project and/or the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Program.
 - a. Terry Johnson to disseminate SWIN information to AMOC (assigned February 10, 2009). **Status: completed.**
 - b. AMOC and cooperators to provide comment/suggestions to Terry Johnson by February 27. **Status: pending.**
 - c. Terry Johnson to convey AMOC comment to SWIN by March 6). **Status: pending.**