

# **MEXICAN WOLF BLUE RANGE REINTRODUCTION PROJECT<sup>1</sup>**

## **2009 Interagency Field Team Annual Work Plan**

Final: November 20, 2008

The Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project is a cooperative effort among six Lead Agencies (see Footnote: AGFD, NMDGF, WMAT, WS, USFWS, and USFS) and several county or state agencies. In accordance with a 2003 Memorandum of Understanding among the cooperators, the Project's Lead Agency Directors provide guidance and direction through an Adaptive Management Oversight Committee (AMOC), which includes one representative from each Lead Agency. Other cooperators also participate in AMOC meetings and discussions, to help represent local interests. In turn, AMOC guides and directs an Interagency Field Team (IFT) that carries out authorized wolf management activities on the ground.

IFT Annual Work Plans describe the administrative, management, and other activities authorized for a given year. The activities occur primarily in or near the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA), in Arizona and New Mexico, and on the WMAT's Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR) in Arizona.<sup>2</sup> Each annual plan synthesizes information from all six of the Project's Lead Agencies. A Project-wide IFT work plan helps coordinate work by the cooperating agencies, and leads to a single Project-wide annual report on results.

IFT Annual Work Plans are shaped through discussion with, and approved by, AMOC. The activities and priorities identified in each plan may be modified, postponed, or canceled, and other activities may be added during the year, due to changing circumstances, such as critical incidents (e.g. depredation, human conflicts), turnover in Project personnel, budget shortfalls, and other emergent situations. However, the intent is for such changes to be the exception rather than the rule; with proper planning, adaptive management, and cooperation, IFT activities should generally occur as outlined in the Annual Work Plan.

At year's end, the IFT (a) analyzes the results for the year, including an assessment of progress toward Project management objectives, (b) identifies causes of any significant deviations from the approved plan that occurred during the year, and (c) summarizes staff resources allocated to each activity during the year. The IFT and AMOC then use the evaluation to develop an Annual Report for the current year and an Annual Work Plan for the next year.

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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.

<sup>2</sup>The San Carlos Indian Reservation (SCAR) lies adjacent to the BRWRA and FAIR in Arizona. A San Carlos Apache Tribe (SCAT) Tribal Council Resolution opposes Mexican wolf presence on SCAR and requires removal of any wolves occurring there. Accordingly, SCAT has declined to become a cooperator in the Reintroduction Project and only allows USFWS and WS employees to assist the Tribe in wolf management activities on SCAR. Some of the USFWS and WS employees are members of the IFT, but their activities on SCAR are not integrated into this work plan because it only covers the BRWRA and FAIR.

## DEFINITIONS

The definitions listed below apply to all aspects of the BRWRA Reintroduction Project, including the activities described and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) referenced in this plan. Current Project SOPs, and previous work plans and annual reports, are available at the Project's Web site, <http://azgfd/wolf>.

*Breeding pair:* an adult male and an adult female that have produced at least two pups during the previous breeding season that survived until December 31 of the year of their birth (USFWS 1998).

*Wolf pack:*  $\geq$  two wolves that maintain an established territory. In the event that one of the two alpha (dominant) wolves dies, the remaining alpha wolf, regardless of pack size, retains the pack status or name.

*Releases:* wolves that are released directly from captivity, with no previous free-ranging experience. These "initial releases" may only occur in the Primary Recovery Zone, which is entirely within Greenlee County, Arizona (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

*Translocations:* free-ranging wolves that are captured and moved to a location away from their site of capture; this includes captured free-ranging wolves that have been temporarily placed in captivity. Unlike initial releases, translocations can occur in the Primary Recovery Zone or in the Secondary Recovery Zone (Fig. 1). The Secondary Recovery Zone contains portions of Apache and Greenlee counties in Arizona, and Catron, Sierra, and Grant counties in New Mexico (Fig. 2).

*Depredation:* confirmed killing or wounding of lawfully-present domestic livestock by one or more wolves.

*Depredation incident:* refers to the aggregate number of livestock killed or mortally wounded by an individual wolf or by a single pack of wolves at a single location within a one-day (24 hr) period, beginning with the first confirmed kill, as documented in an initial IFT incident investigation pursuant to SOP 11.0.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

The Project management objective for 2009 is a 20 percent increase in the minimum wolf population and in the number of breeding pairs, while striving to minimize negative impacts of wolves through effective use of all available interdiction, incentive and compensation measures. The baseline for measuring progress in the wolf component will be the 2008 end-of-year count, which will be available by mid-February 2008).

## **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

### **1. General Wolf Monitoring**

The IFT will monitor the BRWRA wolf population year-round, in accordance with Project SOPs 18.0: Aerial Telemetry and 17.0: Ground Telemetry. The objective is to acquire at least two locations per week for each wolf, via aerial and ground telemetry. To achieve this, aerial (fixed wing) monitoring will occur at least weekly and ground monitoring will occur as often as necessary. However, aerial and ground monitoring will both depend on access into specific areas, which can be limited by weather conditions, forest fires, and other factors beyond IFT control.

Monitoring emphasis will shift seasonally. Winter monitoring efforts will document pack sizes, pup survival, pair bonding, breeding, and dispersal via snow tracking, howling surveys, and telemetry. Spring efforts will document denning and pup production. Summer efforts will document rendezvous sites and pup presence/absence via howling surveys, visual observations, and tracking. Fall efforts will document dispersal, survival, and movements during big game hunting seasons. Only flight locations will be used for home range analysis, since they are not as biased by wolf occurrence along roads as locations obtained from the ground would be. Flight scheduling may be intensified during certain times of the year to locate dens, determine when pups are born, and to search for dispersing or missing wolves.

During fall and spring big game hunting seasons, two IFT members will be assigned to make hunter and camper contacts and locate wolves on a daily basis. They will be stationed in areas in which wolves might be vulnerable to being shot (e.g. while feeding on deer or elk carcasses near roads, or localized in areas of high hunter density). To reduce such vulnerability, in Arizona native ungulate carcasses that are visible from roads will be moved into forested areas after being investigated by an AGFD Wildlife Manager, especially when wolves are located in the immediate area. Note: in New Mexico, District Officers sell or move "road kill" carcasses.

The IFT will coordinate wolf monitoring activity and location information with Federal and State Law Enforcement (LE) personnel. When available, USFWS and AGFD LE agents will assist the IFT with wolf monitoring.

### **2. Year-end Minimum Population Count and Capture Operation**

During January, the IFT will conduct a year-end helicopter operation, with fixed-wing and ground assistance as necessary, to help count the wolves that were alive on December 31 and to opportunistically capture and collar wolves that are observed in open habitat. The End-of-Year (EOY) Count will be conducted in accordance with SOP 27.0: Population Monitoring of Mexican Wolves.

### **3. Initial Releases and Translocations**

The IFT will handle possible, recommended, and approved initial releases and translocations in accordance with SOPs 5.0: Initial Releases and 6.0: Translocations (and the Clarification Memos for both SOPs), including discussion and coordination with AMOC, USFS, local affected stakeholders, and the public. All initial release proposals will be reviewed by AMOC and are subject to Lead Agency Director approval. Translocations may occur throughout the year, but most are subject to prior review by AMOC and approval by the Directors. Translocations

generally result from management issues, such as depredations, nuisance behavior, and wolves establishing home ranges outside the BRWRA or FAIR. In addition, wolves that localize on the SCAR will be captured and translocated by USFWS and WS. Initial releases and translocations are extremely variable in complexity, logistics, and difficulty.

In cooperation with USFS and appropriate staff from other Lead Agencies, the IFT will continue to reassess previously-approved sites and identify potential new sites that might be needed for wolf releases well into the future (i.e. 2-3 years out). The IFT's overall site location map for this task will include appropriate buffer areas around the BRWRA, FAIR, and SCAR boundaries, and around occupied dwellings and towns. IFT evaluations (recommendations) will be developed in accordance with SOPs 5.0: Initial Releases and 6.0: Translocations (and the Clarification Memos for both SOPs), and vetted with AMOC and the Lead Agency Directors as necessary to promote long-term planning. The USFS will evaluate any newly proposed release sites through Biological Analysis and Evaluation, and (if required) consultation with the appropriate USFWS Ecological Services Office. Final decisions on site approval for initial releases and translocations will be made by the Lead Agency Directors and communicated to the public through AMOC.

#### **4. Radio-Collar Free-Ranging Wolves**

The objective is to maintain at least one collared wolf per pack, with emphasis on collaring the alpha pair in each pack. Trapping will be conducted in accordance with SOPs 14.0: Trap Preparation and Use and 21.0: Handling and Immobilization. Trapping will begin as early as late April, depending on environmental conditions. It will cease in the fall, when nightly low temperatures reach freezing. AGFD, NMDGF, and WMAT personnel are each responsible for conducting radio-collar trapping operations on their respective jurisdictional lands. However, they will request assistance from USFWS and WS as necessary. Project-wide, trapping efforts during summer will focus on capturing uncollared wolves (especially in newly formed packs) and replacing old collars in known packs. Fall trapping will focus on capturing pups, with emphasis on uncollared packs and packs that were not trapped during summer.

#### **5. Response to Wolf Sightings**

In accordance with SOP 10.0: Incident Reporting, the IFT will document, evaluate, and (as appropriate) investigate all reports of wolves through phone interviews and/or field visits. The IFT will promptly investigate credible reports to acquire additional information about each sighting. However, in general, the IFT will look for multiple sightings of wolves within a localized area before investigating on the ground. This is a more efficient use of staff resources than investigating isolated sightings, and is more likely to provide an opportunity to trap uncollared wolves and document formation of new packs and dispersal activity.

#### **6. Response to Nuisance Wolf Reports**

The IFT will respond to nuisance wolf reports in accordance with SOP 13.0: Control of Mexican Wolves (and its Clarification Memo), by investigating the situation and, as appropriate, preserving evidence and monitoring wolves in the area via radio-telemetry. As appropriate, to prevent reoccurrence of nuisance wolf behavior the IFT will set up remote cameras to document the situation and employ various hazing methods, including Radio-Activated Guard (RAG) boxes, fladry, and less-than-lethal projectiles. Prior authorization must be secured per SOP 13.0 for trapping and translocation or removal of nuisance wolves.

## **7. Response to Depredation Reports**

The IFT, primarily WS agents, will respond to credible depredation reports to investigate the cause of livestock death within 24 hours of receiving the report (see SOP 11.0: Depredation and Response, and its Clarification Memo). Per SOP 11.0, other IFT members may assist the on-site investigation by preserving evidence and by monitoring wolves in the area via radio-telemetry.

Management actions in response to wolf depredation (e.g. translocation, lethal or non-lethal removal, hazing) will be planned, approved, and conducted in accordance with SOP 13.0: Control of Mexican Wolves (and its Clarification Memo). WS employees are the primary IFT agents for trapping wolves; in accordance with SOP 13.0, other IFT members may assist them. These kinds of management actions are logistically complex, and trapping time can vary greatly from one location and/or wolf to another. Thus, the number of employees necessary for an action to be efficient and effective (successful) can vary greatly.

## **8. Less-than-lethal Projectiles**

When authorized by USFWS, AGFD, NMDGF, and WMAT will provide permittees with 12-gauge cracker shells, bean bag rounds, and/or paintball guns to assist the Project in deterring wolf nuisance and depredation behavior by wolves that are near occupied dwellings or livestock. The jurisdictional agency will issue the approved cartridges and equipment and provide training. USFWS will provide paintball guns when requested by permittees, but cooperating agencies will not provide firearms.

## **9. Administration/Project Management**

Managing and coordinating field operations for the Project requires that a broad array of daily and other administrative duties be performed throughout the year, including: staffing the Alpine office during normal work hours; coordinating work schedules (including office coverage, field work, training, outreach, and personal leave); developing initial release and translocation recommendations; scheduling monitoring and other flights; maintaining Project databases; managing budgets; maintaining and ordering equipment and supplies; communicating with AMOC and cooperating agencies; writing agency briefings and monthly Project updates; developing an Annual Work Plan; and other administrative tasks. Members of the IFT will also regularly review and evaluate existing SOPs and, as necessary, draft new SOPs or recommend changes to existing SOPs for consideration and approval by AMOC [Note: all Project SOPs are vetted with the Lead Agency Directors for their concurrence before AMOC approves them].

Throughout the year, IFT representation will be needed or required at various meetings, including: local public meetings on Project-related activities such as proposed initial releases and translocations; periodic AMOC and Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) meetings; coordination meetings with local USFS staff; individual and other permittee meetings; and local government meetings. At these meetings, the IFT members will provide up-to-date information about current Project issues, Project-related agenda items, and the current status of Project field operations. These meetings provide significant opportunities for the IFT to interact with the public, agency cooperators, and other agencies. Particularly important is coordination with the USFS Regional Office and various District Rangers, Range Conservationists, and Wildlife staffs in the BRWRA on Project-related activities and issues, including developing and encouraging

use of alternative solutions to depredation issues. Note: in mid-2008, a USFS liaison position was established in the IFT to enhance communication among the National Forests, Ranger Districts, USFS permittees, in-holding landowners, and visitors to the National Forests as necessary to facilitate USFS responsibilities for the Project.

Each year, the IFT will write an Annual Report on the preceding calendar year to communicate the most recent Project results to cooperating agencies and the public. The report will provide an overview of current status for individual wolves and the population as a whole, results from management and outreach activities (including the most recent end-of-year count), the captive breeding program, and adaptive management within the Project. The final draft Annual Report for the preceding year is due to AMOC on or before March 15 of the current year.

The amount of personnel and time required to accomplish these administrative and Project management duties tends to be highly variable over the course of a year.

### **10. Staff Training and Development**

IFT members will participate in professional and developmental training as appropriate to their agency requirements, Project needs, and opportunities. This could include formal training (e.g. effective collaboration, communication, technical writing, and presentations), attendance at professional meetings, self-directed projects, involvement in professional or local organizations, or other self- or agency-selected activities. Assisting with captive management facilities during captures and annual check-ups will be used to provide IFT staff with opportunities to become more proficient with capturing, handling, and processing techniques

### **11. Outreach**

Outreach is a year-round effort to provide accurate, objective information about the Project to the interested and affected public and to cooperating agencies. The IFT emphasizes providing outreach to local affected communities, with at least 75 percent of outreach presentations occurring within 50 miles of the BRWRA and on the FAIR. Public information officers from the cooperating agencies will work with the IFT to maximize outreach effectiveness and coverage. In accordance with SOP 3.0: Public Outreach, IFT members and cooperators will implement a variety of outreach activities (see also Table 1):

#### **A. Monthly Updates**

The IFT will develop a monthly narrative summary of Project activities to distribute to cooperators and the public in accordance with SOP 3.0. The updates will include information on recent wolf activities (including general wolf locations), interagency and public communication and coordination, changes in IFT staff, law enforcement news, outreach activities, and other Project-related information. The IFT will draft each update and forward it to the Lead Agencies for review. When the update has been approved, the IFT will coordinate with AGFD Region 1 (Pinetop) to distribute it electronically through an AGFD Listserve for people who have signed up at <http://azgfd.gov/signup> to receive *Endangered Species Updates*. The IFT will also send the monthly updates via email or fax to specified local entities (e.g. permittees), and ensure that they are posted on the AGFD and USFWS Mexican wolf Web sites and at other locations in or near the BRWRA and the FAIR.

### **B. Commission and Tribal Council Briefings**

On a quarterly basis, the AGFD IFT Leader will produce an AGF Commission briefing that summarizes significant highlights for the reporting period. On an annual basis, the NMDGF IFT Leader will produce a NM Game Commission briefing containing significant highlights for the reporting period. The WMAT IFT Leader will produce WMAT Tribal Council briefings as requested by the Council.

### **C. Communication on Crucial Issues**

The IFT will use all available methods to ensure that crucial (e.g. time-sensitive) information is communicated to the appropriate entities in timely fashion. Specific targeted individuals (e.g. a permittee close to a translocation site) will be reached on SOP-related issues and other urgent matters through personal visit, telephone calls, and/or email, as necessary and appropriate. Recreationists and other National Forest and FAIR visitors will be given pertinent information as they are contacted in the field. For example, campers might be informed of wolves in the area of their campsite. In addition, the IFT will post a weekly journal, containing two bearings and no mileage for wolf locations, on the AGFD Project Web site (<http://azgfd.gov/wolf>).

### **D. Presentations**

Lecture-type presentations, booth-type informational tables, posters, displays, and public meetings (including “Q&A” sessions) will be used to provide accurate, objective information about the Project. When appropriate, diverse viewpoints of stakeholders will be presented to offer balanced perspectives. Typically, outreach presentations will be provided to school groups, civic organizations, resorts, campgrounds, and workshops, with emphasis on presentations in or near the BRWRA and FAIR.

Education programs that are conducted within the BRWRA or FAIR by cooperating agencies or outside entities may be used by the IFT (workloads permitting) to provide Project-related information, including demonstrating: capabilities and limitations of current monitoring techniques, such as radio-tracking; and recognition and evaluation of wolf sign, such as scat and abandoned kill-site remains. Habitat relationships and current uses of public lands can also be discussed during such “hands-on” types of activities. IFT participation in such activities will focus on engaging the public from communities within the BRWRA and FAIR.

### **E. Conferences**

Lectures or other presentations may be made at professional conferences and workshops, such as annual meetings of The Wildlife Society and the Species Survival Plan, etc. These presentations can be used as professional growth opportunities by IFT staff.

### **F. Revision of the 10(j) Rule**

As requested by AMOC, the IFT will assist with NEPA activities related to possible revision of the current 10(j) rule, including meeting coordination and information dissemination.

Table 1. Interagency Field Team outreach activities planned for the current year.	
Outreach Activity	2009 Goal
A. Monthly updates and AMWG updates	Produce 12 monthly updates, each of which is completed by the end of the first week of the following month and distributed to the public via the AGFD Listserve and the AGFD Project Web site. Produce standardized updates for each AMWG meeting that summarize important IFT activities and wolf management related events since the prior AMWG meeting.
B. Commission and Tribal Council Briefings	Produce Project updates for the AGFD and NMDGF Commissions and WMAT Tribal Council as requested.
C. Communication on crucial issues	Use Project Web sites, telephones, email, and personal contacts to ensure timely communication with affected parties on crucial issues; make 52 weekly postings of wolf locations on the AGFD Project Web site; in accordance with SOPs 5.0, 6.0, and 13.0 (and their Clarification Memos), contact affected agencies and local livestock permittees about initial releases, translocations, and removals.
D. Presentations	AGFD will provide at least 10 and NMDGF will provide 5-10 Project presentations to stakeholders and interested people. At least 10 Project presentations will be made to USFS Ranger Districts and at least 7 will be offered to County Commissions in AZ or NM.
E. Conferences	At least 2 Project presentations will be made at professional conferences and/or workshops.
F. Revision of 10(j) rule	Assist AMOC as needed in developing NEPA Scoping and a Draft EIS for a possible 10(j) rule change.
G. Internet Web sites	Help maintain the AGFD Project Web site with weekly posting (e.g. locations) or updating of Project-related information (i.e. monthly updates, pack histories, and FAQs) and continue developing education curriculum pages. Assist with upkeep of the USFWS Mexican wolf Web site.
H. Annual Reports	Complete the AMOC-review draft of the Annual Report by March 15.
I. Adaptive Management Work Group Meetings	Conduct at least 3 AMWG meetings in communities in or adjacent to the BRWRA (including FAIR and SCAR).
J. Field Contacts	Make at least 450 National Forest visitor contacts in the field to provide Project information.
K. Published Information	Provide wolf reintroduction information and identification tips in AGFD, NMDGF, and WMAT hunt regulations, local newspapers and magazines, and other publications.
L. Media Coordination	Ensure Lead Agency consistency, accuracy, and timely coordination in providing news releases and other public information, in accordance with SOP 3.0.
M. Closure notices	Provide sufficient signage and information for all closures on site and at nearby places to enhance public awareness.

### **G. Internet Web Sites**

AGFD and USFWS will continue to maintain Web sites with information about the Project. The AGFD Web site provides access at <http://azgfd.gov/wolf> to the Project's monthly updates, annual work plans, annual reports, 5-Year Review, SOPS and Clarification memos, AMWG meeting summary notes, and information about Mexican wolves. The USFWS site, <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf>, provides access to documents pertaining to the Mexican wolf recovery program, such as the 1996 Final Environmental Impact Statement on reintroduction in Arizona and New Mexico, the 1998 Nonessential Experimental Population Rule, the Reintroduction Project's monthly and AMWG updates, and other information about Mexican wolves. Media advisories and other special news items are made available on the two agency Web sites. AGFD also maintains a self-subscription Listserve that enables interested parties to automatically receive monthly Project updates, AMWG meeting announcements, and other Project-related news (sign up at <http://azgfd.gov/signup>). As necessary, the IFT will coordinate with AGFD and USFWS Web managers and outreach personnel to update and upgrade the two Web sites, including enhancing education curriculum pages, and developing additional FAQ's and wolf histories. The IFT will also continue to ask other agencies (e.g. local governments in or near BRWRA) and nongovernmental organizations to provide links on their Web sites to the AGFD and USFWS Mexican wolf Web sites.

### **H. Annual Reports**

The IFT will produce a draft Annual Report on the previous year's activities and by March 15 submit it to AMOC for discussion and approval. This report will include a summary of wolf population dynamics, occupied range, prey use, outreach efforts, livestock depredation, wolf-human interactions, funding, and Project personnel, as well as other pertinent information.

### **I. Adaptive Management Work Group Meetings**

The IFT will provide support as requested for AMWG meetings, which occur periodically in or near the BRWRA and FAIR, to provide information on recent IFT activities and to assist AMOC with improving the content and implementation of this plan. AMWG meetings are used to:

- Help implement adaptive management of the Reintroduction Project;
- Evaluate and improve interagency cooperation in the field;
- Advise the Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator on issues related to wolf reintroduction; and
- Provide a forum in which to:
  - a) Evaluate the status and progress of the Reintroduction Project;
  - b) Coordinate law enforcement activities;
  - c) Consider citizen concerns regarding reintroduction; and
  - d) Exchange other pertinent information.

### **J. Field Contacts**

Informal field contacts made by the IFT primarily occur in spring and fall, with emphasis on big game hunting seasons to inform hunters of the possibility of wolves in the area and to provide them with suggestions for avoiding conflict.

### **K. Published Information**

The IFT will continue to provide updated information for publication in the AGFD, NMDGF, and WMAT hunt regulation booklets each year. The purpose of the information is to make hunters aware of wolf presence in the BRWRA, to aid in distinguishing between wolves and coyotes, and to help hunters avoid negative interactions with wolves in the field. In addition, as necessary, the IFT will provide information to local newspapers and through media releases, and will update existing brochures and develop new ones for dissemination to the public.

### **L. Media Coordination**

Within the constraints of workloads and pertinent agency policies, the IFT will comply with reasonable requests from the media for readily-available Project information that is available to the public. However, media requests to accompany Project personnel in the field for videotaping or to conduct in-depth on-site interviews in conjunction with taping footage for a “mass-media” production will be handled in accordance with SOP 25.0: Media Production Access to the Field Project. In addition, all media requests will be communicated to the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Program’s Media Coordinator, for coordination with the Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator (or designee) and Lead Agency media coordinators for the Project to ensure proper handling (see SOPs 3.0 and 25.0). In particular, media-related activities must be coordinated around the field schedules of Project personnel, to ensure that essential management activities are given top priority and to ensure that conflicts with wolf management actions (e.g. releases, captures) are avoided. Media coordinators must consult with each other and with Project staff before committing the IFT to appointments.

Media coordinators will ensure that news releases are coordinated with appropriate cooperators and conducted jointly, when feasible and appropriate, as outlined in the Mexican Wolf Project Public Information Release Matrix (see attached).

### **M. Closure Notices**

When warranted under the nonessential experimental rule, the local USFS Ranger District or the WMAT will implement area closures around release pens, dens or rendezvous sites, including posting and enforcing any special conditions that are approved for specific closures (e.g. entry into closed area allowed without dogs). The closure area will be posted appropriately with signs and, if feasible, informational flyers will be posted at nearby trailheads to provide advance warning to enable hikers and other recreationists to detour around closures. In addition, closure notices will be posted as follows: local USFS Ranger District office(s) and administrative site(s), on service kiosks near closures, and in Project monthly updates.

