


# Mexican Wolf Recovery Program



WILDVIEW 02-17-2016 23:11:59

May 2016

# History of Mexican Wolf Recovery

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- A photograph of a Mexican wolf standing in a field of tall, dry grass. The wolf has a thick, brown and black coat and is looking towards the camera. It has a red collar around its neck.
- 1970s – Mexican wolves eliminated from U.S.; listed as endangered 1978
  - 1980s – Mexican wolves eliminated from México; listed as endangered 1977
  - 1977 – Initiated Bi-National captive breeding program with 7 wolves
  - 1982 – U.S. Finalized Recovery Plan; no recovery criteria
  - 1998 – U.S. established Experimental Population and began releasing wolves
  - 2009 - México finalized Programa de Acción para la Conservación de la Especie (PACE): LOBO GRIS MEXICANO (*Canis lupus baileyi*)
  - 2011 – México began releasing wolves
  - 2015 – U.S. listed Mexican wolf as endangered subspecies and revised experimental population rule
  - 2015 – U.S. documented minimum population of 97 wolves in wild
  - 2016 – México currently has 14 wolves in wild

# 2015 Wild Population in U.S.

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- Minimum of 97 Wolves
- Declined from 110 in 2014 due to lower survival of pups and higher mortality
- 21 packs; 10 with at least 1 pup
- 23 pups



\*Current as of December 31, 2015

# Need to Increase Genetic Variation in wild population

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- Captive population is more genetically diverse than wild population because we prioritize breedings, and only a portion of the representative diversity has been released to the wild
- Revised 10j Rule allows us to release wolves from captivity into larger area
- 2016 we are conducting initial releases and cross-fostering into the wild to improve genetic variation and reduce kinship (relatedness)

# Cross-Fostering Wolf Pups

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# Cross-Fostering Wolf Pups

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# 2016 Plan for Increasing genetic variation of wild population

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- In April/May 2016, cross-fostered 6 captive born pups into 3 wild litters in AZ and NM
- May cross-foster in up to 2 more litters



# Initial Release of Pair with Pups

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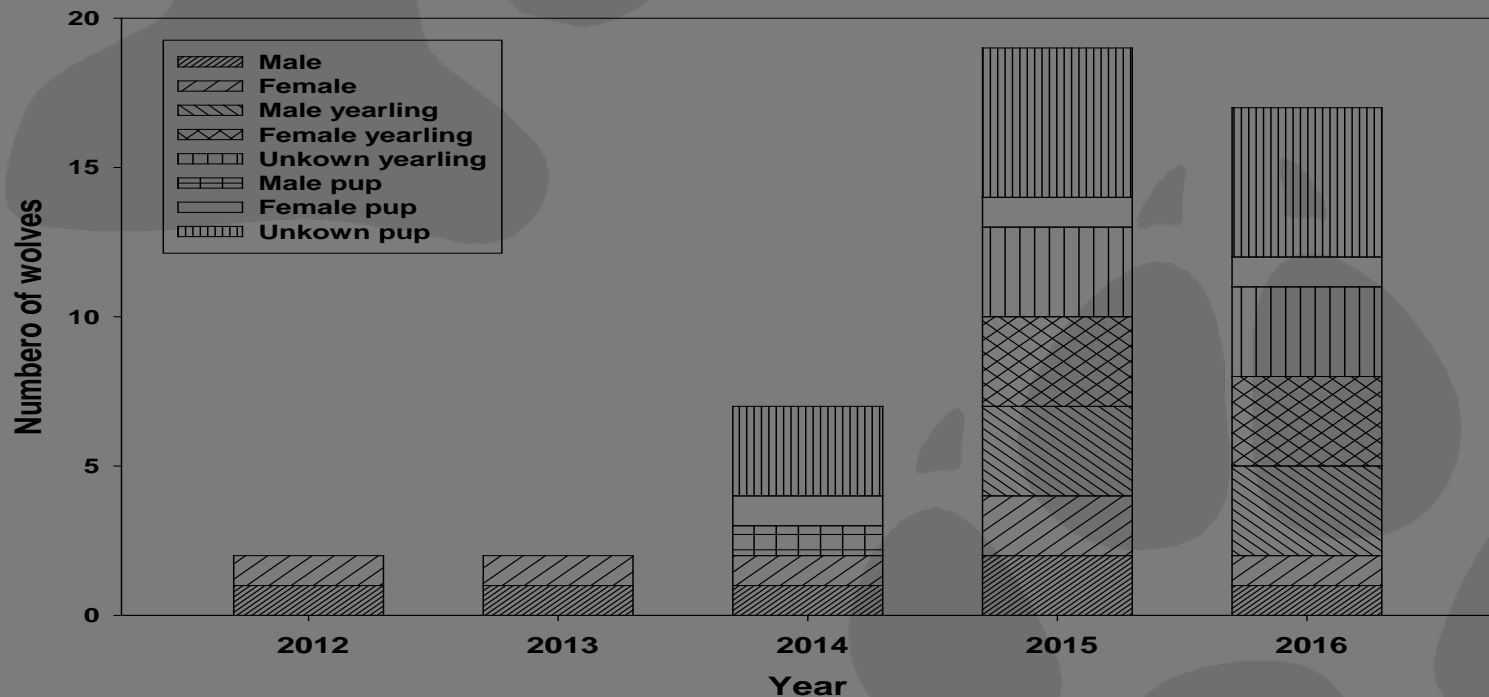


- Plan to release adult pair with pups from Sevilleta into Gila National Forest (NM) in June/July 2016



# Wild Population México

- 2 adults, 5 - 2 yr old, 10 - 1 yr olds
- 1 established breeding pair
- 1 newly established pair (1 - 2yr old wild born and a 1 yr old female)



# Wolves in México

First wild pair formed in Mexico  
(M1403 y H1418)



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First litter in wild in 2014 (5 pups),  
2nd litter in 2015 (six pups)



# Modification Needs in México

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- Modification of the release protocol including releases of family groups with pups to assure site fidelity and constrain movements



# Modification of temporary release pens for soft release

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# Modification Needs in México

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- Increase efforts to contact livestock producers in lower quality habitat to reduce mortalities on those properties



# U.S./México Collaboration

- ◉ Share expertise and technology (trapping, radio telemetry, habitat analyses)
- ◉ Manage captive breeding population under the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan
- ◉ Transfer wolves across US/México border for breeding and release into wild
- ◉ Participate in semen and egg collection for frozen zoo
- ◉ Share research findings



# U.S./México Collaboration on Revised Recovery Plan

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- December 2015 initiated recovery planning workshops with Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah; CONANP and SEMARNAT; and independent scientists from US and México
- Developing model to examine extinction risks of various recovery scenarios and developing habitat niche model to determine where suitable habitat exists
- Models will inform us as to how many wolves and populations are needed for recovery and where they can be supported in the U.S. and México

# Request Endorsement of Trilateral

- Collaborate to develop revised recovery plan with agencies and scientists in both countries
  - Develop Vortex model to inform the number of wolves and populations needed for recovery
  - Develop niche model to identify suitable habitat and ungulate populations for recovery
  - Coordinate on the number of wolves that México can contribute for recovery
  - Develop annex to MOU between DOI and SEMARNAT for binational recovery planning and implementation
- Collaborate on management of the captive Mexican wolf population
- Collaborate on releases and management of Mexican wolves in the U.S. and México

Questions?

