

**Cooperators Meeting Notes
March 14, 2003
Bayard Community Center**

Attendance: Brain Kelly, Colleen Buchanan, John Oakleaf, FWS; Wally Murphy, FS; Chuck Hayes, Nick Smith, NMDGF; Alex Puglisi, WMAT; Terry Johnson, Richard Remington, AZGFD; Alex Lara, WS.

Discussion concerning "Estimated Funds Expenditures by Cooperators":

Brian Kelly pointed out that funds and contributions to cooperators for FWS expenditures are greater than shown on the table. The discrepancies will need to be reconciled.

TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION.

FS will have to get estimates of expenditures from the A-S Forests. Estimates will be "soft". There is no specific line item for wolf project funding within the FS. Expenditures will be FS costs estimates of personnel time and associated expenditures by District and other FS personnel.

Terry agreed to have the estimates reviewed and reconciled with cooperators. Terry agreed that Footnote 7 would need to be rewritten. A corrected version will be forwarded to the Cooperators prior to the April meeting.

Discussion concerning Draft MOU:

WMAT has not received approved language for inclusion from legal staff though it should be forwarded soon.

Specific comments were noted on page 3, 5th whereas, should include all members of band of six. Page 6 FWS agrees under 3 to include Tribal with State-led. Page 9 mutually agreed 4. Change facilitate to incorporate.

The Cooperators agreed to have conceptual comments on the MOU to Terry by 3/26/03. Terry will be presenting conceptual draft to Directors at the North American meeting on 3/27/03. Terry will have significant concerns from leadership, if any, back to cooperators by 4/2/03. Cooperators will complete legal review by agency and forward final cooperator language to Terry by 4/16/03. Terry will complete the final MOU for distribution at the 4/30/03 AMG public meeting. An advance copy could be sent to County Cooperators and current IMAG members prior to the 30th meeting. Notices for the meeting will be sent to State Land Departments, BLM, NRCS, AZ and NM Department of Ag for notice of the 30th meeting and discussion of the MOU. **The Cooperators also agreed** that the Notice of 30th meeting would be sent in the form of the meeting agenda and would go out 30 days prior to the meeting. The meeting will be noticed in press releases. A reminder will be sent to the agencies mentioned above a week prior to the meeting. Any additional information needed in the agenda, local media contacts, or other agency contacts need to be forwarded to Terry prior to the mail out.

Strategies for afternoon IMAG meeting:

Terry will disseminate to the audience the Nov.8 agreement and discuss reforming IMAG to AMG and other components of the agreement.

NM believes there will be requests for no additional wolf releases until the drought has ended. Discussions will be handled by John Oakleaf and will include success of releases in drought years. John will also include the timing of release in NM, occurring on April 20. The four potential release sites; Miller Springs, McKenna Park, Lily Park and Half-moon Park, only two will be used but will not be selected until just prior to the release. John is prepared to discuss the history of the two pairs to be released in NM. John will mention pending releases in June in AZ at Mannes Peak and **TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION**.

Terry brought up that questions asked by Tom Jackson King, reporter from Safford, at the Clifton meeting have re-surfaced. This includes 24hr dispatch, providing department radios to livestock permittees for direct communication (see minutes from 2/14/03 meeting). Cooperators discussed issuing a pager for 24-hour response. Since personnel would be considered "on call" status if issued a pager with an expectation for response the department cannot sanction the use of a pager by department personnel. The Cooperators agreed that the 24-hour dispatch through AZGFD, NMDGF and WMAT should be used in wildlife emergency situation according to the response protocol. AZGFD will ask Paul Overy, Field Team Lead, for review of protocol for inclusion of the 24-hour dispatch phone number and AGFD will respond to Commission concerns.

Discussion on Adaptive Management Plan:

Remington believed the AMP missed the mark on specificity needed for an annual work plan, did not include discussion of project modifications from the three-year review, omitted process for 5-year review, and did not include the Outreach plan and modifications in accordance with the 11/8/03 agreement. If these are not covered in the AMP then where do we answer all of the remaining items from Commission direction and contained within the Skeen report. There is concern that if the AMP supercedes the '98 plan significant inclusions within the '98 plan may be lost. WMAT suggest that greater detail is needed for an annual work plan but could be an appendix to the AMP. FS also suggested a need for more specificity to disclose priorities of the IFT for review by Cooperators as well as provide to the AMG and public. FWS does see value in further specificity of the AMP. AGFD agreed to forward comments and suggestion for re-write to the Cooperators by 4/2/03. A final AMP should be in place by the 4/30.03 AMG meeting.

Cooperators meeting adjourned at 12:15 to begin the afternoon IMAG public meeting. The next meeting of the Cooperators is scheduled for 4/29/03 at the Pinetop Regional Office beginning at 1:00 pm.