

MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
FINAL SUMMARY NOTES

Note: This is not a Public Meeting

Locations: January 27: Glenwood Community Center, Menges Lane off Highway 180, Glenwood, New Mexico; Phone 505.539.2273

January 28: “Old” Alpine School, 42600 Highway 180, Alpine, Arizona. The Old School is on the south side of Highway 180, across from the Library at the top of the hill. Highway 180 is the main east-west thoroughfare through Alpine. Note: there is also a “New” School in Alpine, but that is not where this meeting will be.

Time: AZ Time: 1300 – 1700 on both days

Hosts: Catron County NM and Arizona Game and Fish Department and

Participants: AMOC Lead Agencies: AGFD – Terry B. Johnson (Chair), Bill Van Pelt, Shawn Farry, and Dan Groebner; NMDGF – Chuck Hayes USDA APHIS WS – Dave Bergman, USDA FS – Wally Murphy; USFWS – Colleen Buchanan, John Morgart, and John Oakleaf; and

AMWG Signatory Cooperators: Greenlee County AZ – Hector Ruedas and Kay Gale; Navajo County AZ – not present; Sierra County – Adam Polley; and NM Department of Agriculture – Bud Starnes.

AMWG Non-signatory Participants: Catron County NM – Alex Thal (CACO); Cochise County AZ – not present; Graham County AZ – not present; and SCAT – Steve Titla.

Note: some of the participants were not present for both meetings

January 27-28

A. Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Agenda Review (Discussion Leader: Terry Johnson)

Terry Johnson called the meeting to order at 1330 local time. After a brief welcome and introductions, explanations for absentees, and thank you to Catron County for hosting the meeting the previous Ground Rules were reaffirmed. Terry explained the departure of Deb O’neill and the need for a new scribe. Documents handed out included the final notes from the October 14-15 AMOC meeting and the December 17 Director Summit II.

B. Review of Action Items (Discussion Leader: Terry Johnson)

AMOC reviewed the action items. Finalization of SOPs: After Director Summit II, three Standard Operating Procedures were left for further discussion by AMOC at its next scheduled meeting (this one); SOPs 13 (Control), 15, and 18 (Flights). Communication mechanisms: the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) has had challenges with

putting things on the Web site. The Project's Mexican wolf Web site is embedded within the AGFD Web site. It has been restructured with a short cut, which makes it easier to post information. We still need to encourage people to sign up for the *Endangered Species Updates* to receive wolf information. Bill and Terry are to be trained to set things up on the endangered species pages. The 5-Year Review and SOP information are now on the Web site. The public comment period for the SOPs was extended because of the time it took to get it on the web. The USFWS is going to update its Web site this year, too.

Action Item: TBJ (or delegate) needs to send reminders for action items

C. Directors Summit Meeting in December 2004

Director Summit III will take place in August. The Directors requested that it be held in the wolf reintroduction area.

Action Item: Dan will check for locations in Arizona and Chuck will check for locations in New Mexico. The place has to accommodate 40-50 people.

D. Discussions on Project SOPs: 13, 15, and 18 (All)

On SOPs 15 and 18, only one comment was received, from Dave Bergman. It had to do with changing the word "shall" to "should." The USFS needs to know when a plane is in the air looking for wolves especially during fire season and when it involves wilderness. In some cases the Fire and Recreation people draft the language for the Special Use Permit.

Action Item: TBJ will pull SOPs 15 and 18 and put them on the same cycle as SOP 13. Wally will set up a conference call between interested partners prior to the April 21-22 meeting.

Extensive discussion occurred with SOP 13. AGFD had language inserted for consideration by other Team members. The language defined trigger times and removal of wildlife carcasses that could create a nuisance. Other discussions included distances of wolves from buildings for hazing actions. It was suggested not to use definitive distance and use a + and – sign for any distance. It was also agreed to put up front that, depending on the circumstances, a wolf removal might not need to go through all the levels. A discussion revolved around having IFT or Wildlife Services personnel reporting livestock deaths. It was agreed that the report should be given to the owner but it is up to the owner to pursue any other actions, including requesting compensation from Defenders of Wildlife.

Action Items: John Morgart will redraft SOP 13 for further discussion in AMOC. A portion of the redraft will build in a redemption period for non-depredating wolves. Dave Bergman will draft a letter to be given to livestock owners with the depredation report that reminds them it is up to them to report deaths to the proper authorities or for compensation.

E. Compensation Subcommittee Report

The University of New Mexico is developing a questionnaire to conduct a survey regarding compensation.

F. IFT Building, Budget, and Annual Work Plans for 2004 and 2005 (Murphy)

AGFD has committed funds for an administrative building to house the Mexican wolf Interagency Field Team. AGFD has committed a minimum of \$100,000 and up to \$200,000 to purchase a building but would like to see contributions from other partners. For example, have one of the partners furnish the building or pay for site preparation. USFWS cannot put any money this budget period but maybe later. Law Enforcement should be part of the compound. The building will have to meet OSHA standards.

Closure.

Reminder: Bring 30 copies of items to be distributed to all future AMOC meetings.

Reminder: If you see something in the draft Summary Notes that is inconsistent with your recollection, please comment to Terry. He is not getting feedback from anyone but Colleen.

The meeting adjourned at 1500.