

MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
DRAFT NOTES

Note: This is not a Public Meeting

Locations: April 21-22: Apache Gold Casino, San Carlos Indian Reservation
Time: AZ Time: Day One 800 – 1700, Day Two 8-12:00
Hosts: San Carlos Apache tribe and Arizona Game and Fish Department and
Participants: AMOC Lead Agencies: AGFD – Terry B. Johnson (Chair), Bill Van Pelt, Shawn Farry, Shawna Nelson, and Dan Groebner; NMDGF – Chuck Hayes, Lisa Kirkpatrick USDA APHIS WS – Alex Lara, USDA FS – Bobbi Barrera; WMAT – Cynthia Dale; USFWS - Colleen Buchanan, John Morgart, Larry Bell, Victoria Fox, James Ashburner, John Oakleaf; and

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

AMWG Non-signatory Participants: Catron County NM – not present; Cochise County AZ – not present; Graham County AZ – not present; and SCAT – Steve Titla, Stephanie White, Anna Tryfonas.

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

April 21-22

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

Terry Johnson called the meeting to order at 08:10 local time. After a brief welcome and introductions, explanations for absentees, and thank you to San Carlos Apache Tribe for hosting the meeting the previous Ground Rules were reaffirmed. Terry also explained that the Chairwoman Kathleen Kitcheyan would be addressing the group sometime in the morning and the Tribe had arranged for a cultural dance presentation with dinner on April 21. Documents handed out included agendas, the Mexican Gray wolf Interagency Budget FY2005, Responses to public comment on Standard Operating Procedures April 21, Catron County letter regarding participation, Wolf Litigation review, 5-year review revised proposed schedule, SOPs 3, 8, 9, 13, 15, 18, Potential Arizona-New Mexico Non-tribal Translocation Sites and Translocation Plan for 2005, and IFT Annual Report Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2004. .

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

AMOC reviewed the action items from the last meeting. Action items were associated with drafting SOPs (conference call to discuss issues and resolve), Five-year Review (establish timeline), Budget (identify and report needs to Wally), and obtain bids for a new IFT Building and administrative site. All Action Items were completed.

C. Outreach- Director Summit II, three Standard Operating Procedures were left for further discussion by AMOC at their next scheduled meeting (this one); SOPs 13 (Control), 15, and 18 (Flights). A conference call took place to discuss issues.

Directors Summit Meeting in December 2004

Director Summit III will take place in August. The Directors requested to have it 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 and 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 is to pull SOPs 15 and 18 and put them on the same cycle as SOP 13. Wally is to set up a conference call between interested partners prior to the April 21-22 meeting.

Extensive discussion occurred with SOP 13. The 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 use definitive distance and use a + and – sign for any distance. It was also agreed to put up front, depending upon the circumstance that a wolf removal does not have to go through all the levels. A discussion occurred that revolved on 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 compensation.

Action Items: John Morgart is to redraft SOP 13 for further discussion between AMOC members. A portion of the redraft will have built in a redemption period for good wolves. Dave Bergman is to draft a letter to be given to livestock owners with the 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)

The AGFD has committed funds for an administrative building to house the Mexican wolf Interagency Field Team. The 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 site preparation. USFWS cannot put any money this budget period but maybe later. Law Enforcement should be part of the compound and th e building will have to meet OSHA.

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.