

Mexican Wolf Interagency Meeting
Adaptive Management Oversight Committee and Interagency Field Team
Summary Notes

Date/Time: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, December 6, 2006

Location: USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, Phoenix AZ

Invited Participants: AMOC Representatives and Surrogates, AMWG Signatory Cooperators, and Interagency Field Team Members

Purpose: Provide an opportunity for AMOC members and AMWG representatives to meet with the members of the Interagency Field Team to discuss issues pertaining to Mexican wolf reintroduction in Arizona-New Mexico; including working relationships, communication, decision-making, and responsibilities relative to the reintroduction effort in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and the relationship this effort has to overall wolf recovery.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Richard Grabbe, USEDA-WS, New Mexico, resigned
Terry to work comments into SOP's as reviewed

2. Action Items:

Approval of Draft Revision of SOP 9.0: Carcass Transport Guidelines

Review of comments made

Comment from WS for recommendation to insert listing those counties where CWD was found and to not use anything from those counties – covered already

Staying with the county of origin

Add “NOTE: no carcass will ever be used if it is from a county where CWD has occurred

No carcasses will be salvaged or used within”

CHANGE: Game Management Unit's? More of a physical boundary

NOTE: carcasses shall not be salvaged from a GMU in which CWD has been confirmed.

ITEM: – to contact AGFD radio dispatch (per 132) and delete contacting Wildlife Manager's answering machine

Discussion about integrating sections and fixing misnumbered Appendix.

Approval of Draft SOP 24.0: Mexican Wolf Transport

Comments from Dave Bergman on number 4 - discussed w/ staff vet – uncomfortable with IFT giving IV to wolves – other alternatives: tube in stomach or SQ liquids under skin or enema

Action Item - 21.0 look at re: use of IV's (TJ) – IFT go back to 21 with WS concern and bring back to AMOC meeting in January – and consult with vet for opinion and training issue

2nd comment – recommend form that goes from person to person – 21.0 address that form is required to stay with animal and data required is on the form – **Action item (that the form stays with the animal)**

Page 2, Section 3 – coordinate with captive facility. Clarify with whom to coordinate
Integrate an Incident Commander for each capture or trapping activity –
Designated IFT IC gets rid of individual agency person – highlight the need to designate IC who shall be responsible for everything.

Make sure have equipment (WS)

Alan May asked for two more capture kits and Dave needs one or two more. – Item (to JR and Manuel)

Permit – do we want to attach the permit for public review? – do you have to put in names? WS people listed are not supervisors...**John Morgart will take permit off the SOP – Item - due to personnel changes**

JM comments-to make more consistent and reduce redundancy.

Approval of Draft SOP 25.0: Electronic Media Guidelines

Comments from Morgart, Bergman and Taylor

Remove last sentence of “exceptions” and add to “purpose”

Provide a copy of the appropriate guidelines

Explain process for media

- How to get that done

- Filming opportunities with in the current recovery area – i.e., this is what you need to

Modify attachment A so that is consistent

Rewrite last sentence

Omit Ranger Districts and leave Supervisor’s Office

Drop 11

WS on number 9 – media not allowed on trap line - huge disruption –

“No media coverage will be allowed on trap lines or removals.”

WS requires a permit for filming employees but not USFWS and AZGFD

Permit needs to go to all the agencies that the crew may want to film.

Cathy Taylor – change number 8 –

Nuisance’s discussion of wolf facilities invited out to project.

Number 9 – no value added to having media at trap lines.

Provide own B-roll of a trap line for requests

Get B roll done – Item and do with each agency.

Approval of Draft Revision of AMOC Leads for 5-YR Recommendations

No comments received – opened for discussion

#12 – Bergman’s

Gonzales - no process of due dates listed to evaluate that criteria (re: DOW)

Bergman to compare DOW and WS db’s and trying to get Stephanie’s help too so can be publishable data (more credence)

Will have plan in place by end of April – Dave will have game plan by next AMOC meeting. Will meet with DOW by the January AMOC meeting and bring back a draft plan for reviewing the DOW compensation plan.

Differ socio-economic and EIS to later date - the EIS should help guide us to where are the holes

Changing a time-frame based on discussion and analysis – to 5 years after the completion of the ROD. – 2014 – ACTION ITEM

#15 – Gonzales – maybe a 7th step for results to close the loop? – For reviewing the db “a report that concludes results and recommendations”

#17 - Gonzales about the process, to Groebner for population estimation...wants more detailed steps – more guidelines and process – Groebner to do by next AMOC meeting

Have to Terry one week in advance so can send out – Warren Ballard has a research student working on this – 18th of January is deadline (and for Dave’s).

#18 – no process or leads of due dates – because it is done and incorporated into the process as of today – but should include process that has been incorporated in the Annual Work Plan – Item

#20 – NMDGF will add a link to both wolf-web sites (AGFD and USFWS)

Draft provided to AMOC February 28 and completed by March 31 (WHAT?)

#21 -

#22 – JM – confidential reports to LE

#23 – Gonzales – question about evaluation timeline

Evaluation of Outreach – suggestion to make annual Work Plan due in January and have an evaluation in February – but not possible to do (lots of end-of-year stuff)

Have due in April – to simplify – to provide performance feedback to the IFT and appropriate supervisors.

#24 -

#25 -

#27 -

#31 – no lead – but will be determined after assessment

#32 – (related to #15 and #16) – is it possible to combine the three and have a science team to help with this?

#36 –

#37 – change due dates to Dec 31 07 and March 31 08 for funding cycle

Decision on AMOC Location Dissemination Guidelines

Ed Weirheim, of Catron County, agreed that the information will no longer be on the website - that it was not part of their (with Morgart) agreement.

Make the information freely and equally available to all – Greenlee’s preference.

Information provided has not been linked to any wolf losses.

IFT feels that posting information on the website may affect wolves negatively – have two lists – AZ and NM

Should readily provide information to all who desire it – issue with providing to some and not to others with equal stature

NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION REDACTION letter about information issue.

Providing to those who don't want wolves but whom we think need to know but not to those who want to know and want to have wolves on the landscape.

Password protect website? Hackers will get into it.

Desire to have the information and the conflict for not being able to access it

Morgart conflicted on it – don't want eco's going out to see wolves and harassing livestock.

G&F and WS position is that info should be freely available – no FWS agency position on it.

Put in verbage that if linked to mortalities and reduction in collared wolves, information may change

Morgart needs to go to Ben first before deciding to put on web or not.

Meet need of the individual – call if them if an issue as well put on website with qualifier that wolves can be anywhere and to take appropriate precautions.

Come to closure at the January meeting

Hayes to present concept to Directors tomorrow.

(Terry, we could also record the location information on an answering machine for people to call in for those who do not have computer access and also so they are not getting second-hand information - Nelson)

Recommendation 28: Project Training Needs

Santiago:

Few comments from folks – closure in April meeting – by January 31 due date, 2007

Mandatory training, optional – Santiago to met with IFT 2/7/2007

Identify recommendations to build and enhance

(Pre-release facility husbandry and operations protocol handout from Morgart – January 15 deadline. Changes to Maggie)

Draft IFT Annual Work Plan (including Outreach)

5-part document

Strategies for FTE shortfall?

Annual work FWS summary: no ID FWS contribution??? – geographical rather than agency allocations. So should be AZ, not AZGFD

No mention of the USFS person – add 0.5 to full time – communication/OR/Liaison (Cathy to send language for it to Groebner)

States WS at 1.25 – need 4 total - running 2 3/4 short – need two positions in each state

Budgets need to be integrated into the Work Plan

Comment about OR – not specific enough – “Develop and conduct...” i.e., targets - local meetings – county meetings

170 hours in FWS plan –

Specifically: brochures, development of flyers, printing flyers, maintaining website, adding FAQ's, etc.

Change language on page 8 - not “majority” (could mean 51% and want 75% of the programs occurring the BRWRA)

Zommerarange on website (?)

Bring copies of Fact Sheets to meetings

Weak in specifics

NM work plan –

Summary, integrated and non-tribal – 3 documents

Draft Statement of Purpose and Need for EIS

Draft MOU Addendum for EIS/NEPA

Done

Process, Locations, and Dates for EIS Scoping Meetings

NM and AZ locations – good to go

AGFD and NMDGF decisions on AMOC recommendations for two translocations and an initial release in mid-winter

NM - not agree to translocation but rather a paired translocation later

AZ - Ok with one translocation later this week.

Defenders of Wildlife solicitation of AMOC agency support for February 2007 Wolf Conference in Flagstaff AZ - Will not sponsor it at all but will help with staff.

Presentation by Shawna on OR and discussion (with suggested changes)

IFT Communication

Action item – the IFT will bring a list with cost estimates to AMOC in January – action item (including lease agreements with Forest Service, etc.); and a tally of what have

SOP 13 modification discussion - that the decision be made, at the discretion of the lead agency, to leave a depredating/lactating female in the population.

Directors Summit: Agenda review, expectations, concerns

Open Q&A and Discussion

Closing Remarks and Adjournment