

MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE¹

SUMMARY NOTES FOR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

NOTE: THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

FINAL: SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Location: Conference Call
Date/Time: September 9, 2008; 1200-1600 AZ Time
Convener: Arizona Game and Fish Department
Participants: Lead Agencies: AGFD; NMDGF; USFS; USDA-APHIS WS; USFWS; WMAT
Signatory Cooperators: NACO
IFT: AGFD IFTL; USFWS FPC
OTHERS: None

1. Welcome, opening comments, and ground rules. AMOC Chair Terry Johnson convened the conference call at 1200 AZ Time. Participants were welcomed and the ground rules were reviewed.
2. Agenda review, additional discussion points, and special announcements. No additional discussion points, no special announcements.
3. Discussion of Summary Notes from Previous AMOC and/or AMWG Meeting(s). No discussion of previous Summary Notes.

Current Action Items

1. Evaluate how to increase effectiveness of public participation in AMWG meetings (assigned 4/22/08). Discussed in AMOC on July 29-31 and in AMWG on July 30. Consensus to cut-back AMOC and AMWG meetings to three times per year in 2009 et seq. In 2009 et seq., move AMWG meetings back to end (1600-2000) of AMOC and Director Summit sessions. Explore possible changes in AMWG meeting format that might engage more attendees in substantive matters, such as issue-based discussions. Consider implementing changes in October 2008 AMWG meeting, with results-driven adjustments in subsequent meetings.
 - a. Kay Gale (assigned 7/30/08): convene small work group (invitation only) to develop recommendations on changing AMWG meetings to elicit increased public participation, and by August 31 report to AMOC Chair on progress to date. **Status: TBJ waiting for report from Kay Gale.**
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 to discuss and take action on work group recommendations. **Status: conference call discussion on September 9 deferred action pending an update from Kay Gale.**

¹The Reintroduction Project is a state- and tribally-led collaborative effort among six Lead Agencies and five Signatory Cooperators. Lead Agencies are: Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD); New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services (WS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT). Signatory Cooperators are: Graham, Greenlee, and Navajo counties, Arizona; New Mexico Department of Agriculture; and Sierra County, New Mexico.

- c. AMOC (assigned 7/30/08): by September 30, 2008, decide which, if any, work group recommendations to implement in October 29 AMWG meeting. **Status: conference call discussion on September 9 deferred action pending an update from Kay Gale.**
2. Nail down specific dates and locations (meeting rooms, facility contacts) for 2008-2010 AMOC, Director Summit, and AMWG meetings (assigned 4/22/08, revised 7/29/08). AMOC and Director Summit meeting rooms must be large enough for 30 and preferably 40 participants. AMWG meeting rooms must be large enough for 75 participants. Discussed in AMOC on July 29-31; 2008-2010 schedule revised and approved.
 - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 5/20/08): by June 15, confirm whether Steve Titla has confirmed accommodation and room availability for April 2009 AMOC and AMWG meetings scheduled for SCAT Apache Gold Casino and Conference Center. **Status: TBJ still waiting for information from Steve Titla.**
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/29/08): secure facilities for AMOC and AMWG meetings in December 2009. **Status: TBJ still waiting for information from Jan Carrejo.**
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/29/08): secure facilities for AMOC and AMWG meetings in April, August, and December 2010. **Status: conference call decision on September 9 was to hold 2009 meetings as scheduled and empower Terry Johnson to resolve balance issues in 2010 as best he can.**
 - d. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/29/08): update AMOC on AMOC/AMWG meeting schedule for 2008, 2009, and 2010. **Status: TBJ issue an update for 2008 and 2009 schedule before September 30, in conjunction with reminder for October 2008 meetings. TBJ will resolve 2010 issues before updating AMOC on that year's locations.**
 - e. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): by August 15, send an *ES Update* on dates, times, locations of October 2008 and all 2009 AMWG meetings. **Status: TBJ will issue an update for 2009 before September 30, in conjunction with reminder for October 2008 meeting. TBJ will resolve 2010 issues before sending ES Update for that year.**
3. Ensure complete coverage of all FTE allocations to IFT (assigned 4/22/08). All Lead Agency Directors committed to ensuring that significant gaps in IFT coverage do not occur due to employee resignation, leave, and other priority assignments. However, some positions in NMDGF and USFWS have remained unfilled for months, and TDAs are not being used to fully cover short-term or other vacancies, resulting in gaps in IFT coverage and pressuring remaining IFT members to handle the workload.
 - a. Maggie Dwire (assigned 7/30/08): resolve gaps in USFWS backup coverage for John Oakleaf at field level (i.e. FPC, co-investigation, SCAT, and other field responsibilities) and TDA coverage for short and long-term vacancies in USFWS component of IFT. **Status: waiting for USFWS action.**
 - b. Matt Wunder (assigned 7/30/08): resolve gaps in TDA coverage for short and long-term vacancies in NMDGF component of IFT. **Status: waiting for NMDGF action.**
4. Determine whether to establish a temporary holding facility for Project use (assigned 4/22/08). Various interim steps completed in May-July 2008, including AMOC discussion with Directors on July 30, but final decision package not yet produced.
 - a. Cynthia Dale (assigned 4/23/08): work with IFTLs and FPC to add FAIR information to recommendation for temporary holding facility. **Status: waiting for WMAT action.**
 - b. AMOC, IFTLs, and FPC (assigned 7/30/08): by August 15, submit final comment on current temporary holding facility proposal (i.e. identify all concerns and ways to resolve them) for BRWRA facility (or facilities) to Terry Johnson. **Status: completed August 15.**

- c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): by August 20, disseminate final temporary holding facility proposal to AMOC (cc: Signatory Cooperators) for Lead Agency representatives to discuss with their chain-of-command up through their Director. Note: a FAIR site will only be addressed in the proposal if WMAT provides site information August 15. **Status: completed August 29.**
- d. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 to discuss and take action on temporary holding facility. **Status: conference call completed on September 9, 2008.**
- e. IFTLs (assigned 9/9/08) to develop proposal sections regarding remote ASNF site and contrast its values to USFS Alpine Admin and AGFD Sipe sites. Submit information to TBJ by September 30. **Status: waiting for IFT comment.**
- f. AMOC (assigned 9/9/08): final action on proposal at October 28-29 AMOC meeting. **Status: pending action in October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**
5. 2006 NEPA Addendum to 2003 AMOC MOU (assigned 4/22/08).
 - a. Cynthia Dale (assigned 7/29/08): determine whether WMAT wants to become a NEPA Cooperator and apprise AMOC Chair of decision. **Status: waiting for WMAT decision.**
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/29/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 regarding acceptance of additional AZ and NM counties that have requested status as NEPA Addendum Cooperators under 2003 MOU. **Status: discussion deferred to October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**
6. Delineate USFWS expectations of AMOC cooperators in NEPA process for revision of 10j rule (assigned 5/20/08).
 - a. John Slown (assigned 5/20/08): find out what USFWS expects each cooperator to provide for EIS/NEPA process, and discuss at June cooperators meeting, if one occurs. Update July 31: after discussing slow progress and concerns about USFWS resource (funding and staff) constraints in the July 29-31 AMOC meeting, cooperators identified various alternatives (county, state, and federal agency resources) that would help move NEPA forward. Slown then said USFWS will provide additional information on resource needs and agency expectations in a September 10-11 NEPA Cooperators meeting in ABQ. **Status: waiting for resolution at September 10-11 NEPA meeting.**
7. Resolve whether funding is sufficient funds to cover helicopter and fixed-wing flight support for Project in FY2009 (assigned 5/20/08). Update July 31: total projected need \$179,217 for fixed-wing and helicopter flights (including weekly monitoring, capture/removal, end-of-year count, and contingency flights). NMDGF providing at least \$47,000 and AGFD providing at least \$98,202, so minimum shortfall is \$34,015 and maximum shortfall would be \$85,217 if AGFD cuts back to \$47,000 (i.e. same level as current NMDGF commitment).
 - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): by August 22, inform Lead Agency Directors that funds available are not sufficient for helicopter and fixed-wing flight support for FY2009. **Status: in abeyance pending discussion in October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**
 - b. Lead Agency Directors (assigned 7/30/08): provide guidance to AMOC on how to resolve shortfall (e.g. cut back flights, cut back area of coverage, and/or secure more funds). **Status: in abeyance pending discussion in October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 regarding Directors guidance on funding for flights. **Status: resolution in abeyance pending discussion in October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**

8. IFT activity priorities and possible need for additional resources, including more personnel (assigned 5/20/08). Update July 31: AMOC discussed issue in April, May, June, and July. AMOC consensus: disagreements among Lead Agencies not resolvable at AMOC level.
 - a. AMOC representatives (assigned 7/30/08): discuss IFT FTE table with Director and report back to AMOC on guidance received. **Status: AMOC discussion re-scheduled for October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**
 - b. Lead Agency Directors (assigned 7/30/08): by September 15, provide guidance to AMOC on preferred solutions to disagreements. **Status: AMOC discussion re-scheduled for October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 regarding Directors guidance on IFT priorities, staffing levels, and workloads. **Status: AMOC discussion re-scheduled for October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**
9. Public comment periods for draft Project SOPs and Clarification Memos (assigned 5/20/08). Need to reaffirm Lead Agency Director consensus (or lack thereof) on AMOC providing public comment periods for all draft SOPs and Clarification Memos. Issue scheduled for July 2008 Directors Summit, but time constraints precluded discussion.
 - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): notify Directors that further guidance is needed for AMOC on whether “public comment periods” for Project SOPs and Clarification Memos are mandatory or discretionary. **Status: no action.**
10. Develop decision package for initial releases and translocations for September 2008 through December 2009 (assigned 5/20/08). Update July 31: on July 29-31, AMOC Lead Agency representatives reviewed IFT draft 2008-2009 initial release and translocation document. Draft document discussed with Directors on July 31. Directors approved moving revised proposal forward in accordance with SOPs 5.0 and 6.0. Final decisions on specific initial releases translocations will await completion of public meetings in Arizona and Directors concurrence afterward.
 - a. FPC and IFTLs (assigned 7/31/08): revise 2008-09 proposal per July 29-31 discussions in AMOC meeting and provide final to Terry Johnson to disseminate to AMOC and public. **Status: completed August 26.**
 - b. Chris Bagnoli and Dave Cagle (assigned 7/31/08): schedule and conduct AZ public meetings and handle any other contacts/notices required by SOPs 5.0 and 6.0 for initial releases and translocations proposed in AZ for 2008 and 2009. **Status: AGFD local permittees meeting scheduled for September 9 in Springerville AZ and public meeting scheduled for September 15 in Alpine AZ.**
 - c. Ellen Heilhecker (assigned 7/31/08): handle all contacts/notices required by SOP 6.0 for translocations in NM in 2008 and 2009. **Status: TBJ waiting for update from Matt Wunder.**
11. Western Watersheds Project’s request for AMOC Summary Notes from 2003 to date (assigned 5/20/08).
 - a. Matt Wunder (assigned 5/20/08): provide AMOC with information on NMDGF’s decision on Western Watersheds Project’s request for AMOC Summary Notes from 2003 to date. Update July 31: information not received; discussed in AMOC meeting on July 29-31 but no future course of action established. **Status: completed on conference call on September 9. NMDGF made 10 sets of meeting notes available to the Western Watersheds Project in June 2008.**

12. Leadership Transition planning for AMOC (assigned 5/4/08). Lead Agency Directors told AMOC to develop a plan that would ensure a smooth and prompt transition when the current Chair needs to be replaced (current term ends in December 2009). Update June 17: Terry Johnson provided brief concepts he is thinking of for transition planning.
 - a. Matt Wunder, Cynthia Dale, and Terry Johnson (assigned 5/17/08): exchange initial brainstorming ideas by June 30, and convey draft integrated description to AMOC prior to July 11 for discussion in July 29-31 AMOC meeting. Update June 30: on June 18, WMAT informed Terry Johnson they opt not to participate in leadership transition planning; no ideas provided by Wunder or Johnson; issue placed on AMOC agenda for July 29-31. Update June 30: no information provided by Matt Wunder or Terry Johnson. Update July 23: no information exchanged; issue on AMOC agenda for July 29-31. Update July 31: issue discussed in AMOC July 29-30 meeting. Cynthia Dale reaffirmed WMAT decision not to take on leadership responsibilities. Matt Wunder reaffirmed NMDGF Director Thompson's interest in NMDGF assuming responsibilities of Chair (the person might or might not be Matt) but had no further information. Terry Johnson reaffirmed previously-stated AMOC majority opinion that leadership involves more than identifying someone to convene and run AMOC meetings. It is time intensive and requires knowledge of AMOC history as well as emergent issues. Difficult to see how NMDGF could take on greater responsibility for leadership when, due to workload or other issues, existing responsibilities are not being handled. Decision: in absence of further information from NMDGF, all agreed that Terry will continue to rely on Dave Cagle (AGFD) as necessary for support as surrogate AMOC Chair. **Status: discussed in conference call on September 9 but no resolution on NMDGF aspect. Discuss again in October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 regarding AMOC leadership transition planning. **Status: completed.**
13. Discussion of wolf mortalities in 2008 (assigned 6/10/08). Update June 17: due to lack of time, AMOC discussion deferred to July AMOC meeting. Update July 31: issue discussed in AMOC meeting on July 29-31, in conjunction with discussion of apparent Project bottleneck between ca. 40 and 60 free-ranging wolves. Comprehensive management alternatives identified for further refinement by (a) USFWS-convened work group (AGFD, NMDGF, USFWS, and WMAT) and then by (b) review with AMOC before submittal for consideration by Lead Agency Directors. Law enforcement alternatives being developed by separate multi-agency task force; LE alternatives will be kept confidential, on a "need to know" basis. Update August 4: USFWS work group will meet in ABQ on August 26-27 to revise draft alternatives and recommendations for management actions. LE task force still on separate path and timeline and activities uncertain.
 - a. Maggie Dwire (assigned 7/31/08): revise draft management recommendations to address issues discussed by AMOC and Directors on July 31, and re-convene work group on August 26-27 in ABQ to further refine document. **Status: work group reconvened in ABQ on August 26. Completed.**
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 8/26/08): revise draft management recommendations to address issues discussed by work group in ABQ on August 26, and disseminate to work group for concurrence. **Status: completed August 28.**
 - c. Work Group review due to Terry Johnson on September 2. **Status: completed September 2.**

- d. Terry Johnson (assigned 8/26): update AMOC on outcomes of 8/26-27 work group meeting and disseminate work group revision of revised draft management recommendations to AMOC and cooperators for discussion in AMOC conference call on September 9. **Status: completed September 2.**
- e. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): revise draft management recommendations after September 9 AMOC conference call determines next course of action. **Status: pending.**
14. Draft conventions for formatting Project documents (assigned 7/30/08).
 - a. AMOC, IFTLs, and FPC (assigned 7/30/08): provide Track Changes comment to Terry Johnson by August 31. **Status: no responses received.**
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 to discuss and take action on draft conventions for formatting Project documents. **Status: TBJ affirmed non-response in September 9 conference call. Action deferred to October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**
15. Draft "roles and responsibilities" document (assigned 7/31/08).
 - a. Lead Agency representatives (assigned 7/31/08): discuss draft "roles and responsibilities" document with Director and provide Track Changes comment to Terry Johnson by August 31. **Status: no responses received. Deadline extended to October 15.**
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 to discuss Lead Agency feedback on draft "roles and responsibilities" document. **Status: TBJ affirmed non-response in September 9 conference call. Action deferred to October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**
16. Re-consideration of Project guidelines for loaning radio-telemetry receivers to the public (assigned 7/30/08).
 - a. IFTLs and FPC (assigned 7/30/08): by August 31, integrate NMDGF comments into current AMOC-approved "statement of use" (guidelines) for use and receipt of telemetry equipment and provide final draft to Terry Johnson to disseminate for AMOC comment and consideration. **Status: IFTLs and FPC comment received and revised draft guidelines disseminated to AMOC.**
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 to discuss and take action on IFT recommendations regarding radio-telemetry receiver loan. **Status: completed in conference call on September 9. AMOC endorsed draft guidelines and TBJ will disseminate them.**
17. Revision of Project poster to advise outdoor-recreating public of possible presence of Mexican wolves (assigned 7/30/08).
 - a. Dave Cagle (assigned 7/30/08): by August 15, integrate AMOC comment into Mexican wolf "presence" poster and provide final version to Terry Johnson for AMOC approval, prior to printing and distribution and placement. Note to Cagle: work with Dave Bergman and Chris Carrillo to resolve problem presented by new (ultra-wide) Wildlife Services "branding" logo. **Status: completed August 15.**
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): coordinate AMOC approval of revised "wolf presence" poster and notify Dave Cagle of authorization to proceed with printing. **Status: completed August 29.**
18. Revision of draft Clarification Memos for SOPs 11.0 and 13.0.
 - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): use Track Changes to mark up draft Clarification Memos for SOPs 11.0 and 13.0 with AMOC recommendations from July 29-31 meeting. **Status: completed August 4.**

- b. Completed. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): forward revised draft Clarification Memos to AMOC, IFTLs, and FPC for final “pre-Director review” comment by August 8. **Status: completed August 4.**
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): submit AMOC-revised draft Clarification Memos to Lead Agency Directors for consideration and further guidance to AMOC. **Status: Status: related issues discussed in AMOC conference call on September 9. Action deferred to October 28-29 AMOC meeting.**
19. Update BRWRA Project summary of costs-to-date (assigned 7/30/08).
- a. AMOC Lead Agency Representatives (assigned 7/30/08): by August 31, provide revised information for 2008 and 2009 to Terry Johnson. **Status: no responses received except from WS. TBJ to send reminder message.**
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): update Project costs-to-date summary and re-post on Project Web site by September 30. **Status: Status: TBJ awaiting Lead Agency responses in preceding Action Item.**
20. Public access to AMOC Summary Notes (assigned 7/30/08).
- a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): post pdf copies of all 40 redacted “final” AMOC Summary Notes for February 2003 – June 2008 and July 2008 final AMOC Summary Notes to Project Web site. **Status: completed August 18.**
21. Completion of Summary Notes for AMWG meeting on July 30 (assigned 7/31/08).
- a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): draft Summary Notes and distribute them to AMOC et al. for review. **Status: completed August 5.**
 - b. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators (assigned 7/31/08): submit review comments on draft Summary Notes to Terry Johnson by August 15. **Status: completed August 15.**
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes for July 29-31 AMOC meeting and post them to Project Web site. **Status: completed August 18.**
22. Completion of Summary Notes for AMOC meeting on September 9 (assigned 9/9/08).
- a. Terry Johnson (assigned 9/9/08): draft Summary Notes and distribute them to AMOC et al. for review. **Status: TBJ opted to skip draft stage and issue final notes (leadership transition action).**
 - b. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators (assigned 9/9/08): submit review comments on draft Summary Notes to Terry Johnson by September 19. **Status: obviated by previous action.**
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 9/9/08): disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes for September 9 AMOC meeting and post them to Project Web site. **Status: pending.**