



MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY PROGRAM
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

THE THREE YEAR REVIEW OF THE PROGRAM
Questions and Answers

Why is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conducting A 3 Year Review of the Mexican Wolf Program?

When the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program (Program) was being planned, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) agreed to review the progress of the Program after 3 and 5 years. The stated purpose of these reviews was to determine whether the program should continue, continue with modification, or be terminated.

How is the Review Being Conducted?

March 2001 marked the end of the third year of the Program. As such, the Service has embarked on an intensive process to insure an objective review of the Program. The first step in this process was to determine, scientifically, whether the program was meeting its stated objectives. The Service enlisted the assistance of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) to do this. CBSG is part of the World Conservation Union with a specialty of being a neutral facilitator of the complex social and biological issues that often surround the management and conservation of small populations of animals. CBSG selected a group of scientists that are independent of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct the 3 year review of the Program and provide their findings with respect to the three possible outcomes: the program should continue, continue with modification, or be terminated.

When will the findings of the Review be available to the public?

The initial conclusion of the independent scientists was that the program should continue but indicated that modifications were necessary. The scientists are currently preparing their detailed report and CBSG will make that report available to the public at the Community Open Houses by the end of June 2001.

What are the Community Open Houses?

The Service will conduct a series of Community Open Houses in Arizona and New Mexico to share the biological findings from the review with the public and get their input on what has worked and hasn't worked in the Program and how it can be improved. The goals of the Community Open Houses are to: (1) share the findings of the 3 year review with the public; (2) solicit feedback from the public; (3) and explain the Mexican Wolf Management Rule, the Rule-making process, and how the public can be involved.

The tentative schedule for the Open Houses will be the last week of June 2001 for Arizona communities (Phoenix, Clifton, the White Mountain Apache Reservation, and Springerville) and the second week of July 2001 for the New Mexico communities (Albuquerque, Truth or Consequences, Silver City, Glenwood, and Reserve). Once the permanent dates, times and places for the Open Houses are established, we will post the schedule on our web page and advertise them broadly throughout Arizona and New Mexico.

CBSG has agreed to incorporate comments from the Open Houses into the stakeholder workshop (see below) since there is a limit of 60 participants at that workshop. By doing this, members of the public that cannot participate directly in the workshop will still have an opportunity to provide input.

What is the facilitated stakeholder workshop all about?

CBSG's expertise is facilitating workshops that bring stakeholders together and generate a series of consensus based recommendations on how a program might change. At the request of the Service, CBSG will be holding one of these facilitated stakeholder workshops for the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program during August 2001 for the purpose of developing recommendations to the Service on possible modifications to the Mexican Wolf Program. The participants of the CBSG stakeholder workshop will perform an in-depth analysis of issues that the participants of the workshop and members of the public that provided comments during the Open Houses feel are important regarding the future of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. The workshop participants will generate recommendations to the Service regarding the Program. The participants of the stakeholder workshop will be selected to insure that all diverse viewpoints held about the Program are present. The list of participants will be determined by the Program's Interagency Management Advisory Group (IMAG). The IMAG is made up of agency partners such as U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, the White Mountain and San Carlos Apache Tribes, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and, County representatives from Grant, Apache, Sierra and Catron Counties.