



RESOLUTION 2008-20

Mexican Wolf Reintroduction

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978 4-37-1 grants to counties those powers necessary and proper to provide for the safety of its citizens and to preserve the health and prosperity of its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, multiple counties are directly impacted by the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf; and

WHEREAS, the nonessential experimental population (NEP) of the Mexican gray wolf established in 1998 in Arizona and New Mexico has not been recognized as essential to the conservation of the gray wolf; and

WHEREAS, the nonessential experimental population reintroduction has not proven successful based upon the proposals to amend the current management stipulations that require wolves to establish home ranges within the designated recovery area and require initial wolf releases from captivity only into the primary recovery zone; and

WHEREAS, the current rule demonstrates a lack of appropriate provisions for private individuals to effectively address problem Mexican gray wolf behavior, the lack of take authority in warranted instances involving domestic animals and pets, the lack of consensus in determining economic, cultural and environmental impacts on private individuals and communities, and the inability to clarify critical definitions utilized to manage the program and determine "problem" and "nuisance" wolf status; and

WHEREAS, county elected officials have repeatedly expressed concerns regarding citizen safety, the inability to effectively participate in the planning and management of federal programs, the inability to address problem wolf behavior, livestock depredation, insufficient compensation, attacks on domestic animals and pets, wolf boundary violations, reintroduction of negatively habituated wolves, and the need for the nonessential experimental population.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF TORRANCE COUNTY shall oppose any rule or proposed rule related to the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf that does not provide the opportunity for continual meaningful involvement of New Mexico's county elected officials in the decision-making process and does not recognize the authority granted to New Mexico counties to protect the safety, health and prosperity of their citizens and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Torrance County encourages interested counties to enter into cooperating agency agreements and other intergovernmental oversight programs to address federal initiatives within their jurisdictions.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED this 27th day of February, 2008.

TORRANCE COUNTY COMMISSION

Jim Frost

Jim Frost, District 1

Tito Chavez

Paul M. (Tito) Chavez, District 2

LeRoy M. Candelaria

LeRoy M. Candelaria, District 3

Attest:

Linda Kayser
County Clerk
Tito Chavez

