

Tommie C. Martin, District I
610 E. Hwy 260, Payson, 85547
(928) 474-2029
tmartin@gilacountyaz.gov

Michael A. Pastor, District II
(928) 402-8753
mpastor@gilacountyaz.gov

John D. Marcanti, District III
(928) 402-8726
jmarcanti@gilacountyaz.gov



GILA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
1400 E. Ash Street
Globe, Arizona 85501

May 27, 2014

Dr. Benjamin Tuggle
Southwestern Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306 Albuquerque, NM 87103
benjamin_tuggle@fws.gov

Re: Gila County letter to USFWS requesting formal NEPA consistency review for the Mexican Wolf 10(j) Revision Cooperating Agencies Alternative.

Dear Dr. Tuggle;

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Board of Supervisors of Gila County formally took action on May 27, 2014, to endorse and support the Cooperating Agencies Alternative developed collaboratively by the Eastern Arizona Counties Organization (ECO) and the Ad Hoc Mexican Wolf Stakeholders Coalition; formally endorsed by the unanimous vote of the Arizona Game & Fish Commission; introduced in compliance with the NEPA requirements by Greenlee County at the April 15 Cooperating Agencies meeting; co-introduced by Arizona counties that participate in the Mexican Wolf 10(j) Revision process as Cooperating Agencies; and supported by over 20 industry and recreation associations (the "Cooperating Agencies Alternative").

By virtue of it being officially endorsed by a vote of the Gila County Board of Supervisors, as well as by other Arizona counties and Arizona local government organizations, the Cooperating Agencies Alternative meets the criteria of an "approved State or local plan and laws (whether or not federally sanctioned)" (40 CFR 1506.2(d)).

Gila County therefore respectfully requests that the Cooperating Agencies Alternative be analyzed for consistency with the Proposed Revision to the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf (Federal Register / Vol. 78, No. 114 / 35719) and that the Environmental Impact Statement formally include a discussion of any inconsistency between the proposed action and the Cooperating Agencies Alternative (40 CFR 1506.2(d)).

Gila County further respectfully requests that, should inconsistencies exist between the proposed action and the Cooperating Agencies Alternative, the Environmental Impact Statement describe the extent to

which the agency would reconcile its proposed action with the Cooperating Agencies Alternative (40 CFR 1506.2(d)).

Gila County is committed to partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Arizona and New Mexico Counties, Tribal Authorities, industry and recreation stakeholders, and the Arizona and New Mexico communities to design, implement and monitor an ecologically, economically and socially responsible Mexican Wolf recovery effort, while preserving the custom, cultures, economic well-being, health and safety of the county members residents and visitors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pastor
Chairman
Gila County Board of Supervisors

Date

ATTEST

Marian Sheppard
Clerk of the Board
Gila County Board of Supervisors

Date

Cc:

Sherry Barrett, Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator, USFWS
sherry_barrett@fws.gov

Jonathan Olson, Environmental Planning Consultant, Mexican Wolf Recovery Program, USFWS
jonathan_j_olson@fws.gov

David Bergman, State Director, USDA APHIS
David.L.Bergman@aphis.usda.gov

Larry Voyles, Director, AGFD
lvoyles@azgfd.gov

USFWS Mexican Wolf EIS Interdisciplinary Project Team (IPT) distribution list

Ad Hoc Mexican Wolf Stakeholders Coalition distribution list