



Mexican Wolf

Blue Range Reintroduction Project Fact Sheet for Guides, Outfitters, and Forest Visitors

Since 1998, Mexican gray wolves have been reintroduced into the Apache National Forest and Fort Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona, and the Gila National Forest in New Mexico.

Mexican wolves are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Care should be exercised when hunting or trapping in wolf recovery areas to avoid killing or injuring a Mexican wolf. Hunters must be sure of their target. Bear and lion hunters using hound dogs should exercise caution when hunting in wolf-occupied areas and are advised to contact the Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team at 928/339-4329 or 1-888/459-9653 to obtain recent wolf location information. Forest visitors hiking or camping with dogs should also exercise caution, as wolves will treat dogs as interlopers and can kill or injure them.

To report wolf sightings, incidents, or encounters, call the 24-hour Mexican Wolf number at 1-888/459-9653, or the Arizona Game and Fish Department's 24-hour dispatch (Operation Game Thief) at 1-800/352-0700.

Recommendations

- Respect posted wildlife closures.
- Treat wolves and other wildlife with respect.
- Never feed a wild animal. Keep food and garbage in airtight containers.
- Dispose of gray water per camping regulations and only in designated areas.
- Keep dogs under control at all times and leashed when possible.
- Should you hear or see wolves near your camp, contain dogs in tent or vehicle if possible and harass wolves away if necessary.

You May Legally:

- Harass a wolf away from you and your property without injuring it, but you must report it within 7 days.
- Kill or injure a wolf that is in the act of killing, wounding, or biting your cattle, sheep, horses, mules, or burros on your **private** or **tribal** land, but you must report it within 24 hours.
- Kill, injure, or harass a wolf in defense of human life, but you must report it within 24 hours.

You May Not Legally:

- Kill or injure a wolf that is in the act of killing, wounding, or biting your cattle, sheep, horses, mules, or burros on **public** land.
- Kill or injure a wolf just because it is near you or your property.
- Kill or injure a wolf that attacks your pet (including working and hunting dogs), regardless of land ownership (private, tribal, or public).
- Kill or injure a wolf feeding on dead livestock.
- Enter official closures around occupied wolf release pens, active dens, and rendezvous sites.
- Shoot a wolf because you thought it was a coyote or something else (you are responsible for identifying your target before shooting).
- Attempt to do any of the above actions or solicit someone else to do them.

Violations of the above rules may be subject to prosecution. Criminal penalties may include imprisonment of not more than one year, and a fine of up to \$50,000 and/or a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.

For more information on the Mexican wolf program, contact the Interagency Field Team at 928/339-4329 or 1-888/459-9653; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 505/346-2525; the Arizona Game and Fish Department at 928/367-4281; the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish at 505/476-8101; Fort Apache Indian Reservation at 928/338-4385; Wildlife Services at 866/487-3297; or visit <http://mexicanwolf.fws.gov> or <http://azgfd.gov/wolf>.

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