



**COUNTY OF SOCORRO  
RESOLUTION № 2019-31**

**IN OPPOSITION OF THE FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE'S PROPOSED INITIAL RELEASE AND  
TRANSLOCATION PROPOSAL FOR 2019**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners met in a regular duly noticed meeting on February 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Socorro County Annex Building, 198 Neel Ave., Socorro, New Mexico; and,

**WHEREAS**, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1995) provides that Counties have the power to, "provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants"; and,

**WHEREAS**, NMSA, 1978, Section 4-38-18 (1976) provides that a Board of County Commissioner has the duty and authority "[t]o represent the county and have the care of the county property and the management of the interest of the county in all cases where no other provision is made by law; and,

**WHEREAS**, each of the three 2019 proposed actions increase the potential for the adverse social and economic impacts; specifically, as its first proposed action, the FWS proposes to cross-foster up to 12 pups into the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in 2019. Nine of the fifteen of the preferred packs within which the FWS proposes to cross-foster pups are located within New Mexico. As its second action, the FWS proposes to prevent the mating of full siblings, despite that no known full sibling pairs are known to exist in the wild population. This alternative contemplates supplemental feedings to assist the female in raising the pups, which bears the additional risk of habituating the Mexican Gray wolves, thereby increasing danger to the members of our community. As its third action, the FWS proposes to translocate wolves for management purposes during 2019; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Revised Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Rule provided a fourfold expansion of the area where Mexican wolves primarily are expected to occur, and a tenfold increase in the area where Mexican wolves can initially be released from captivity; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of the Interior (OIG) conducted an investigation into the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program and recognized some substantial problems with the FWS management of the MGWRP. Specifically,

the FWS's omission and manipulation of scientific records is of concerns to the County because current and future management of the species relies on accurate data to inform decisions; and,

**WHEREAS**, the while the OIG report concluded that the FWS assured OIG that FWS has taken corrective actions, the County remains concerned regards the veracity of these assurances. Specifically, the FWS has failed to address what remedial measures it has taken to address its falsification of the scientific research record that was utilized by FWS for the MGWRP; and,

**WHEREAS**, the communication problems persist between the FWS and the affected communities, the needless predation on livestock is heightened, and the FWS continues to ignore three mental health assessments of the trauma caused by wolf incidents to rural families. These problems continue to expose humans to documented health and safety risks; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners passed Ordinance 2015-02 to Prevent Introduction of Predatory Species into Socorro County, which prohibits the release into the wild any animal of the genera Canis, Ursus, or Felis, and provides for both civil and criminal penalties for violations of the same.

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature has made clear that County Ordinances are effective within the boundaries of the County, including land owned by the United States. NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-2 (1975). The County's Ordinance prohibiting such release long predates the Fish and Wildlife Service's reintroduction and "management" of Mexican wolves; and,

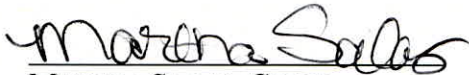
**WHEREAS**, the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed Wolf reintroduction program directly conflicts with the County's Ordinance prohibiting such release, purports to undermine the County's capacity to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of the County's inhabitants, and impedes the oath taken by each of the members of the Board; and,

**WHEREAS**, the FWS has consistently chosen to fully and completely disregard the State's analysis with respect to the impact of the releases on the State wildlife, and to proceed with a controversial program despite having already achieved its previously stated recovery goals. The FWS continues to shift its target and goals, with clear disregard for the impact its decisions have on New Mexico wildlife and agriculture. Their goal used to be the reintroduction of 100 wolves. It has now increased to a goal of over 300; and,

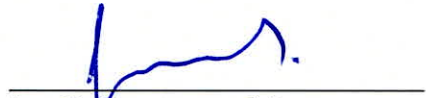
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Socorro County opposes the Initial Release and Translocation Plan for 2019.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

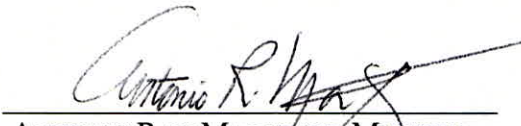
**APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED** on this 26<sup>th</sup> day February 2019.

  
MARTHA SALAS, CHAIR  
DISTRICT II

  
MANUEL ANAYA, VICE-CHAIR  
DISTRICT III

  
JOE R. GONZALES, MEMBER  
DISTRICT I

  
GLEN DUGGINS, MEMBER  
DISTRICT IV

  
ANTONIO RAY MARTINEZ, MEMBER  
DISTRICT V

ATTEST BY:

  
BETTY SAAVEDRA, COUNTY CLERK

