

December 17, 2013

Public Comments Processing  
Attn: FWS-R2-ES-2013-0056  
Division of Policy and Directives Management  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM  
Arlington VA 22203

The Wildlife Society appreciates the opportunity to submit comment on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed revisions to the nonessential experimental population of the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*).

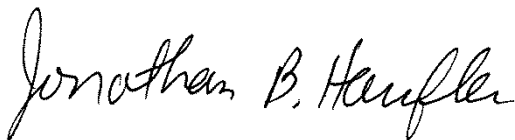
The Wildlife Society was founded in 1937 and is a non-profit scientific and educational association of nearly 11,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Our mission is to represent and serve the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and associated habitats worldwide.

The Wildlife Society supports the proposal to list the Mexican wolf subspecies as endangered. In its proposal, USFWS has included several specific proposals (numbered 1-13) included within this change to the 10(j) rule and has broached several other considerations (14-20) for possible inclusion in the final rule. Taken together, these proposals would expand the area where direct releases could occur, allow for natural dispersal of Mexican wolves into an expanded MWEPA, provide allowances for cooperation with tribal governments and private land owners, and clarify allowable management actions and administrative procedures associated with Mexican wolf recovery.

These changes in the Mexican wolf recovery program address many of the specifications of the 1998 10(j) rule that have hampered the success of the recovery program and should therefore greatly improve the likelihood of meeting the interim goal of 100 Mexican wolves in the wild, and hopefully moving us closer to a larger and more secure population across a large swath of Arizona and New Mexico.

Thank you for considering the views of wildlife professionals. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs (301.897.977 x308; [laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan B. Haufler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonathan B. Haufler, Ph.D., CWB  
President

