

Wolf Country

Trapping and Mexican Gray Wolves

Trapping has not been shown to negatively impact Mexican Gray Wolf populations.

For individuals wishing to trap in the **Mexican Gray Wolf Blue Range Recovery Area** (portions of Catron, Grant and Sierra Counties in New Mexico) the Department strongly recommends the following techniques to reduce the potential for injury to inadvertently trapped Mexican Gray Wolves:

- Double stake, cable stake (at least 18 inches deep) or otherwise securely fasten traps to immovable objects with aircraft cable or chain so that if captured, a wolf is unable to pull the trap free.
- Use short chains (12 inches or less) attached near the center of the trap base plate via a swivel and incorporate at least one additional swivel between the trap and anchoring point to prevent lunging or rolling-induced injury.
- If using drags, use one of sufficient size and weight or grapples made from steel at least ½ inch in diameter or cross-section, attached to chains or cables at least 10 feet long to hasten recovery and safe release of animal.
- Choose laminated, off-set or padded jaws on foot-hold traps.
- Thoroughly scout the area you intend to trap and if you see wolf sign, avoid the area if possible or use only No. 1.75 or smaller traps.

Trappers will not be held criminally liable if they accidentally capture a Mexican Gray Wolf.

If you capture a Mexican Gray Wolf, immediately call the Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Office at (888) 459-9653, or contact the Department's 24-hour dispatch phone at (800) 432-4263, or call your local conservation officer. An officer will respond to remove the wolf and secure it until a member of the Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team can arrive to process and radio collar the wolf.



Mexican Grey Wolf



Coyote

Wolves Are A Protected Species

Parts of New Mexico are within the Mexican Wolf Restoration Area. Wolves are protected by the federal Endangered Species Act and by the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act. Shooting a wolf could cost you up to a year in jail and as much as \$50,000 as well as additional penalties under state law for violating the Wildlife Conservation Act .

A combination of federal and state agencies and conservation organizations offer rewards totaling up to \$45,000 for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of wolf poachers.

You **MAY NOT** Legally:

- Kill or injure a wolf because it is near you or your property.
- Kill or injure a wolf if it attacks your pet.
- Kill or injure a wolf feeding on dead livestock.
- Enter posted closures around release pens, active dens and rendezvous sites.
- Shoot a wolf because you thought it was a coyote or anything else.

You **MAY** Legally:

- Kill, injure or harass a wolf if it is in the act of killing, wounding or biting your cattle, sheep, horses, mules or burros on private or tribal land. But you must report it within 24 hours to the Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Office at (888) 459-9653, or call the Department's 24-hour dispatch phone at (800) 432-4263.
- Kill, injure or harass a wolf in defense of human life, but you must report it to either of the above numbers within 24 hours.

For more information about Mexican wolves or the Wolf Recovery Program, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mexican wolf website at: www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/.

If you are in or around the Gila National Forest or surrounding areas, you could encounter a wolf. Some wolves will have radio collars. Typical Mexican wolves weigh 50-80 pounds, measure 5 1/2 feet from nose to tail and stand 28-32 inches at the shoulder (about the size of a large German shepherd). Coat color varies, but solid black or white Mexican wolves do not occur. Wolves appear similar to coyotes, but weigh two to three times as much. Compared to coyotes, Mexican wolves have large, blocky heads; more rounded ears; and large feet in proportion to their bodies. At a distance or a quick glance, the two species can be difficult to differentiate.