



**SOCORRO COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION № 2015-68**

OPPOSING U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE WOLF RECOVERY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Socorro County met in a regularly scheduled meeting on October 13, 2015, at 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, in January 2015, the Fish and Wildlife Service finalized changes to the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Rule in Arizona and New Mexico, enlarging the recovery area from I-10 to the Mexican Border, and a tenfold increase in the area where Mexican wolves can initially be released from captivity; and,

WHEREAS, the areas of the County which are within the expanded reintroduction and release area, offer abundant open space for cover, water, and a smorgasbord of commercial animals for a food source, and expressed its concern that the wolves would remain in the vicinity of the ready supply of food and water unless actions were taken to prevent or control the dispersion; and,

WHEREAS, 40 C.F.R. 1508.5 provides that state agencies, local governments, tribal governments and other federal agencies may serve as cooperating agencies during the EIS process if they have either jurisdiction by law or special expertise; and,

WHEREAS, Fish & Wildlife Service has not sufficiently considered our customs, culture, and the economy of our county; and,

WHEREAS, despite the Fish & Wildlife Service's belief that it has developed a program that will compensate counties for losses that Counties incur from the Mexican Wolf, it is outrageous to think that compensation is even quantifiable where it has taken years for the ungulate population to develop as a result of the dedicated efforts from sportsmen, ranchers, county agencies, and the State Game and Fish; and,

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2015 the New Mexico Game Commission voted unanimously to

uphold Game and Fish Department Director Alexandra Sandoval's denial of Fish and Wildlife's release request to release additional wolves in New Mexico based on the fact the Department did not know how many wolves would be released or where they would be set loose; and,

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2015 the Fish and Wildlife services proposed numerous potential wolf release sights in Socorro County; and,

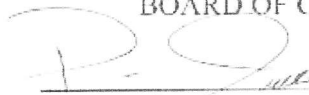
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Socorro that the Board stands in stark opposition of the newly released Record of Decision and Final Rule in regard to the Wolf Recovery Program, and maintains that this decision is a blatant violation of NEPA requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Socorro that it determines the action taken by the Fish & Wildlife Service to be unconstitutional, and their decision undermines our ability to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Socorro that it calls upon our representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to call for an investigation into the Fish & Wildlife Service's disregard of the positions of the local and state government, and to de-fund the wolf recovery program.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 13th day of October, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF SOCORRO



PAULINE JARAMILLO, CHAIR
DISTRICT I



MANUEL ANAYA, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT III



MARTHA SALAS, VICE-CHAIR
DISTRICT II



DANILL P. MONETTE, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT IV



JUAN JOSE GUTIERREZ, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT V

ATTEST BY:



REBECCA (BECKY) VEGA, COUNTY CLERK