Member Advisory Newsletter November 2026

Stop Open Season on Lobos

FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Few animals tell the story of New Mexico's wild places better than the lobo. *Wiped out of our mountains by the 1970s, Mexican gray wolves have clawed their way back to about 317 in the wild in the United States. Lobos are a conservation success story decades in the making. But the work is unfinished.*

The Trump Administration would like to call it done anyway. A September 4 executive order gave the Interior Department 90 days, until December 3, to decide whether to begin delisting or downlisting the lobo. It also urged states to drop their own protections and loosen rules for killing wolves. Bills in Congress would go further and delist the wolf outright. Follow the Endangered Species Act or the recovery plan? Not so much.

The lobo is not ready to be taken off the endangered species list. The threats facing the lobo— including genetic issues and excessive human-caused mortality—must be alleviated before downlisting. The population must be recovered to the point where protections under the Endangered Species Act are no longer required. The lobo has not even met the goals set forth in the government's inadequate recovery plan, which requires the U.S. population to average at least 320 wolves over eight years and exceed 320 in each of the last three. Meeting those goals is not the same as true recovery, which we and many independent scientists believe will take at least 750 wolves across three interconnected populations.

So we are fighting back, in court and in Congress. On October 13, New Mexico Wild and our partners, represented by the Western Environmental Law Center, argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that the only wild Mexican gray wolf population in the United States cannot possibly be "nonessential" to the species' survival.

And right now, every gift you make for wolves will be matched. Details are on the other side of this Advisory. As always, your support means the world to us.

Mark Allison
Executive Director
New Mexico Wild



Genetics and human-caused deaths remain the lobo's greatest threats.

In 2024, 30 wolves were confirmed killed, 12 of them by poaching or illegal trapping. In just the first six months of 2026, 24 more were confirmed dead, putting this year on track for a jump of more than 50%. Federal managers have also authorized lethal removals over livestock conflicts this year. Through it all, New Mexico Wild has stood with the lobo: challenging the federal rule that labels our wild wolves "nonessential," helping offer a reward after Grenville, father of the Seco Creek Pack, was illegally killed in 2022, and defending the Gila, America's first designated Wilderness and the heart of lobo country. Recovery is working because people keep fighting for it.



This billboard ran in 2024. Today, New Mexico Wild along with coalition partners pledged $52,500 for reward money to be used for information leading to the conviction of anyone who unlawfully takes a Mexican gray wolf during the remainder of 2026.

Learn more at nmwild.org

Help us stop this. Sign the petition and double your gift on the other side of this Advisory.

Act Now to Help

The lobo came back because people refused to give up on it. With Interior's deadline approaching, you can help protect it twice over: with your voice and with a matched gift.

SIGN THE PETITION: DON'T LET WASHINGTON DELIST THE LOBO

Scientists say true recovery requires at least 750 Mexican gray wolves across three interconnected populations, including new populations in the Grand Canyon region and the Southern Rockies. That's why we've set out to send at least 750 letters to Washington, one for every wolf, and we don't plan to stop there. When you add your name, your letter calls on:

- The Department of the Interior to keep the lobo's Endangered Species Act protections in place, with no downlisting or delisting
- Your Senators and Representative to urge Interior to do the same
- Your Senators and Representative to oppose any federal bill that would downlist or delist the lobo



ACTION NEEDED

Sign at **nmwild.org/get-involved/sign-a-petition/wolves-belong-dont-let-washington-abandon-the-lobo** and request your free Wolves Belong sticker as a thank you.

Scan the QR Code to be directed to the petition link

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

Through December 3, a committed donor will match every gift dollar for dollar, up to $12,000. A $50 gift becomes $100 for wolf protection. Defending the lobo takes attorneys in the courtroom, sound science, and sustained public pressure, and our members are the primary source of funding for that work. Your doubled gift helps us see our Ninth Circuit case through, respond to every federal and state action affecting Mexican wolves, and defend the connected wildlands wolves need to survive.



ACTION NEEDED

Use the mail slip included to send your donation via mail

OR

Scan the QR Code to donate to the Match

NEW MEXICO WILD

The fight for the Mexican gray wolf is fast-changing. We'll provide the most current information on our website.

Thank you for all the support you can offer!

nmwild.org

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance / PO Box 25464 / Albuquerque, NM 87125 / 505-843-8696