

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to include language that would allow states to manage preservation efforts of the Mexican Gray Wolf without interference from the federal government.

On November 13, 2015, the four Governors from the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah sent a bipartisan letter to Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell expressing serious concerns and unified opposition to the “Service’s [new] planned approach to recovery plan development” for the Mexican gray wolf.

In December 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed that the agency was initiating new recovery plans for the Mexican wolf and considering introducing the species into areas outside its historic range. This expansion effort is extremely misguided as 90% of the Mexican’s wolf’s historic range is in Mexico.

While we don’t support the current recovery plan, we are equally concerned with regard to a potential new plan. Planning the recovery of a single species within a habitat in which it has no historical presence sets a dangerous precedent for future recovery efforts.

We strongly oppose any efforts to “restore” the Mexican wolf to areas outside its historical habitat. The potential for adverse impacts to native species and local communities from such

actions requires additional caution. Furthermore, local stakeholders most impacted by the Mexican wolf recovery program should be intimately involved in this process.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has proven to be incapable of managing Mexican wolf recovery efforts since the agency arbitrarily listed the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies and expanded the wolf's range in January of 2015. This is evidenced by the fact that 45% of the Service engineered pups did not survive in 2015 and that the Mexican wolf's overall population numbers also declined last year on the Service's watch.

Recovery efforts for Mexican wolves are better left to the states and should be managed within the species' historic habitat.

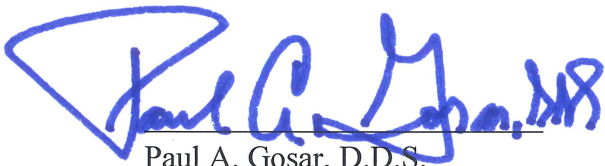
Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following:

LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR THE MEXICAN WOLF

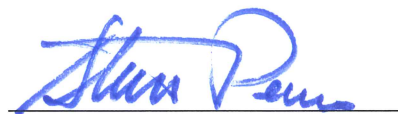
SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used— (1) to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule entitled ‘‘Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision to the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf’’ published by the Department of the Interior in the Federal Register on January 16, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 2512); or (2) to treat the Mexican Wolf as an endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); (3) to develop or carry out a recovery plan for the Mexican Wolves that applies to areas outside such species’ historic habitat.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



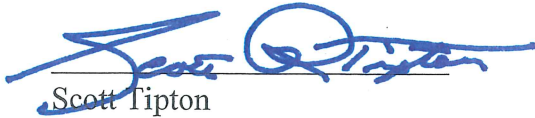
Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Martha McSally
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