

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
2007 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) 2018 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to retain 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 the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell expressing serious concerns and unified opposition to the “Service’s [new] planned approach to recovery plan development” for the Mexican 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 wolf’s historic range is in Mexico.

While we do not 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proven to be incapable of managing Mexican wolf recovery efforts. The agency arbitrarily listed the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies and expanded the wolf’s range in January of 2015. Approximately 45% of the Service engineered pups did not survive in 2015 and that the Mexican wolf’s overall population numbers have also declined previously on the Service’s watch.

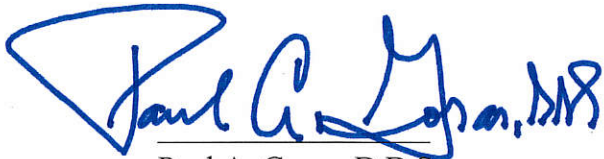
Recovery efforts for Mexican wolves are better left to the states and should be managed within the species' historic habitat.

Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following, which was included in the FY 2017 Interior Appropriations bill:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to treat the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) as an endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or to implement a recovery plan for such species that applies in any area outside the historic range of such species.

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



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



Martha McSally
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress