

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 4255  
OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR OF ARIZONA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Enhancing Safety for  
3 Animals Act of 2025”.

**4 SEC. 2. DELISTING OF MEXICAN WOLF.**

5       (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

6           (1) The Mexican wolf population has increased  
7 for 9 consecutive years, growing by at least 11 per-  
8 cent in 2024.

9           (2) At the end of 2024, the United States Fish  
10 and Wildlife Service documented a presence of at  
11 least 286 wild Mexican wolves and approximately  
12 350 captive Mexican wolves.

13           (3) The United States Mexican Wolf population  
14 is thriving and will meet its recovery goals for gene  
15 diversity, population growth, and abundance.

16           (4) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
17 has repeatedly moved Mexican wolf recovery goal-  
18 posts through amended recovery plans, revised popu-

1 lation and genetic objectives, and reduced mitigation  
2 opportunities.

3 (5) Current United States Fish and Wildlife re-  
4 covery strategies and goals encompass not only the  
5 Mexican wolf population in the United States, but  
6 also in Mexico.

7 (6) Americans in the Mexican Wolf Experi-  
8 mental Population Area bear the brunt of a rapidly  
9 growing United States Mexican wolf population  
10 without any chance of recovery because of failing  
11 conservation activities in Mexico, a foreign country.

12 (7) Mexican wolves in the United States rou-  
13 tinely kill livestock, pose serious safety risks to hu-  
14 mans and pets, excessively prey upon game animals,  
15 and reduce recreational opportunities.

16 (8) Depredation of cattle, horses, and other  
17 livestock by Mexican wolves financially burdens  
18 American farmers and ranchers living in and near  
19 the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area.

20 (9) Rather than streamline Mexican wolf depre-  
21 dation evidentiary standards to ensure ranchers are  
22 properly compensated for livestock losses, the Wild-  
23 life Services division of the Animal and Plant Health  
24 Inspection Service imposed for a year a new stand-  
25 ard requiring that subcutaneous hemorrhaging be

1 present on carcasses as a condition of confirming  
2 that an animal was killed by a Mexican wolf.

3 (10) Confirming that livestock were killed by  
4 Mexican wolves is often impossible under the newly  
5 adopted evidentiary standard because livestock graz-  
6 ing areas in and near the Mexican Wolf Experi-  
7 mental Population Area are often thousands of acres  
8 in size, depredations are commonly only discovered  
9 days after they occur, scavengers often devour live-  
10 stock carcasses along with depredation evidence, and  
11 subcutaneous hemorrhaging remains present for a  
12 short period of time following depredation.

13 (11) Requiring evidence of subcutaneous hem-  
14 orrhaging is inconsistent with other widely accepted  
15 depredation evidentiary standards like bite marks,  
16 tracks, and signs of struggle, and significantly re-  
17 duces the ability for livestock owners to be made  
18 whole financially after suffering losses through Mexi-  
19 can wolf depredation.

20 (12) The Animal and Plant Health Inspection  
21 Service's opaque depredation evidentiary standards  
22 are not subject to a public notice and comment proc-  
23 ess but are nevertheless blindly adopted by the  
24 United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

1           (13) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
2           ice has refused to take or approve sufficient lethal  
3           removal actions against Mexican wolves despite the  
4           deaths, injuries, and damage caused by Mexican  
5           wolves leading to at least 2 counties within the Mexi-  
6           can Wolf Experimental Population Area declaring a  
7           public disaster and emergency, and at least 1 Tribal  
8           government formally supporting such declaration

9           (b) DELISTING OF MEXICAN WOLF.—Notwith-  
10          standing any other provision of law, the Mexican wolf  
11          (*Canis lupus baileyi*)—

12           (1) is removed from the list of endangered and  
13           threatened wildlife published pursuant to section 4  
14           of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
15           1533); and

16           (2) may not be treated as a threatened species  
17           or an endangered species under the Endangered  
18           Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) wher-  
19           ever found unless it is listed as a threatened species  
20           or an endangered species under that Act (16 U.S.C.  
21           1531 et seq.) after the date of the enactment of this  
22           section.

23           (c) NULLIFICATION OF RULES RELATING TO MEXI-  
24          CAN WOLF.—The following final rules issued by the  
25          United States Fish and Wildlife Service with respect to

1 the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) shall have no force  
2 or effect:

3 (1) The final rule titled “Endangered and  
4 Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status  
5 for the Mexican Wolf” (80 Fed. Reg. 2488; pub-  
6 lished January 16, 2015).

7 (2) The final rule titled “Endangered and  
8 Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision to the  
9 Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Pop-  
10 ulation of the Mexican Wolf” (80 Fed. Reg. 2512;  
11 published January 16, 2015).

12 (3) The final rule titled “Endangered and  
13 Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision to the  
14 Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexi-  
15 can Wolf” (87 Fed. Reg. 39348; published July 1,  
16 2022).

17 (d) MEXICAN WOLF DISTINCT FROM GRAY WOLF.—  
18 The Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) may not be in-  
19 cluded in any regulations issued pursuant to the Endan-  
20 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) with  
21 respect to the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*).

22 (e) BIFURCATION OF MEXICAN WOLF POPULATION  
23 CRITERIA.—If the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) is  
24 listed as a threatened species or an endangered species  
25 under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.

1 1531 et seq.) after the date of the enactment of this sec-  
2 tion, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-  
3 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, may  
4 not reference or otherwise consider—

5 (1) the status of the recovery of the Mexican  
6 wolf in Mexico in developing or implementing under  
7 section 4(f) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1533(f)) a plan  
8 for the Mexican wolf; or

9 (2) the status of the Mexican wolf in Mexico in  
10 determining under section 4(c) of that Act (16  
11 U.S.C. 1533(c)) whether the Mexican wolf should  
12 be—

13 (A) changed in status from an endangered  
14 species to a threatened species;

15 (B) changed in status from a threatened  
16 species to an endangered species; or

17 (C) removed from the list of endangered  
18 and threatened wildlife published pursuant to  
19 section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of  
20 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533).

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to remove the Mexican wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife published pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.”.

