

New Mexico Federal Lands Council

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Chairman Natural Resources Committee
US House of Representatives

New Mexico Federal Lands Council in partnership with the Gila Livestock Association, wish to submit the following experiences and comments of a socioeconomic group that has had to live with the governments Mexican wolf and to support HR 4255: *Enhancing Safety of Animals Act of 2025*. Our focus is on the lived experiences that have led to mental and socioeconomic trauma, related chronic mental health and economic consequences to our rural communities and families who continue to experience them when exposed to predatory wolves.

It is our understanding that the Natural Resource Committee is aware of the mental health assessments conducted in early 2000s that showed disturbing effects that wolf encounters can have on rural family mental health:

- Martin, Julia M.D., Inherent Potential for PTSD Among Children Living in the Mexican Gray Wolf Reintroduction Area, June 12, 2007.
- Thal, James S. Ph. D., licensed psychologist, Psychological Impact of Wolf Reintroduction: A Preliminary Study, October 23, 2006.

Unfortunately, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) failed to do any follow-up or document these impacts on a small portion of United States citizen -that there has not been any more recent mental health assessments from human wolf encounters since the early 2000s. USFWS should have at the very least, done their own outreach and mediation into these issues that they have created and provided crisis intervention specialists to the affected community. Their failures to document and follow-up on wolf encounters with rural families is blatant misconduct by the agency. The DOI Inspector General documented USFWS culpability in misconduct and malfeasance: Within the indictment by the Department of Interior Inspector General, it was identified that USFWS falsified human-wolf encounters, without adequate response.

The question remains: are these traumatic experiences by rural families still occurring since early 2000? Gila Ranchers Association did a cursory survey of human-wolf encounters limited to the Gila National Forest in southwest New Mexico. Refer to their findings in Exhibit: *Recent Traumatic Rural Family Exposure to Wolf Encounters* for your consideration in passing the important bill.

In our opinion, those responsible for the reintroduction of the Mexican wolf also has a responsibility to honestly address ALL impact to humans, businesses, and private property that might be related to their program, and it is the responsibility of an elected congress to hold them accountable. More specifically, are these traumatic experiences by rural families still occurring

since early 2000? Gila Livestock Association conducted a recent cursory survey of human-wolf encounters limited to the Gila National Forest in southwest New Mexico. Refer to their findings in Exhibit: *Recent Traumatic Rural Family Exposure to Wolf Encounters* for your consideration in passing the important bill.

This burden should not be placed on rural communities impacted by wolf introduction. USFWS have not addressed these more recent human wolf encounters that potentially resulted in mental health concerns that need attention and relief by USFWS.

The first responder initiated mental health assessments, the Catron County Wildlife Investigator, primarily to provide relief by the responsible government agency that imposed the wolves in close proximity to vulnerable families and children. Yet, the USFWS ignored the two professional, licensed mental health assessments conducted in the early 2000s. USFWS continues to bury their head in-the-sand while more recent wolf-human encounters continue to rise, resulting in mental health stress, STD and the other mental health problems identified in the early 2000 assessments.

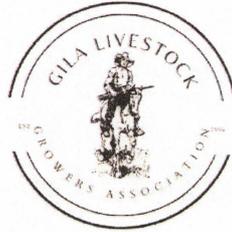
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ty Bays" followed by a stylized flourish or initials.

Ty Bays
President
New Mexico Federal Lands Council

Exhibit: Recent Traumatic Rural Family Exposure to Wolf Encounters

Exhibit



PO Box 111 Winston NM 87943

575-740-4661

Recent Traumatic Rural Family Exposure to Wolf Encounters

Gila Livestock Association conducted a recent cursory survey of human-wolf encounters limited to the Gila National Forest in southwest New Mexico. **Note, The survey is just a sampling only.**

Incident by Hollis Haught: submitted 1/17/26

Had a confirmed wolf kill in my front yard at about 1:45 yesterday morning (10/2024). I woke up just in time to hear the final bite outside my bedroom window. My other dog was a tad beat up, but he did more damage than he took. Seemed like the wolf was focused on singling out the smallest dog in the bunch and killing it. He probably would have carried the little dog off if I had not come outside and scared him away. The majority of all this was happening on my front porch.

This type of behavior does not quite match up with the noble image of the poor endangered wolf that the environmental groups and our state legislature has sold to the general populace. The people who make our wolf laws are ignorant to the reality of the situation they have forced upon us. The hard truth is that when an apex predator like a wolf is allowed to go unchecked as wolves have, this is the result. This manner of behavior is incredibly brazen, and if the laws are left unchanged, it will not be long before wolves have zero problem attacking and killing humans. There has to be some kind of population control in order to prevent this eventuality. To be clear, I am not advocating for the eradication of all wolves. A controlled wolf population in its normal range is an important part of its food chain. However, they pose a threat to our livelihoods here. If you see this post, I ask that you share it, in an attempt to educate those who do not understand the reality of the situation.

To be honest with you the kid thing was not an issue but it would have been. We moved not terribly long ago so we do not have to worry about it anymore, but I think it would have become an issue had we stayed.

Our oldest is just getting big enough to go out and go with me. I would like to stay honest, we no longer live at that home, so our kids are safe but had we stayed there it would have been an issue.

Hollis Haught

981 Mud Springs Ranch Rd

Virden NM 88045 9282921575

Incident by Morgan Bryant. 75 Silver Ore. Winston, NM 5127692570.

Taylor Bryant 4, Dines Ranch Chloride NM, has had bad dreams about wolves especially after we had to stay at the ranch house to try and protect our calves last summer after we lost 3 in two days. The last kill was a little Coues buck we found freshly killed scared her because we heard the wolves run off.

Taylor could tell you all about the times we had to deal with wolf issues. Harvey is too little still he is only 2. wolf kills in 2024 and 2025

Loretta Rabenau, Summer 2023 walking out fence on the Santana Ranch, in western Sierra County, with her dog when several Mexican wolves appeared and begin vocalizing around her. She was made to fear for her safety; she climbed a large rock and took her dog too. When she finally decided to shoot rounds in the air, they moved away from her.
575-740-0274

John Tyler & Brittany Huguley incident, fall of 2025

We unfortunately have an abundance of uncollared wolves around us. We have had more than enough encounters with our children being horseback that were uncomfortable for them and scary for us as parents. We even have a couple wolves that visit our house nightly/morning. Our children are not allowed to even go outside after dark and our youngest who's 5 years old and middle who's 9 years old, aren't even allowed to play outside alone.

The scariest situation we have had was with our boys when we were gathering calves to be replaced. Our 9-year-old was trailing some calves in a drawl, and he noticed a wolf on the side of the hill watching him. He looked around for his brother, who is 11 years old, but he was over the hill in the next drawl.

Then his horse started to act funny, which this horse is never one to even know what's going on around it, so very out of character. He looked around and saw that the wolf from the side of the hill was then behind his horse harassing it. He got scared and looked in front of him and there were 2 more wolves that were in front of him.

At that moment our 11 yr old rode over the hill and started yelling out of fear of what he saw. I don't know if that scared them off or if they just lost interest, but they ran off. We are so thankful for whatever it was that changed their minds.

We have also had the kids encounter wolves near the house when doing chores.

John Tyler & Brittany Huguley

Catron County

2582 Highway 163

Winston, NM 87943

979-446-3555 Brittany

806-268-1017 John Tyler

Mic Provence incident at their home. Thanksgiving Day 2025

Mic is inside in her PJ's and her small children are playing in the yard, she goes out to water horses in the corrals and a deer ran to her and was attacked by two Mexican wolves within yards of her and the children. The deer was able to get up and get away, the wolves jumped up and ran after her again. Had she not gone outside and had the children been alone what could

have happened. The wildlife have been hiding close to people and settlements and homes due to wolf predation.

She has multiple dogs guarding the ranch and Akbash LGD's as well and the wolves aren't deterred. "The wolves came in hot and fast and into a heavily trafficked area with all the livestock, people, and dogs. The wolves are seen every day about 100 yards off into the treeline." Mic has also been stalked by 8 wolves going down her road horseback about five years ago.

Lazy B Ranch Catron County NM

Laura Schneberger Incidents Rafter Spear Ranch, PO Box 111 Winston NM 87943
575-740-4661

2000, Sierra county NM, Kristie Schneberger 14 checking cows up the canyon comes up on a Mexican wolf chewing on an old bone. Wolf was small and thin, follows her for ¼ mile she was not feeling too threatened because the wolf was carrying her bone and clearly weak. But it upset her mother.

2003 Ivy Schneberger 14 riding her horse 1 mile away from the ranch HQ encountered two Mexican wolves, she was bareback and had both wolves seem to strategically square off with her. Thankfully, her mare was gentle and stable. To get the wolves to leave her alone she loaded a single shot 22 and fired a round in the air. Only then did they back away and leave. She came home right away shaking and afraid.

The wolves proceeded to stay and kill a calf a day for a while. This incident was likely the first actual horseback encounter by a child that was threatening, but USFWS only reported it as, "Young woman encounters two wolves." She was 14 years old.

Same incident same wolves. Matt Schneberger and Laura Schneberger drive up canyon to make sure wolf tracks keep going but no, find wolves trying to pull a calf out of a bunch of cattle that were surrounding the calves. Yell at them chase them off. Matt decided on foot drive the cattle towards the house, Laura goes to get the kids saddled up to help drive cows. While driving the cattle on foot, armed with a 30-30 rifle, the wolves followed him stayed thirty feet away and popped their teeth at him the entire way. Cattle were left closer to the house and USFWS Dan Stark took over wolf hazing, these incidents resulted in the trapping of the male wolf a week later and the eventually lethal control of the female wolf for multiple calf kills and habituated behavior. Because even USFWS best biologist, cannot be everywhere at once. 2019-2026 multiple cattle kills and the purchase of Turkish Kangal's to keep wolves pushed back Kangal's on ranch for the past 4.5 years. With wolves present one needs to be out in cattle year-round 24/7 to even slow down the cow and calf and yearling kills. Dogs help it is not 100% foolproof. And it is terribly expensive both in time and money and vet care.

Carolyn Nelson (JC Nelson Incident 2007) HC61 Box 154 Glenwood, NM 88039 505-539-2431

JC was 14 when he was on an elk hunt with friends, hiking around near the family ranch, he had separated from his party. Like all ranch kids he was armed. He suddenly realized he was being approached at about 40-50 yards by three Mexican wolves, they began to run towards him. He backed into a large tree while the wolves circled him, he said they seemed to be at a low stalk crouched down. They did not make any noise but circled him and stared at him he could not ever see all of them at once. Eventually they did move on.

JC ran back to camp and reported the encounter which appeared to be prey testing behavior. "The hardest part is that my son did not protect himself because it had been advertised if one shoots a wolf, \$100,000 fine. He feared we would lose our ranch. In 2006, when this occurred, we were young, new ranch owners and had a mortgage. My 14-year old risked his life, because of what the government could do to his parents."