



**SOCORRO COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION № 2025-36**

**DECLARING A DISASTER IN THE SOUTHWEST AREA OF SOCORRO COUNTY DUE TO THE
EXTREME AND CONTINUAL INJURY & DAMAGE CAUSED BY MEXICAN GREY WOLVES**

WHEREAS, the Socorro County Commission met in a meeting on May 13, 2025, at 5:00 PM in the Socorro County Annex Building, 198 Neel Ave., Socorro, New Mexico 87801; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 4-38-1 (1884) the powers of a county as a body politic and corporate shall be exercised by a board of county commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1975) provides that, “[a]ll counties are granted the same powers that are granted municipalities except for those powers that are inconsistent with statutory or constitutional limitations placed on counties. Included in this grant of powers to the counties are those powers necessary and proper to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants; and,

WHEREAS, the Mexican Grey Wolf Recovery Program (MGWRP) was imposed on the people of Southwestern New Mexico by the Federal Government even though livestock production is a key positive socioeconomic factor, and major land use in Socorro and is part of the custom, culture and tradition; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has continually been incorrect at best and disingenuous at worst about the nature of Mexican wolves claiming that Mexican wolves rarely prey on livestock and that County’s livestock would only minimally be affected and officially stating that “Mexican wolves predominantly prey on elk in the United States, but other sources of prey throughout their current range include deer, small mammals, and birds. Mexican wolves are also known to scavenge on livestock (USFWS 2017b, pp. 12-19), 50 CFR Part 17, [Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2021-0103; FXES111302WOLF0-FF02ENEH00] ; and

WHEREAS, not only has the official narrative been found to be blatantly false in recent months the destruction of livestock by Mexican wolves has exponentially exploded to disaster levels; and

WHEREAS, the destruction of the County’s hunting and livestock industry not only decimates the local economy but also threatens the State and Country’s food supply and thus our national security; and,

WHEREAS, 17 million in cattle sales and 6.8 million in hunting revenue in Socorro County at risk from the mismanaged wolf program; and,

WHEREAS, US Fish and Wildlife Services has stated that there are 10% more wolves than what they know, which is at the number sought for de-listing; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico had 77 confirmed depredations in 2024, and based on peer reviewed estimates there are 5.1 additional kills for each confirmed kill meaning that there are at least 470 losses in 2024; and,

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, there have been 56 of confirmed kills in the first four months of 2025; and,

WHEREAS, at today's meeting the Kern family testified that the Gallinas pack is at their ranch in Socorro County and have put their children at risk; and,

WHEREAS, at today's meeting Charity Saulsberry testified that their ranch outside of Magdalena in Socorro County, the Silver Hill Ranch, has been inundated by wolves and last year half of the calf crop was lost to the Wolf Program; and,

WHEREAS, at today's meeting Representative Gail Armstrong stated that her grandkids are being threatened on their family's ranch in Socorro County and is threatening economic development in rural New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, at today's meeting Randal Major, a Socorro County rancher and former President of the New Mexico Cattle Grower's Association stated that there are wolves on his ranch in Socorro County; and,

WHEREAS, at today's meeting Debbie Tigner, a Socorro County rancher, stated that 30 years ago they lost 18 calves to wolves and this year they have had one calf torn apart by wolves; and,

WHEREAS, the damage has resulted in undue human & animal suffering and hardship and threats the safety, health welfare, and well-being of citizens and the economic function of the County of Socorro and if not addressed immediately by the County Commission, will likely result in injury or damage to people or property or substantial financial loss to Socorro County; and,

WHEREAS, all locally available public and private resources and forces available to mitigate and alleviate the damage are deemed insufficient to cope with the resulting situation, initiate restorative management.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Socorro County pursuant to the authority granted pursuant to the All Hazard Emergency Management Act, NMSA 1978, Section 12-10-1 *et seq.*, and particularly NMSA 1978, Section 12-10-5 (2007), the Board authorizes the use of all available resources of the County to assist in the County's response to this situation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Socorro County by virtue of the County's general power and the authority provided by the New Mexico Civil Emergency Preparedness Act (NMSA 1978, §§ 12-10-01 to 12-10-11) does hereby declare wolf depredations in the County of Socorro to be an emergency/disaster for the purposes of exercising necessary emergency powers and expenditure of available resources, and requesting aid, assistance, and relief programs, and funds from the State of New Mexico and the Government of the United States.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican wolf destruction in the Southwestern Area of Socorro County is hereby declared to be a continuing disaster in consideration of the extent of damage and the unceasing maiming, traumatization and killing of livestock.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners requests that the Governor direct that the Department of Finance and Administration make available emergency financial resources to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in Accordance with Sections 12-11-23 to 26, and NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10-14 to 15 to be expended for the resources and services necessary to avoid or minimize economic or physical harm resulting from the disaster in Socorro County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners requests that the Governor direct the Adjutant General to order into service any elements of the New Mexico Army National Guard, the New Mexico Air National Guard and the New Mexico State Defense Force as are or may be needed to provide military support to the civil authorities of Socorro County, to protect the county's livestock, inhabitants and to provide wolf conflict avoidance consistent with the Endangered Species Act 10J rule, as needed for this emergency pursuant to and in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 20-1-1 to 8, NMSA 1978, Section 20-2-1 to 8, NMSA 1978, Section 20-4-1 to 14 and NMSA 1978, Section 20-5-1 to 16 during the pendency of the emergency.

PASSED, RESOLVED, AND APPROVED this 13th day of May 2025 by the Board of County Commissioners.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



JOE GONZALES, CHAIR
DISTRICT I




CRAIG D. SECATERO, VICE-CHAIR
DISTRICT II



JOHN J. AGUILAR, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT III



DANIEL P. MONETTE, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT IV



PHILLIP R. MONTOYA, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT V

ATTEST BY:



MICHELLE PAZ, COUNTY CLERK

