

Be it remembered that at a Regular Meeting of the Luna County Board of County Commissioners in Deming New Mexico, on the 12th day of June 2025, the following proceedings were had and entered of record.

LUNA COUNTY

RESOLUTION 25-45

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CATRON COUNTY'S DECLARATION OF DISASTER DUE TO EXTREME AND CONTINUAL INJURY AND DAMAGE CAUSED BY MEXICAN GREY WOLVES

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Luna County met in a duly noticed, regular meeting on June 12, 2025, at the Luna County Courthouse, 700 S. Silver Avenue, Deming, New Mexico 88030; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 4-38-1, 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 authorizes counties to exercise all powers necessary and proper to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity, and improve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants; and,

WHEREAS, livestock production remains a critical economic and cultural foundation of Catron County and neighboring rural counties, and the introduction and proliferation of Mexican grey wolves have led to sustained livestock losses in Catron County, which have increased exponentially in recent months to disaster levels, decimating the local ranching economy and causing growing impacts regionally; and,

WHEREAS, Mexican grey wolves have become increasingly habituated and aggressive in Catron County, as evidenced by numerous incidents of wolves stalking children, roaming in and around communities, killing pets on front porches, and otherwise endangering the safety of residents and visitors, causing widespread fear and trauma in local communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Catron County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 56-2025 on April 8, 2025, formally declaring a public-safety disaster in Catron County due to the threat of injury and damage caused by Mexican grey wolves; and,

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 56-2025 acknowledges that all locally available public and private resources are insufficient to cope with the escalating wolf crisis; and,

WHEREAS, Catron County's emergency declaration invokes the use of all available county resources and necessary emergency powers, and formally requests immediate assistance and relief from the State of New Mexico and the federal government under the All Hazard Emergency Management Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 12-10-1 et seq., the New Mexico Civil Emergency Preparedness Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 12-10-1 to 12-10-11, and other relevant emergency statutes; and,

WHEREAS, the Luna County Board of Commissioners finds that the harms reported by Catron County constitute a continuing and regional emergency that threatens public safety, economic stability, and the cultural foundations of rural life in western New Mexico.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Luna County, that the County formally supports Catron County's declaration of a public-safety disaster and urges the Governor of New Mexico and relevant state and federal agencies to immediately respond with funding, personnel, and emergency resources as requested by Catron County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Luna County Board of Commissioners finds that the conditions reported by Catron County constitute a continuing and regional emergency requiring urgent and sustained intergovernmental coordination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Luna County Commission calls upon all appropriate agencies, including the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Department of Game and Fish, the Department of Finance and Administration, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to take immediate steps to mitigate further harm and to restore balance to the impacted areas.

DONE THIS 12TH DAY OF JUNE 2025

by the Board of County Commissioners of Luna County

ATTEST:

Colette M. Chandler
Colette M. Chandler, Chair
Commissioner, District 2

Barbara DeLaney
Barbara DeLaney, County Clerk

Ray J. Tréjo
Ray J. Tréjo,
Commissioner, District 1

Christie Ann Harvey
Christie Ann Harvey,
Commissioner, District 3

