

RESOLUTION R-25-032

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Socorro County, New Mexico adopted Resolution No. 2025-36 on May 13, 2025, to formally declare a public-safety disaster in Socorro County due to the threat of injury and damage caused by Mexican wolves; and

WHEREAS, for decades, the Federal Government has imposed and enlarged the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program on the citizens of Catron County and more recently in Socorro County without regard to public safety or damage to the livestock industry, which is a key socioeconomic factor and major land use in Catron and Socorro Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has repeatedly increased its minimum recovery objectives for Mexican wolves and misrepresented the nature and impact of Mexican wolves on both the public and livestock, insisting that they would only be minimally affected, officially stating that "Mexican wolves predominantly prey on elk in the United States"; and

WHEREAS, the Mexican wolves are increasingly habituated and aggressive as evidenced by numerous incidents of them stalking children, roaming in and around communities, snatching pets from porches, killing horses and cattle, and otherwise endangering the safety of residents and visitors, causing widespread fear and trauma in local communities; and

WHEREAS, these aggressive and habituated tendencies have been exasperated by recovery efforts which include activities such as breeding, whelping, feeding, tagging, transporting, and doctoring of wolves by humans throughout their lives, thereby removing their natural fear of humans and their habitats; and

WHEREAS, the damage from Mexican wolves has caused undue hardship and suffering that threatens the safety, health, welfare, well-being, and livelihoods of our communities and if not addressed immediately will likely result in further injury and damage to the people, property, and economic well-being of Catron and neighboring counties; and

WHEREAS, Catron and Socorro County's Resolutions acknowledge that all locally available public and private resources are insufficient to cope with the escalating wolf crisis; and

WHEREAS, Chaves County recognizes the inadequacy of local resources to respond to the severity of the crisis in Catron and Socorro Counties, which continues to escalate, and threatens broader regional economic stability, cultural heritage and public health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Chaves County formally supports Catron and Socorro County's declarations of a public-safety disaster and urges the Governor of the State of New Mexico and relevant state and federal agencies to immediately respond with funding, personnel and emergency resources as requested by these counties as the conditions reported constitute a continuing and regional emergency requiring urgent and sustained intergovernmental coordination.

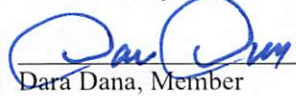
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chaves County Board of Commissioners calls upon all appropriate agencies, including the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Department of Game and Fish, the Department of Finance and Administration, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife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

Passed and adopted this 26th day of June 2025.

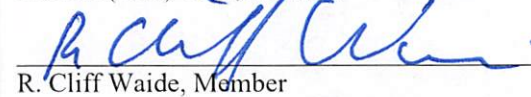
BOARD OF CHAVES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Richard C. Taylor, Chairman


Michael Perry, Vice-Chairman

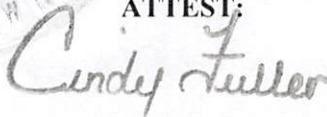

Dara Dana, Member


Herbert (Hub) Corn, Member


R. Cliff Waide, Member



ATTEST:



Cindy Fuller
County Clerk