

Animal Protection of New Mexico * Arizona Faith Network Earth Care Commission * Binder Park Zoo * California Wolf Center * Center for Biological Diversity * Colorado Wolf and Wildlife * Defenders of Wildlife * Endangered Wolf Center * Grand Canyon Wildlands Council * Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project * Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Nutrioso, AZ * Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Phoenix Broadband * National Wolfwatcher Coalition * Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter * Sierra Club, Rio Grande Chapter * Southwest Environmental Center * Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center * Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Iztapalapa * Western Watershed Project * Western Wildlife Conservancy * Whisper N' Thunder * White Mountain Conservation League * Wild Utah Project * WildEarth Guardians * Wildlands Network * Wolf Conservation Center * Zoo New England

July 17, 2015

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters in New Mexico, Arizona and across the country, the 27 undersigned organizations write in opposition to H.R. 2910, the “Mexican Wolf Transparency and Accountability Act.”

This bill, based on fear mongering and hate-driven rhetoric, ignores the concerns and opinions of the majority of Arizona and New Mexico residents who [support recovery of the Mexican gray wolf](#), and risks the extinction of this rarest gray wolf. With its population in the wild standing at just over 100 animals for the first time in decades, Mexican wolves are one of the most endangered mammals on the continent. While the population has grown in recent years, Mexican gray wolves still need all of the protections provided under the Endangered Species Act.

The science is clear that the Mexican gray wolf is far from recovered and should remain protected under the ESA – removing protections while the population is so small will lead to extinction. Extensive peer-reviewed, published analyses by scientists on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s recovery team indicate that, in order for the Mexican gray wolf to be safe from extinction, at least three core populations are needed, with travel among these populations and a total of at least 750 wolves. Although Mexico was once a stronghold for the subspecies, conditions there can no longer support the core populations and connectivity needed, so most of the recovery must occur in the U.S. If this rare wolf is ever to recover it must remain protected under the ESA, and must be allowed to disperse and roam over a larger area in the American Southwest.

While the lobo is struggling to survive, it has become a target of ideological opponents, resulting in a great deal of misinformation and baseless propaganda, upon which the Mexican Wolf Transparency and Accountability Act attempts to capitalize. In addition to being detrimental to the long-term recovery of wolves in New Mexico and Arizona, this legislation sets a dangerous precedent for the recovery of all species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its scientists should be allowed to do their job without having to contend with congressional meddling.

With only 109 lobos in the wild and hostile state fish and wildlife agencies opposed to wolf recovery, we need to stop playing politics and focus on saving this imperiled species. It is shocking that some members of Congress from the Southwest are leading the charge to cause the extinction of a species that is so much a part of the history and heritage of the American west.

Sincerely,

Phil Carter
Wildlife Campaign Manager
Animal Protection of New Mexico

Sarah King
Commission Chair
Arizona Faith Network Earth Care Commission

Jenny Barnett
Director of Wildlife, Conservation and Education
Binder Park Zoo

Erin Hunt
Director of Operations
California Wolf Center

Michael Robinson
Conservation Advocate
Center for Biological Diversity

Darlene Kobobel
President & CEO
Colorado Wolf and Wildlife

Eva Sargent
Southwest Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Regina Mossoti
Director of Animal Care and Conservation
Endangered Wolf Center

Kelly Burke
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council

Emily Renn
Executive Director
Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project

Rose Chilchoat
Associate Director
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Billie Hughes
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Nutrioso, AZ Broadband

Kathy Ann Walsh
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Phoenix Broadband

Daniel Sayre
Southwest Regional Director
National Wolfwatcher Coalition

Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter

Mary Katherine Ray
Wildlife Chair
Sierra Club, Rio Grande Chapter

Kevin Bixby
Executive Director
Southwest Environmental Center

Linda Searles
Executive Director
Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

Miguel Armella
**Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana
Iztapalapa**

Greta Anderson
Deputy Director
Western Watershed Project

Kirk Robinson
Executive Director
Western Wildlife Conservancy

Billie Fidler
President
Whisper N' Thunder

Tom Hollender
President
White Mountain Conservation League

Allison Jones
Executive Director
Wild Utah Project

Bethany Cotton
Wildlife Program Director
WildEarth Guardians

Kim Crumbo
Western Conservation Director
Wildlands Network

Maggie Howell
Executive Director
Wolf Conservation Center

John Linehan
President & CEO
Zoo New England