

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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June 9, 2016

The Honorable Daniel M. Ashe
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Ashe:

Thank you for your appearing at a joint hearing before the Subcommittee on the Interior and the Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules on April 21, 2016.¹ We especially appreciated your testimony regarding the Fish and Wildlife Service's Mexican Wolf recovery plan. As you know, this is an important issue that affects millions of Americans who live in states where the Mexican Wolf may be reintroduced.

Based on your testimony at the hearing, it is our understanding that the Fish and Wildlife Service does not intend to introduce the Mexican Wolf in Utah or Colorado, or anywhere else outside the species' historic range.² To better understand the historic range of the Mexican Wolf, a map produced by FWS was referenced (attached).³ The map shows that the Mexican Wolf's historic range includes portions of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, but not Utah and Colorado.⁴ Furthermore, with respect to the reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf in the southwestern United States, you stated that you "don't believe the people of Utah and Colorado need to be worried about anything."⁵

In light of your testimony, and the map produced by FWS, it is our understanding that you have no plans to introduce the Mexican Wolf into Utah or Colorado. If this is not the case, please notify the Committee, and return for a hearing to clarify your remarks in a public setting. Please contact Bill McGrath of the Committee Staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions about this request, or to coordinate your appearance.

¹ *Barriers to Endangered Species Act Delisting, Part II*: Hearing before the Subcomm. on Interior and Subcomm. on Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules of the H. Comm. on Oversight and Govt. Reform, 114th Cong. (2016).

² 50 C.F.R. §17.81(a)

³ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., *Reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf Within Its Historic Range in the Southwestern United States* 28 (1996).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Supra*, note 1 at 75.

The Honorable Daniel M. Ashe

June 9, 2016

Page 2

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X.



Jason Chaffetz
Chairman

Sincerely,



Cynthia M. Lummis
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior



Paul A. Gosar
Member
Subcommittee on the Interior

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member

The Honorable Brenda L. Lawrence, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior

Figure 1-1. Approximate historic range of the Mexican wolf.

