



RESOLUTION No. 2025-34

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 Sierra County met in a duly noticed, regular meeting on April 22, 2025, at the Sierra County Administration Building, 1712 North Date Street, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico; 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, Sierra County, Catron County, and Socorro County entered into a Joint Powers Agreement to establish the County Livestock Loss Authority (CLLA) to address the significant and disproportionate economic harms resulting from the implementation of the Mexican Grey Wolf Recovery Program (MGWRP); and,

WHEREAS, livestock production remains a critical economic and cultural foundation of Sierra and Catron 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, Sierra County has recognized the urgency of these harms and recently transferred the fiscal responsibilities of the CLLA to Catron County in support of expanded and centralized coordination of response and compensation efforts; 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, Sierra County acknowledges the inadequacy of local resources to respond to the severity of the crisis in Catron County, which continues to escalate and threatens broader regional economic stability, cultural heritage, and public health and safety.

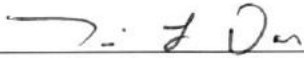
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Sierra County, that the County formally supports Catron County's declaration of a public-safety disaster and urges the Governor of New Mexico and relevant state and federal agencies to immediately respond with funding, personnel,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

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

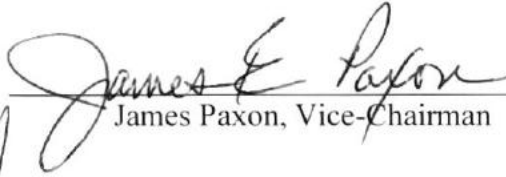
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sierra County Commission calls upon all appropriate agencies, including the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Department of Game and Fish, the Department of Finance and Administration, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife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

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 22nd day of April, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SIERRA COUNTY



Travis Day, Chairman

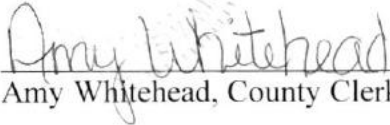


James Paxon, Vice-Chairman



Hank Hopkins, Commissioner

Attest:



Amy Whitehead, County Clerk