



**SIERRA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-65**

**RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO THE RELEASE OF MEXICAN WOLVES ON THE LADDER RANCH IN
SIERRA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

WHEREAS, the Sierra County Commission met upon notice of a duly noticed regular County Commission Meeting on August 13, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. in the Sierra County Administration Building, 1712 N. Date Street, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 4-38-1 (1884) the powers of a county as a body politic and corporate shall be exercised by a board of county commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, Section 4-37-1 et seq. NMSA 1978 provides that counties may adopt those resolutions and ordinances, not inconsistent with statutory or constitutional limitations placed on counties, to discharge those powers necessary and proper to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of the county and its inhabitants; and,

WHEREAS, Sierra County is home to a robust and historically significant agricultural and ranching community, whose livestock and property interests have long been impacted by the federal government's Mexican Wolf Recovery Program; and

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has long struggled to fully and meaningfully engage local governments and affected stakeholders in wolf management decisions despite its statutory obligations under the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, on or about Wednesday, July 30, 2025, the USFWS initiated the translocation of a Mexican wolf pair, F2754 (Asha) and her mate, along with five pups from Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge to the Ladder Ranch in Sierra County, with minimal advance notice and no opportunity for meaningful consultation with affected local governments or the public; and

WHEREAS, the timing of this action raises significant concerns, as it appears to have been rushed to preempt the anticipated Senate confirmation of USFWS Director Brian Nesvick, thus undermining the credibility of the agency's claims of enhanced transparency and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the Ladder Ranch and adjacent Seco Canyon Release Site are situated in an area with ongoing concerns about depredations, wolf-human interactions, and insufficient containment infrastructure, raising substantial public safety and property concerns for Sierra County residents; and

WHEREAS, although USFWS officials indicated at a recent meeting in Reserve that the translocation had been placed on hold, it nevertheless appears that the release proceeded, or is proceeding imminently, despite continued objections and without clear evidence of a comprehensive risk assessment or mitigation strategy; and

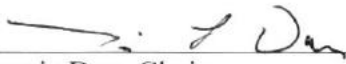
WHEREAS, Sierra County is a signatory to intergovernmental agreements intended to promote coordinated and responsible management of the Mexican wolf population, and yet it continues to be excluded from major decisions impacting its residents and resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sierra County, New Mexico, as follows:

1. **Formal Objection:** Sierra County hereby formally objects to the anticipated August 13, 2025, release of Mexican wolves F2754 (Asha), her mate, and five pups on the Ladder Ranch or any similar future translocations conducted in or near Sierra County without prior consultation and express consent of the County Commission.
2. **Call for Transparency:** Sierra County demands that the USFWS immediately suspend any further translocations or releases within Sierra County until such time as a formal consultation process with the County and its residents is established and implemented.
3. **Notification Request:** Sierra County requests that the USFWS provide timely, written notice to the County Manager and Commission of all proposed releases, removals, or management actions involving Mexican wolves within Sierra County.
4. **Legislative Oversight:** Sierra County calls on New Mexico's Congressional delegation and state leadership to investigate the decision-making process surrounding the July 2025 translocation and to consider legislation or administrative reforms that strengthen local input in wildlife management decisions.
5. **Distribution:** Copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to USFWS Director Brian Nesvick; Brady McGee, Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator; the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish; the New Mexico Association of Counties; the New Mexico Congressional delegation; and the Governor of New Mexico.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 13th day of August, 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SIERRA COUNTY**



Travis Day, Chair

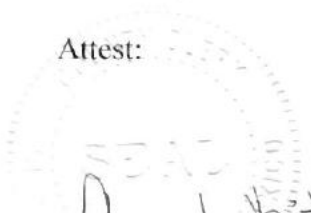



James Paxon, Vice-Chair



Hank Hopkins, Commissioner

Attest:

Amy Whitehead
Sierra County Clerk