

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3102

May 3, 2022

Amy Lueders
Regional Director, Southwest Region
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Director Lueders,

I write to follow up upon the meeting I had with you and U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Service Director Martha Williams last month regarding the grave situation many of my constituents face with the Mexican Gray Wolf Program. Specifically, I wish to address the issue of problem wolves who are responsible for large outbreaks of livestock depredations in both Catron and Sierra Counties in my district. Unfortunately, since our call took place, the problems have gotten worse and the USFWS refuses to take meaningful action to address them.

Last year I wrote to you regarding the need to remove a collared wolf that is known as M1693. This wolf and its mate (F1728) were responsible for over 15 confirmed livestock depredations in under a month and were terrorizing several ranching families in Catron County. Included in these incidents were an instance where M1693 charged at a ranch employee on March 13, 2021, which was confirmed by USFWS satellite tracking.

In April of 2021, the USFWS did act to non-lethally remove M1693 and its mate. However, after the mate had given birth to six pups, the family was released onto the Ladder Ranch in Sierra County in June and formed the Seco Creek Pack. This action was taken without the support of or consultation with Sierra County local elected officials or livestock operators adjacent to the Ladder Ranch. The Seco Creek Pack is now terrorizing constituents of mine in Sierra County and is responsible for at least 5 confirmed livestock depredations and most likely countless others that are yet to be confirmed.

My office has been contacted by some of the most affected ranchers and the continued damage being inflicted by the Seco Creek Pack is appalling. Mitigation measures, like hazing and the usage of range riders, have not worked in protecting my constituents from harm. In fact, they usually just move the problem to the property or grazing allotment of another of my constituents. For these reasons, along with the fact these wolves have been non-lethally removed in the past, I call on the USFWS to take the necessary action of **lethally** removing the Seco Creek Pack.

In addition to calling for the lethal removal of the Seco Creek Pack, I ask that the USFWS confirm to my office how many depredations the Seco Creek Pack is responsible for and suspected of. I would also request that the USFWS produce documentation of each confirmed depredation to my office.

My constituents are doing everything they can to protect themselves from harm from the wolf program by changing calving schedules, utilizing telemetry data, and moving cattle when they know a wolfpack is nearby. However, it is impossible to fully protect themselves from harm when an extremely aggressive livestock killing pack, like the Seco Creek Pack, is preying on their livestock. This pack has proven time and time again that mitigation techniques do not work in preventing it from slaughtering livestock and the USFWS must take swift lethal action to protect my constituents from further harm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yvette Herrell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress