

Involving the Public

Today’s “scoping” meeting is the first step in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. You will learn about the wolves and the process, and you can ask questions of and talk with the people who actually run the program. This is an information-gathering step, needed to identify all the factors that need to be taken into account in developing alternatives to the 1998 10(j) Rule. You will be given the opportunity to provide written comments as well.

- Information from the scoping meetings will be reviewed by all agencies and governments involved in the program.
- A socioeconomic analysis will be conducted to identify the consequences of amending the 1998 10(j) Rule.
- A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be written.
- The draft EIS will be presented to the public for further review, including another round of public meetings where you can express your opinions on options offered in the draft EIS.

Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility in New Mexico



Fences mark grazing borders in Arizona. The flagging on the fence is fladry, which has been shown to discourage wolves from crossing the fence.



After this round of public meetings:

- Your comments will be considered, along with current knowledge of Mexican wolf habitat use and needs, to make any changes to the 1998 10(j) Rule.
- A draft EIS will be developed, incorporating and analyzing a range of alternative strategies for Mexican wolf reintroduction.
- A proposed new 10(j) Rule will be published in the Federal Register to solicit further comments.
- Afterwards, the draft EIS will be finalized and, depending on the outcome of the process, officials either will continue with the 1998 10(j) Rule, or publish a new 10(j) Rule incorporating changes based on input from all the above steps.



Your opinions, suggestions and concerns are important. As a result of the five-year review in 2005, agency officials have decided to continue the Mexican wolf reintroduction. Ending the reintroduction of wolves to the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area is not being considered. Rather, agency officials are looking for your help to improve the program, and to discuss potential changes to the reintroduction and management process.