

November 6, 2023

Dr. Brady McGee
Mexican Wolf Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
2015 Osuna Road, N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113
Brady_mcgee@fws.gov

Director Michael B. Sloan
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507
Michael.sloane@state.nm.us

Re: Mexican gray wolf F2754

Dear Dr. McGee and Director Sloan,

The undersigned conservation groups, on behalf of all of our members, are asking you to let Mexican gray wolf F2754, “Asha,” continue to roam free in northern New Mexico or wherever she chooses to go.

It’s incredible that Asha, a young wolf originally from Arizona, has chosen to again leave the arbitrarily-defined Mexican Wolf Experimental Project Area (MWEPA) northern boundary of Interstate 40 and entered the suitable, abundant habitat of northern New Mexico. As you know, capturing her last year, putting her in captivity, and rereleasing her in Arizona in June 2023 hasn’t dissuaded her from venturing outside of the 10(j)’s limits into northern New Mexico

We are inspired by her adventurous spirit and relieved that she’s surmounted the significant obstacles she’s already encountered. She’s a testament to the truth that wolves are individuals with their own hopes and desires.

Asha is also a testament to the fact that the current 10j boundary is insufficient to meet the needs of this expanding population. As you are certainly aware, many of our organizations have been advocating for the removal of the artificial northern bounds on dispersing wolves, but Asha is herself a living advocate for the abolition of this wholly political policy. We hope that the wildlife management agencies will heed her message.

Thank you in advance for helping to welcome Asha back into her ancestral territories and working to provide safe harbor for this remarkable individual. We're more than willing to assist with proactive outreach efforts and would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greta Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Greta Anderson, Deputy Director
Western Watersheds Project
greta@westernwatersheds.org

Claire Musser, Executive Director
Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project
claire@gcwolfrecovery.org

Peter and Jean Ossorio
peterossorio@centurylink.net
lobadelsur@centurylink.net

Craig Miller, Senior Southwest Representative
Defenders of Wildlife
CMILLER@defenders.org

Sandy Bahr, Chapter Director
Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter
sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

Regan Downey, Director of Education
Wolf Conservation Center
regan@nywolf.org

Betsy Klein, Co-founder
Plan B to Save Wolves
b@planb.foundation

Chris Smith, Southwest Wildlife Advocate
WildEarth Guardians
csmith@wildearthguardians.org

Michelle Lute, PhD, Co-Executive Director
Wildlife for All
michelle@wildlifeforall.us

Maggie Howell, Secretary
Wildlife for All
margarethowellnyc@gmail.com

Roz Switzer, Sonoran Broadband Leader
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Switzerroz@gmail.com

Mary Katherine Ray, Wildlife Chair
Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
mkrscrim@gmail.com

Kirk Robinson, PhD, Executive Director
Western Wildlife Conservancy
lynx@xmission.com

Erin Hunt, Managing Director
Lobos of the Southwest
erin@mexicanwolves.org

Sally Paez, Staff Attorney
New Mexico Wild
sally@nmwild.org

Renee Seacor, Carnivore Conservation Manager
Project Coyote
rseacor@projectcoyote.org

Carol Ann Fugagli, Executive Director
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
director@ugwa.org

Kelly Burke, Executive Director
Wild Arizona
kelly@wildarizona.org

Tara Thornton, Deputy Director
Endangered Species Coalition
tthornton@endangered.org

Kim Bean
Wolves of the Rockies
kim@wolvesoftherockies.org

Kate Scott, Co-Founder
Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center
madreanwildlife@gmail.com

Norman A. Bishop
Southwest Colorado Wolf Cooperative
nabishop32@gmail.com

Amanda Wight, Senior Program Manager, Wildlife Protection
The Humane Society of the United States
awight@humanesociety.org

Karen Michael, Secretary, Board of Directors
Animal Defense League of Arizona
kmichael@adlaz.org

CC: Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham, via Chief of Staff Daniel Schlegel,
daniel.schlegel@exec.nm.gov