



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mexican Wolf Recovery Program
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113

2/19/2026

Permit for take of one Mexican wolf

Special terms and conditions - ESPER0048320-0-20260218

- Permit:** Authorization for take of one Mexican wolf on private land or one Mexican wolf in the act of biting, killing, or wounding livestock on Federal land.
- Permittee(s):** Audrey McQueen and Steve Hooper
- Permittee Agent(s):** Kevin Graham, Elden Hulsey, Earl Lund, William Rabenau, and Shawn Menges
- Permit Duration:** From 2/19/2026 through 4/4/2026 (45 days), or until a wolf is taken under this permit, whichever occurs first.
- Permit Location:** Federal (BLM) and private land within the Cow Springs and Red Hill North Allotments (see attached map)
- Permitted Take:** One Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*)

Purpose

The purpose of this permit is to authorize Audrey McQueen, Steve Hooper, or their designated agents to lethally remove any one wolf that is observed on private land within Cow Springs and Red Hill North Allotments or lethally remove one wolf that is in the act of biting, killing, or wounding livestock on Federal land within the Cow Springs or Red Hill North Allotments (see map). This permit is being issued to address chronic depredations within this area and assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in completing a control action.

Permit Considerations:

This Permit is issued fully considering the following:

1. Evidence in the USFWS's files shows that Mexican wolves are responsible for chronic livestock depredation in the area despite ongoing efforts by the Interagency Field Team to deter depredations.
2. Given the rate and proximity of the depredations the USFWS believes it is likely that Mexican wolves will continue to depredate on domestic animals without additional control measures.
3. There is no evidence to suggest the intentional use of attractants or feeding to draw wolves into the area has occurred.

4. This Permit is being issued in conjunction with a removal action authorized by the USFWS and take by Permittees or their Agents will assist the USFWS in completing a control action.

Permit Conditions

- A. This Permit is valid for 45 days through April 4th, 2026, or until one wolf is taken under this Permit, whichever occurs first, and allows for the lethal take of one Mexican wolf. The terms and conditions of this permit apply to the Permittees and their Agents.
- B. This Permit authorizes take by shooting one wolf on private land within the Cow Springs or Red Hill North Allotments or one wolf in the act of biting, killing, or wounding lawfully present livestock on Federal land within the Cow Springs or Red Hill North Allotments (see attached map).
- C. The Permittees or Agents may not bait or attract Mexican wolves including using any calls, scents, dead or live baits. Thus, this Permit does not authorize the Permittees or Agents to intentionally trap or snare Mexican wolves or shoot a wolf that is in a trap set for other purposes.
- D. The Permittees or Agents must contact the USFWS Special Agent in Pinetop, Arizona, at (346) 254-0515 within 24 hours of the take, and leave a phone message if direct contact is not made.**
- E. If a Mexican wolf is taken on non-Federal land, the Permittee or Agent responsible for taking the wolf must provide evidence that the wolf was present, at the time of the take, on private land within the Cow Springs or Red Hill North Allotments. The take of any Mexican wolf without evidence of being present on private land within the Cow Springs or Red Hill North Allotments at the time of take may be referred to the appropriate authorities for investigation.
- F. If a Mexican wolf is taken in the act of biting, killing or wounding livestock on Federal land leased by the Permittees within the Cow Springs and Red Hill North Allotments, the Permittee or Agent responsible for taking the wolf must provide evidence that the wolf was in the act of biting, killing, or wounding livestock at the time of take, such as evidence of freshly wounded or killed livestock. The take of any Mexican wolf on Federal land without evidence of biting, killing, or wounding livestock may be referred to the appropriate authorities for investigation.
- G. This Permit authorizes only those specifically named on the permit to shoot, from the ground, one wolf that is either on private land within the Cow Springs or Red Hill North Allotments at the time of the shooting or in the act of biting, killing, or wounding livestock on Federal land leased by the Permittee within the Cow Springs and Red Hill North Allotments. The wolf must be killed as quickly and humanely as possible.
- H. The carcass or parts of any wolf that is killed pursuant to this Permit must not be moved without USFWS approval. The area around the carcass must not be disturbed by people unless authorized by USFWS.
- I. This Permit does not allow for any activities other than for the Permittees or their Agents to shoot one Mexican wolf from the ground under the conditions specified.

Coverage under this Permit is provisional under the following restrictions:

- J. Permittees and their Agents will obtain the required permits and conduct activities in compliance with all state, Federal, and Tribal laws and regulations. This Permit does not grant the right of trespass.

- K. Any take of experimental, threatened, or endangered species while conducting activities authorized by this Permit must be reported within 24 hours to the USFWS contact designated below.
- L. The Mexican wolf carcass and parts thereof taken under this Permit remain the property of USFWS. The USFWS will make the final determination on disposition of any Mexican wolf carcass or any part thereof.
- M. Permittees or their Agents must be in possession of this permit while conducting all authorized activities.
- N. This permit is not transferable and is only valid for the Permittees and their Agents listed by name on the face of the Permit.

Authorities:

The regulations for the nonessential experimental population of Mexican wolves at 50 CFR 17.84(k)(7) and the USFWS Recovery Permit (ESPER0048320) provide authority to the USFWS to issue lethal take sub-permits within the MWEPA. Specifically, based on the USFWS's or a designated agency's discretion and in conjunction with a removal action authorized by the USFWS, the USFWS or designated agency may issue permits to domestic animal owners or their agents (e.g., employees, land manager, local officials) to take (including intentional harassment or killing) any Mexican wolf that is present on non-Federal land where specified in the permit.

The same regulations and recovery permit also specify that based on the Service's or a designated agency's discretion and in conjunction with a removal action authorized by the Service, the Service may issue permits to livestock owners or their agents (e.g., employees, land manager, local officials) to take (including intentional harassment or killing) any Mexican wolf that is in the act of biting, killing, or wounding livestock on Federal land where specified in the permit.

Under these authorities, permits issued under both provisions specify the number of days for which the permit is valid and the maximum number of Mexican wolves for which take is allowed. Take by permittees under these provisions will assist the USFWS or designated agency in completing control actions. The Permittee or their agents must report this take as specified in accordance with this Permit and paragraph (k)(6) of the regulations.

If you have any questions about this permit or need additional information, please call Lauren Toivonen at 505-546-2599, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services, 2105 Osuna NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113.

Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator

DATE

Figure 1. Land ownership within the two allotments.

