

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Crystal Diamond Opposes Translocation of Wolves in Sierra County

SANTA FE – **Senator Crystal Diamond** (District 34-Doña Ana, Hidalgo, Luna, and Sierra) today sent a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) expressing her opposition to the planned translocation of Mexican gray wolves to the Ladder Ranch, in Sierra County. In the letter addressed to the Coordinator of the federal Mexican Wolf Recovery Program, Senator Diamond criticized FWS for failing to provide sufficient notice to local producers and agriculture groups, noting the threat these wolves pose to local livestock.

“These wolves have a known history of livestock depredation and their proposed translocation site at the Ladder Ranch is within five miles of active livestock grazing pastures,” said Senator Diamond. “The suggestion that these wolves will remain within the boundaries of the Ranch is highly improbable, and without a liability and compensation plan in place for future kills, our local producers will pay the price.”

Under the FWS plan, two wolves with a documented history of cattle and horse kills are scheduled to be translocated to the Ladder Ranch this month, along with their pups. The two wolves have been previously removed from the wild multiple times due to past incidents.

Senator Diamond’s letter is attached.

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New Mexico State Senate
State Capital
Santa Fe

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MEMBER:
• Finance

SENATOR CRYSTAL R. DIAMOND

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June 11, 2021

Brady McGee, Ph.D.
Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2105 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

SENT VIA EMAIL TO Brady_Mcgee@fws.gov

Re: Objection to Translocation of M1693, F1728, and pups to the Ladder Ranch

Dear Dr. McGee:

As the State Senator for District 35, I am writing to state my objection to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) planned translocation of Mexican gray wolves to the Ladder Ranch, located in my district.

These wolves have a known history of livestock depredation, and M1693 and F1728 were previously removed from this area due to multiple cases of cattle and horse kills. The Ladder Ranch is approximately 15 miles from the pair's previous location and within 5 miles of active livestock grazing pastures. The notion that the wolves will remain within the boundaries of the Ranch is improbable, and absent a liability and compensation plan for future kills, animosity between producers and FWS will continue to grow.

On that note, I was also disappointed to learn that FWS did not sufficiently provide notice of this proposed translocation plan to key stakeholders in my district, including local livestock producers and agricultural groups. Given the history and controversy surrounding this matter, open and adequate communication with the public is vital – especially with those who will be directly impacted by this proposal.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose this planned translocation and respectfully urge you to resume the efforts of FWS's "coexistence plan" – "to reduce livestock/wolf conflicts and the need for management removals of depredating or nuisance wolves."

Your careful consideration of these objections is appreciated.

Sincerely,

CRYSTAL R. DIAMOND
State Senator