

Mexican Wolf/Livestock Coexistence Council Depredation Compensation Guidelines

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in cooperation with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, established the Mexican Wolf/Livestock Interdiction Trust Fund (Trust Fund) on September 23, 2009. The objective of the Trust Fund is to generate long-term funding for prolonged financial support to livestock operators within the framework of cooperative conservation and recovery of Mexican wolf populations in the Southwest. Funding will be applied to initiatives that address management, monitoring, and other proactive conservation needs for Mexican wolves as they relate to livestock, including alternative livestock husbandry practices, grazing management alternatives, livestock protection, measures to avoid and minimize depredation, habitat protection, species protection, scientific research, conflict resolution, compensation for damage, education, and outreach activities.

In April 2011, the Service appointed an 11-member Mexican Wolf/Livestock Coexistence Council (Coexistence Council), which has the authority to identify, recommend, and approve conservation activities, identify recipients, and approve the amount of the direct disbursement of Trust Funds to qualified recipients.

The Coexistence Council has developed these Depredation Compensation Guidelines to compensate livestock producers for wolf depredations.

Process:

If livestock owners suspect they have incurred a livestock death or injury due to wolves:

- We recommend that you protect the evidence. Agency experts suggest covering the remains when possible and keeping the site undisturbed by other animals/people to preserve evidence in the area.
- Contact a local USDA APHIS-Wildlife Services (Wildlife Service) field representative, Tribal investigator, or the Interagency Field Team, who will coordinate an investigation, including meeting the livestock owner at an appropriate time and place. The Investigator will provide a completed Depredation Report Form to the owner/manager of the animal. The Depredation Report Form should provide a reasonable and complete record of evidence based on the Wildlife Services' "Criteria for Classification of Reported Depredation Incidents."
 - NM Wildlife Services: Bill Nelson: 575-533-6252
 - AZ Wildlife Services: Sterling Simpson: 928-245-0485
 - Interagency Field Team in Alpine, AZ: 888-459-9653 or 928.339.4329
 - White Mountain Apache Tribe: Cynthia Dale: 928.338.4385 or Sisto Hernandez: 928.338.1404 or shernadez@wmat.us
 - San Carlos Apache Tribe: April Howard: 928.475.2343 or Dewey Wesley: 928.200.0565

- If the Investigator verifies in the Depredation Report Form that wolves were the cause, or probable cause, of the depredation (death or injury), the livestock owner can seek compensation from the Coexistence Council by submitting the following information:
 - (1) A completed copy of the Depredation Report Form that was prepared by Wildlife Services, a Tribal investigator, or a member of the IFT that determines that the death or injury was confirmed and/or probable wolf depredation.
 - (2) The requested claim for depredation compensation
 - (3) Complete contact information for the livestock owner including phone number, mailing address, Tax Identification Number, and best time to contact in case we have questions.
- Please submit the information above within 6 months of receiving your Depredation Report Form from the Investigator.

Send the Information to:

Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2105 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
Phone (505)761-4748 • Fax (505)346-2542 • E-mail address: Sherry_Barrett@fws.gov

The Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator will forward the Depredation Report Form and claim request to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for payment from the Trust Fund directly to the livestock producer.

Payment will be as follows (based on market value):

| <u>Domestic Cattle</u> | | <u>Domestic Sheep</u> | |
|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------|
| Calf: | \$ 800 | Lamb: | \$225 |
| Yearling: | \$1,200 | Ewe: | \$225 |
| Cow: | \$1,450 | Ram: | \$750 |
| Bull: | \$2,500 | | |

- Claims for compensation that differ from the market values provided above will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Coexistence Council. The claim should be accompanied by a rationale and documentation for the different value.
- Probable depredations of cattle and sheep will be compensated at a rate of 50% of confirmed depredations.
- Injured cattle and sheep may also be compensated at the discretion of the Coexistence Council.

- If livestock other than cattle or sheep are depredated by wolves, compensation will be determined at the discretion of the Coexistence Council, based on the timing of the depredation event and class of livestock that was depredated. The request for compensation must be accompanied by the same information that is required for cattle and sheep depredations and sent to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator at the above address.
- If pets are depredated by wolves, compensation will be determined at the discretion of the Coexistence Council and based on the claim and estimated value of the animal. The request for compensation must be accompanied by the same information that is required for cattle and sheep depredations and sent to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator at the above address.

Other available programs:

- Defenders of Wildlife Compensation Program. Compensation payments for cattle mortalities ended September 11, 2010. Funds for proactive (i.e., preventative) projects are still available to livestock producers. Contact Craig Miller at 520-623-9653 x101
- Mexican Wolf Fund. Private funds/grants are available for proactive projects. This program funds proactive measures, but does not compensate for livestock losses related to Mexican wolf. Contact Patrick Valentino <http://mexicanwolfconservationfund.org>