

(b)(6),  
(b)(7)(C)DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENTREPORT OF INVESTIGATION  
REPORT#: 2013200634R001  
APPROVED - CASE CLOSED

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<b>CASE TITLE</b>  MEXICAN GRAY WOLF #1288 SENSITIVE CASE	<b>REPORT DATE</b> 02/27/2013	<b>CASE NUMBER</b> 2013200634
	<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b> [REDACTED]	<b>CASE STATUS</b> PENDING
	<b>APPROVED BY</b> [REDACTED] - 04/10/2013 [REDACTED] - 03/26/2013 [REDACTED] - 02/27/2013	
<b>SUBJECTS OF REPORT</b> USDA/APHIS WILDLIFE SERVICES (NEW MEXICO) [REDACTED]		

SYNOPSIS

On January 19, 2013, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Office of Law Enforcement Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] received a report of a Mexican gray wolf mortality. The information had been provided by the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program (MGWRP) and specifically indicated that the mortality had been caused as a result of a shooting in which the wolf was accidentally identified as a coyote. The individual identified as having shot the wolf was [REDACTED] with the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's WILDLIFE SERVICES.

On January 23, 2013, SA [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] regarding the events which led to the shooting of Mexican gray wolf #1288. [REDACTED] provided an explanation for the entire incident which was consistent with other testimonies provided by MGWRP personnel who had spoken or seen [REDACTED] on the date of the incident.

On February 25, 2013, the carcass of Mexican gray wolf #1288 was submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, for necropsy. Further investigation pending.

DISTRIBUTIONInternal List  
[REDACTED]

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**DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION**

**SA [REDACTED] Receives Report of a Wolf Mortality**

On January 19, 2013, at approximately 1640 hours, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Office of Law Enforcement (USFWS/OLE) Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] received a telephone call from [REDACTED] of the Mexican Gray Wolf Reintroduction Project (MGWRP). [REDACTED] explained to SA [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had just received a telephone call from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service's (USDA/APHIS) WILDLIFE SERVICES regarding the accidental take of a Mexican gray wolf. [REDACTED] stated to SA [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had received the telephone call from Wildlife Service's [REDACTED] in which [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had accidentally shot an un-collared Mexican gray wolf. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] the MGWRP Interagency Field Team (IFT) [REDACTED] assisted the MGWRP numerous times with various wolf-related issues. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED] had been investigating the report of a dead cow and calf when [REDACTED] saw what [REDACTED] believed was a coyote. [REDACTED] proceeded to shoot the canine and later realized that the canine was a wolf. [REDACTED] asked SA [REDACTED] what should be done at this point regarding the wolf carcass and if further investigation would be warranted. SA [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] to have [REDACTED] collect the carcass and have it transferred to the MGWRP office in Alpine, Arizona. SA [REDACTED] would make arrangements, at a later date, to obtain custody of the carcass. SA [REDACTED] did explain to [REDACTED] that an investigation would need to be conducted and that [REDACTED] would need to speak to all parties involved. [REDACTED] provided SA [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] contact information and stated that [REDACTED] would coordinate the transfer of the wolf carcass to the MGWRP. SA [REDACTED] thanked [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] assistance and ended the contact.

At approximately 1646 hours, SA [REDACTED] received a telephone call from MGWRP Field [REDACTED] regarding the above described incident. SA [REDACTED] explained to [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had already received the information from [REDACTED] and that arrangements were being made to have the wolf carcass taken to the MGWRP office in Alpine, Arizona. SA [REDACTED] further explained that [REDACTED] would be conducting an investigation into the matter and would be in contact with [REDACTED] as needed.

**SA [REDACTED] Contacts [REDACTED]**

On January 22, 2013, SA [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] via telephone, to which no answer was received. SA [REDACTED] proceeded to leave a voicemail message requesting that [REDACTED] contact SA [REDACTED] as soon as possible. At approximately 1547 hours, [REDACTED] returned SA [REDACTED] telephone call. SA [REDACTED] identified [REDACTED] as a Federal agent with the USFWS/OLE and explained that [REDACTED] was conducting the investigation involving the January 19, 2013, shooting of the Mexican gray wolf. SA [REDACTED] further explained that [REDACTED] would like to meet with [REDACTED] in person to obtain details of that day's events. [REDACTED] explained to SA [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] would be traveling to [REDACTED] New Mexico, on January 23, 2013, [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] explained that [REDACTED] would be traveling to Albuquerque, New Mexico, that same day

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and suggested that they meet in [REDACTED], New Mexico, at approximately 1030 hours. [REDACTED] agreed to the meeting, to which SA [REDACTED] thanked [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] cooperation and ended the contact.

**SA [REDACTED] Interviews [REDACTED]**

On January 23, 2013, at approximately 1045 hours, SA [REDACTED] met with [REDACTED] New Mexico. SA [REDACTED] explained to [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] wished to hear [REDACTED] detail of events for the January 19, 2013, shooting of a Mexican gray wolf. [REDACTED] suggested that they go to the Applebee's restaurant located next door [REDACTED] where they could sit down and talk. Both SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] proceeded to travel to the restaurant where it was determined that the restaurant had not yet opened. SA [REDACTED] suggested that they speak within SA [REDACTED] vehicle, to which [REDACTED] agreed. Prior to starting the interview, SA [REDACTED] explained to [REDACTED] that this was a non-custodial interview and that [REDACTED] was free to leave at any point or could elect to stop providing SA [REDACTED] with information at any time. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] understood this and agreed to continue with the interview. SA [REDACTED] also asked [REDACTED] if [REDACTED] would be opposed to having the interview recorded, to which [REDACTED] stated "no." The following information was obtained during the course of the interview:

- [REDACTED] stated that on January 19, 2013, at approximately 1030 hours, [REDACTED] received a telephone call from [REDACTED] regarding a cattle depredation which had occurred on the [REDACTED] Ranch in Catron County, New Mexico. [REDACTED] identified the ranch manager for the [REDACTED] Ranch [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] stated that January 19, 2013, was [REDACTED] normal day off. [REDACTED] was checking several traps that [REDACTED] had in place on the [REDACTED] Ranch when [REDACTED] received the telephone call from [REDACTED] regarding the discovered cow carcass.
- [REDACTED] stated that when [REDACTED] arrived to conduct [REDACTED] investigation on the cow carcass, [REDACTED] utilized [REDACTED] radio telemetry equipment to determine whether or not any collared Mexican gray wolves were present in the area. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] received negative results for any collared wolves being near the location. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] investigation was inconclusive as to what had caused the death of the cow.
- [REDACTED] stated to [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had seen a calf with a bloodied ear the day before, approximately one quarter (1/4) mile from the location of the cow carcass. [REDACTED] suggested that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attempt to locate the calf to try and determine if the injuries were wolf-related. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] proceeded to travel in the direction where [REDACTED] had last seen the calf. While en route to the area, [REDACTED] observed a "coyote" running away from the road. The canine was approximately three hundred (300) to four hundred (400) yards away. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] traveled to a location approximately two hundred fifty (250) yards from the canine. [REDACTED] observed the animal for several minutes with [REDACTED] scope which



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is mounted on [redacted] rifle and identified it as a coyote. [redacted] proceeded to "bark" at the canine as [redacted] does with coyotes and observed its behavior for a short time. [redacted] again observed the canine through [redacted] rifle scope and once again identified it as being a coyote. [redacted] proceeded to shoot the canine with one (1) shot. The canine ran for approximately twenty (20) yards then collapsed.

- [redacted] stated that [redacted] and [redacted] then traveled to the location from where the canine was running from. [redacted] observed a lone cow in the area and noticed what appeared to be a dead calf. Upon arriving at the location, a fresh calf carcass was found. [redacted] stated that the carcass was still warm to the touch. At about this same time, MGWRP [redacted] was arriving at the same location. [redacted] advised [redacted] of the canine being shot and the discovery of the cattle depredations. [redacted] had also been checking for any signals indicating that collared Mexican gray wolves were in the area and stated that [redacted] had not received any such signals. [redacted] departed the location to continue searching for collared Mexican gray wolves. [redacted] proceeded to investigate the newly discovered calf carcass, to which [redacted] determined that it had been killed by a Mexican gray wolf. [redacted] and [redacted] then proceeded to locate the canine [redacted] had just shot. Upon locating the animal, [redacted] identified it as being an un-collared Mexican gray wolf.
- Upon determining that [redacted] had shot an un-collared Mexican gray wolf, [redacted] contacted [redacted] State [redacted] to report the incident. [redacted] then attempted to contact [redacted] but could not reach [redacted]. [redacted] then contacted [redacted] and reported the incident. [redacted] stated that [redacted] instructed [redacted] to collect the wolf carcass and transport it to the MGWRP offices in Alpine, Arizona. [redacted] then changed [redacted] mind and told [redacted] to place the carcass back in its original location until [redacted] could contact USFWS/OLE. [redacted] later contacted [redacted] and instructed [redacted] to proceed with collecting the carcass and transporting it to the MGWRP offices in Alpine, Arizona. [redacted] later met with [redacted] and transferred the wolf carcass to [redacted].
- [redacted] stated that [redacted] shot the Mexican gray wolf with a 6mm caliber rifle. The rifle is a government issued firearm. [redacted] stated that the wolf was approximately two hundred fifty (250) yards away from [redacted] location when [redacted] shot the animal. [redacted] further stated that the wolf was a young pup and weighed approximately forty (40) to fifty (50) pounds.
- [redacted] stated that [redacted] has been assigned to the MGWRP since [redacted] arrived in New Mexico. [redacted] further stated that this was the first time [redacted] had ever misidentified a Mexican gray wolf for a coyote.
- [redacted] stated that the wolf shooting occurred on private property.

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SA [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] if [REDACTED] could provide the following information to the USFWS/OLE as soon as possible: all reports regarding the incident which had been filed with USDA/APHIS WS; the GPS coordinates of the location where the wolf was shot; and contact information for [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] agreed to provide the information to SA [REDACTED] as soon as possible. SA [REDACTED] thanked [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] cooperation and ended the contact at approximately 1116 hours.

**Receipt of GPS Coordinates**

On January 24, 2013, [REDACTED] contacted SA [REDACTED] via telephone and provided the GPS coordinates for the location where the wolf was shot and contact numbers for [REDACTED]. The following GPS coordinates were provided by [REDACTED] for the location where the wolf was shot: UTM [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] also provided following contact phone numbers for [REDACTED] (residence) and [REDACTED] (cellular).

**Receipt of USDA/APHIS WS Incident Report**

On January 24, 2012, SA [REDACTED] received a copy of [REDACTED] incident report regarding the accidental shooting of the female Mexican gray wolf, identified in the studbook as #1288. The report had been submitted to the USFWS/OLE by USDA/APHIS State [REDACTED]. In reviewing the report, SA [REDACTED] noted that the information provided in the report appeared to be consistent with the information [REDACTED] had provided to SA [REDACTED] during the January 23, 2013, interview (See attachment #1, USDA/APHIS WS Incident Report). SA [REDACTED] also plotted the GPS coordinates for the location where the wolf was killed and determined the site was located approximately sixteen (16) miles south southwest of Pie Town, New Mexico (See attachment #2, satellite map of location). SA [REDACTED] determined that the site was located outside of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area, but within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, as identified in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 17.84(k).

**USFWS/OLE Obtains Custody of Carcass**

On January 30, 2013, Special Agent [REDACTED] traveled to Alpine, Arizona, and obtained custody of the female Mexican gray wolf #1288 carcass from MGWRP personnel. SA [REDACTED] had previously spoken with [REDACTED] who was traveling to the Alpine, Arizona, area on an unrelated matter, and requested that [REDACTED] obtain custody of the carcass in order to assist in expediting the carcass's submittal for necropsy. [REDACTED] agreed and transported the carcass to the USFWS/OLE in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where the carcass was secured in an evidence storage freezer.

**Receipt of [REDACTED] Statement**

On February 2, 2013, SA [REDACTED] received an e-mail message from [REDACTED] which contained [REDACTED] official statement of the circumstances surrounding Mexican gray wolf #1288's mortality (See attachment #3, official statement from [REDACTED]). The following information was provided by [REDACTED] regarding the incident of January 19, 2013:

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- [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] received the initial telephone call from [REDACTED] at approximately 1600 hours. [REDACTED] was en route from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Alpine, Arizona, when [REDACTED] received the telephone call.
- [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED] seemed to be upset and stated that [REDACTED] needed to talk to [REDACTED] immediately. [REDACTED] went on to state that [REDACTED] had attempted to contact [REDACTED] but was unsuccessful. Therefore [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] and reported that [REDACTED] had accidentally shot an un-collared Mexican gray wolf.
- [REDACTED] described the events to [REDACTED] which had occurred that led to the shooting of the Mexican gray wolf. *[Agent's Note: The information provided by [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] description of events are very similar to the events described to SA [REDACTED] during the January 23, 2013, interview.]*
- [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] also attempted to contact [REDACTED] but was unsuccessful. [REDACTED] then proceeded to contact [REDACTED] the MGWRP, who instructed [REDACTED] to contact the USFWS/OLE. [REDACTED] also instructed [REDACTED] to notify [REDACTED] not to move the wolf carcass. [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] to return the wolf carcass to its original location, and proceeded to contact SA [REDACTED] *[Agent's Note: [REDACTED] states that [REDACTED] had already moved the wolf carcass prior to making contact with [REDACTED]*
- [REDACTED] per SA [REDACTED] instructions, advised [REDACTED] to collect the carcass and get it transferred to the MGWRP in Alpine, Arizona. [REDACTED] later received a telephone call from [REDACTED] informing [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] would meet with [REDACTED] to obtain custody of the carcass.
- [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was "quite upset and felt bad about the situation."

**Receipt of [REDACTED] Statement**

On February 7, 2013, SA [REDACTED] received an e-mail message from [REDACTED] which contained [REDACTED] official statement of the circumstances surrounding Mexican gray wolf #1288's mortality (See attachment #4, official statement from [REDACTED]). The following information was provided by [REDACTED] regarding the incident of January 19, 2013:

- [REDACTED] stated that on January 19, 2013, at approximately 1200 hours, [REDACTED] was directed by [REDACTED] to obtain telemetry locations for the collared wolves of the San Mateo pack due to the report of a possible wolf depredation at the [REDACTED] ranch. [REDACTED] was accompanied [REDACTED]

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- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] traveled to the area of the [REDACTED] ranch via U.S. Highway 60 [REDACTED]. No signals were received for any of the San Mateo pack. At approximately 1500 hours, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived at the [REDACTED] ranch and observed [REDACTED] government truck parked near a pasture. [REDACTED] was observed with a ranch employee, to which both appeared to be examining a calf carcass.
- Upon arriving at [REDACTED] location, [REDACTED] spoke with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had taken bite spread measurements of the wounds found on the calf carcass and indicated that the wounds were consistent as having been caused by a large canid. [REDACTED] observed that the calf carcass had un-clotted blood indicating that the wounds were fairly fresh.
- [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED] had stated that the calf carcass was not the animal [REDACTED] had been called about to investigate, but had been located during the time [REDACTED] was investigating the cause of death for a cow. [REDACTED] further stated that [REDACTED] had just shot a coyote "about ten (10) minutes" prior to [REDACTED] arriving at the site. [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] if any signals had been heard for the San Mateo pack, to which [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had used [REDACTED] telemetry equipment in check for collared Mexican gray wolves, but had not received any signals.
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] departed the location after about ten (10) or fifteen (15) minutes and continued to attempt to locate collared wolves of the San Mateo pack.
- At approximately 1659 hours, [REDACTED] received a telephone call from [REDACTED] indicating that [REDACTED] had shot a Mexican gray wolf. [REDACTED] asked that [REDACTED] begin traveling back to the [REDACTED] ranch. At approximately 1705 hours, [REDACTED] spoke with [REDACTED] via telephone. [REDACTED] explained to [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had obtained a GPS reading of the location where the Mexican gray wolf had been shot. [REDACTED] further stated that [REDACTED] had already moved the wolf carcass to the ranch house when [REDACTED] was told to place it back at its original location.
- [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED] sounded upset over the incident. [REDACTED] inquired as to whether [REDACTED] would be able to pick up the carcass at its original location or if [REDACTED] should transport it to a location that would expedite the process. [REDACTED] directed [REDACTED] to retrieve the carcass and meet at the [REDACTED] ranch house. [REDACTED] later contacted [REDACTED] and requested to meet on the road since [REDACTED] was expecting guests at [REDACTED] house. [REDACTED] felt that these other individuals did not need to be aware of the current situation. [REDACTED] later met with [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] road.
- [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] was "certain that the animal was a coyote" when [REDACTED] took the shot. [REDACTED] stated to [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had shot the animal at



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a distance of approximately two hundred fifty (250) yards. [REDACTED] further stated that [REDACTED] had not realized it was a wolf [REDACTED] had shot until [REDACTED] walked up to the carcass.

- [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] eventually did get a signal from one (1) of the collared wolves of the San Mateo pack at approximately 1800 hours. The signal was obtained [REDACTED] road and south of U.S. Highway 60.
- At approximately 1905 hours, [REDACTED] received a voicemail from [REDACTED] in which [REDACTED] asked if the incident had occurred outside of the "recovery area boundary." [REDACTED] did inform [REDACTED] that the incident had occurred out of the recovery area.
- At approximately 2000 hours, [REDACTED] arrived at the MGWRP office in Alpine, Arizona, where basic measurements were obtained from the female Mexican gray wolf carcass. The carcass was then labeled and secured within a freezer.

**Evidence Submitted for Analysis**

On February 25, 2013, SA [REDACTED] submitted the female Mexican gray wolf #1288 carcass to the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (NFWFL) in Ashland, Oregon, for necropsy. The carcass was submitted via FedEx (See attachment #5, FedEx airway bill [REDACTED]). SA [REDACTED] requested that NFWFL personnel conduct a full necropsy of the carcass and that genetic analysis also be completed in order to verify species and pack designation. [Agent's Note: Species determination is required to ensure the canine that was shot was positively identified as a Mexican gray wolf.] The NFWFL received the wolf carcass on February 26, 2013 (See attachment #6, Evidence Received by Laboratory).

**DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECTS**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] New Mexico [REDACTED]

Residence Telephone: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED]

NM DL: [REDACTED]

LID: [REDACTED]

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WILDLIFE SERVICES  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
1941 Copper Loop  
Las Cruces, New Mexico  
(575) [REDACTED]  
LID: [REDACTED]

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**PRIOR VIOLATIONS**

[REDACTED]

- NCIC and TECS checks returned negative results.
- LEMIS query revealed that [REDACTED] has no prior federal wildlife violations

[REDACTED]

**WITNESSES**

Special Agent [REDACTED]  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Law Enforcement  
San Andres National Wildlife Refuge  
5686 Santa Gertrudis Drive  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88012  
(575) [REDACTED]

Special Agent [REDACTED]  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Law Enforcement  
P.O. Box 329  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103  
(505) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program  
P.O. Box 856  
Alpine, Arizona 85920  
(928) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services  
8441 Washington Street NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113  
(505) [REDACTED]

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**LAWS VIOLATED**

None documented during this reporting period.

**EVIDENCE**

All evidence listed below was collected from the MGWRP on January 30, 2013, and is currently at the NFWFL in Ashland, Oregon.

1. One (1) female Mexican gray wolf carcass – Seizure tag #763437.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

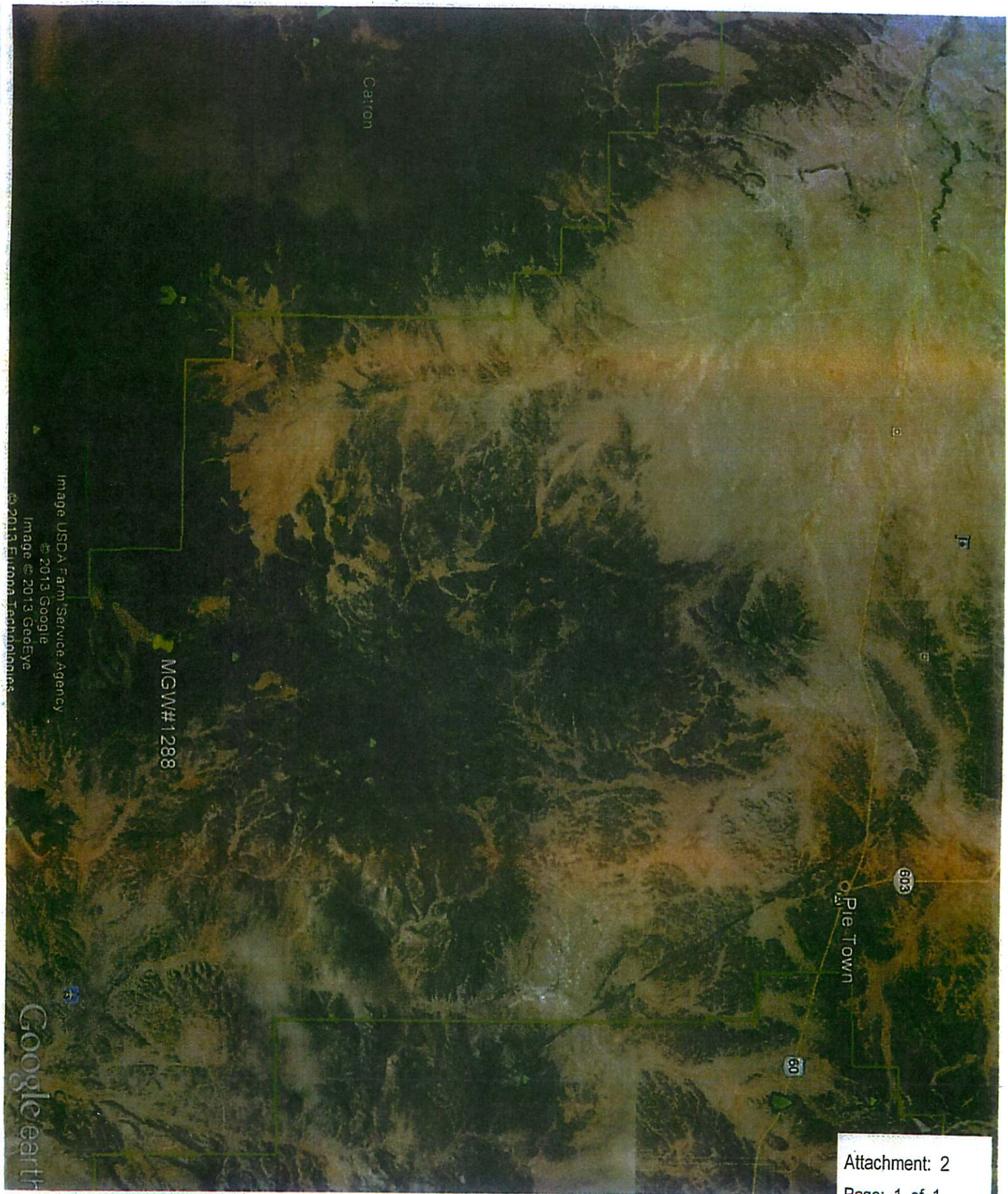
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**Evidence Maintained by another Agency:**

None documented during this reporting period.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Copy of Incident Report completed by [REDACTED] on January 20, 2013 (2 pages).
2. Copy of satellite image showing location of January 19, 2013 incident (1 page).
3. Copy of [REDACTED] statement regarding January 19, 2013 incident (2 pages).
4. Copy of [REDACTED] statement regarding January 19, 2013 incident (2 pages).
5. Copy of FedEx airway bill [REDACTED] (1 page).
6. Copy of Evidence Received by Laboratory list, dated February 26, 2013 (1 page).



Attachment: 2

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Official statement regarding the circumstances surrounding f1288's mortality

On Saturday 19, 2013 I was driving back from Albuquerque, NM and at approximately 1600 (estimate based off dropping someone off at the ABQ airport between 1400-1430 and the associated travel time to just north of Quemado via the Mal Pais) I received a call from [REDACTED] Wildlife Services. I immediately informed [REDACTED] that I might lose [REDACTED] call as I was driving and [REDACTED] replied then stop, I need to talk to you. I knew it was urgent business as normally under such circumstances during a phone call we let the call disconnect and finish the conversation later. Sensing [REDACTED] urgency I pulled over to continue our conversation. [REDACTED] informed me that [REDACTED] had already tried to reach [REDACTED] and could not reach [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] then informed me that [REDACTED] had accidentally shot an uncollared wolf and was looking for direction on what [REDACTED] needed to do. [REDACTED] explained the situation more thoroughly to me (which I will describe below) and I instructed [REDACTED] to stay put and I would try to reach [REDACTED] as I might get a response from [REDACTED] in comparison to [REDACTED] and then call [REDACTED] back. I got off the phone with [REDACTED] and tried to call [REDACTED] did not answer, so I then called [REDACTED] (USFWS). I thought I would need to call LE but wanted to confirm with someone above me, as this was not a typical situation and I did not know if it was covered by the permit or if LE did indeed need to be contacted. [REDACTED] informed me that [REDACTED] should not move the wolf unless LE instructed [REDACTED] to do so and to contact LE. I called [REDACTED] back, told [REDACTED] to put the wolf back in the spot where [REDACTED] found it, as [REDACTED] had already loaded it in [REDACTED] truck before reaching me, and that I was contacting LE and that when they contacted [REDACTED] just to let them know that [REDACTED] had moved the wolf and placed it back at the site per my instruction. I then called [REDACTED] (USFWS LE) and informed [REDACTED] of the situation and that [REDACTED] lead Wildlife Services Wolf Investigator. I was then instructed that I could pick the wolf up from [REDACTED] and transport it to our freezer until LE could retrieve the carcass. I called [REDACTED] back and let [REDACTED] know to go get the carcass and arranged to meet [REDACTED] outside Quemado for the transfer. After driving to Quemado I got a call from [REDACTED] informing me that [REDACTED] was going to meet [REDACTED] and receive the carcass at which time I continued my travels home.

When speaking to [REDACTED] described the situation to me as follows:

[REDACTED] was on a call conducting a depredation investigation on cow which ended up not being a confirmed wolf kill and that during the investigation as always [REDACTED] had conducted telemetry and had not heard any collared wolves in the area. After finishing the investigation [REDACTED] and the rancher (I believe the rancher was with [REDACTED] saw a coyote eating on a calf carcass. They got to the carcass or area where the carcass was and [REDACTED] shot the coyote that they saw feeding on the carcass, from approximately 200-250 yds, as it was running away. [REDACTED] then conducted a depredation investigation on the carcass to determine what the cause of death was. [REDACTED] found enough evidence to confirm the calf had been killed by a wolf. [REDACTED] then went

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to locate the coyote [REDACTED] had shot and upon locating it, found that [REDACTED] had in fact shot a small female wolf pup and not a coyote as thought. During our conversation [REDACTED] informed me that [REDACTED] had the carcass in the back of [REDACTED] truck and did not know what to do and needed further direction/help as [REDACTED] could not reach my supervisor [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was quite upset and felt bad about the situation. I tried to keep [REDACTED] calm and find out what the proper steps would be regarding the occurrence as [REDACTED] and was on duty during the incident. I was not sure how something like this would be handled as it had never happened before (to my knowledge).

I have known [REDACTED] started working with our program in the mid-2000s (possibly 2006?). I have not with the program the entire time-frame since [REDACTED] have since returned. But, based on my time knowing and working with [REDACTED] believe that this incident was not intentional but an unfortunate mistake in identification.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
USFWS, [REDACTED]  
Mexican Wolf Recovery Program  
Alpine, AZ

Attachment: 3

Page: 2 of 2

On January 19, 2013 at approximately noon, my supervisor [REDACTED] directed me to go to a ranch with FWS [REDACTED]. I learned later this is the [REDACTED] ranch. Ben had been there the previous day to investigate a wolf sighting. We were told that [REDACTED] was on [REDACTED] way to investigate a depredation and we were to meet with [REDACTED] if possible, get telemetry locations on the San Mateo pack's collared animals, and be prepared to haze the wolves if they were near cattle.

We approached from the north off of U.S. 60 and listened for radio collared San Mateo wolves south on the Mangas road. We did not hear any signals. I do not know exactly what time we arrived at the ranch, from my phone records I believe it was approximately 15:00. We drove to the pasture where [REDACTED] had been the previous day. There was an ATV parked on the side of the road about ¼ mile from the pasture and [REDACTED] USDA truck was parked just off of the road in the pasture [REDACTED] was there with a ranch employee. They were examining a dead calf. [REDACTED] was shaving the hide and taking bite spread measurements with calipers. [REDACTED] showed us the bite wound and the measurement. The carcass still had un-clotted blood in the puncture wounds and the size was consistent with a large canid.

Both [REDACTED] and the ranch employee seemed bothered that there was a depredation, however they were both amicable and wanted to chat about the facts. [REDACTED] stated that this was not the animal [REDACTED] had come to investigate. [REDACTED] had come to investigate an adult cow carcass that was in the same pasture. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had just shot a coyote that was eating on the calf carcass when they drove up "about 10 minutes ago". I asked [REDACTED] if [REDACTED] had heard any San Mateo animals on the way in, [REDACTED] told us that [REDACTED] had listened and did not hear any. The impression I obtained from the conversation was that they were driving out to the cow carcass, saw the "coyote" on the calf carcass, [REDACTED] shot the "coyote" as it was running off, and went to investigate the cow carcass while the ranch employee went to see what the "coyote" was eating on when they pulled up. [REDACTED] and I arrived a few minutes after that.

[REDACTED] and I left the ranch after 10-15 minutes and drove south towards Mangas peak in an attempt to locate any collared San Mateo animals. We were not able to pick up a radio signal so we called the office at approximately 16:00 to have [REDACTED] get us a satellite location for the alpha female. We did not get [REDACTED] so we drove south on FR 11a to NM 12 and west towards Aragon to the Sand Flat road just east of Aragon. At 16:59 we were north of NM 12 about a mile when [REDACTED] called to tell us that [REDACTED] shot a wolf. [REDACTED] directed me to stay in phone contact and begin moving back towards the ranch. [REDACTED] called me at 17:04 wanting to know my ETA (40mins). At 17:05 I called [REDACTED] and asked [REDACTED] where [REDACTED] was waiting and did [REDACTED] GPS / photo the carcass. [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] did and that [REDACTED] had already moved the carcass to the ranch house. [REDACTED] was told to move it back to the original location (by FWS) and was now back at the ranch house. [REDACTED] sounded upset and asked if [REDACTED] could meet me in the pasture and/or pick up the wolf again to facilitate things. I told [REDACTED] to pick up the carcass and meet me at the ranch house. At 17:28 [REDACTED] called me asking my ETA (20mins). The ranch employee was expecting guests at the house and [REDACTED] felt that [REDACTED] needed to leave. [REDACTED] asked if [REDACTED] could meet us on the road and I agreed.

We met just east of Mangas road 10-15 minutes later. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was certain that the animal was a coyote when [REDACTED] took the shot. It was feeding on the calf carcass, it ran off, [REDACTED] took the shot and dropped the animal at what [REDACTED] thought was ~250 yards. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] did not realize it was a wolf until [REDACTED] walked up to the carcass later, after [REDACTED] had dealt with the calf investigation. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED]



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realized it was a wolf when he was "50 yards from the carcass". I accepted the carcass and went back to Alpine by the same route. On the way out we picked up at least 1 San Mateo collared animal to the west on Mangas road and south of U.S. 60 at approximately 18:00. At 19:05 I responded to a voice message from [REDACTED] asking if the incident occurred outside the recovery area boundary. I informed [REDACTED] it was outside the recovery area boundary. We arrived at the office in Alpine at approximately 20:00. [REDACTED] and I took basic measurements and examined the carcass. We bagged and labeled the carcass and placed it in the secure freezer in Alpine.

From: (505) [REDACTED]  
 SA [REDACTED]  
 USFWS/Office of Law Enforcement  
 4901 Paseo del Norte NE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87113

Origin ID: ABQA

FedEx  
Express

J13101212190326

Ship Date: 25FEB13  
 ActWgt: 35.0 LB  
 CAD: [REDACTED]

(b)(6),  
 (b)(7)(C)

Delivery Address Bar Code

SHIP TO: (541) [REDACTED]

BILL SENDER

Evidence Unit  
 USFWS National F&W Forensics Lab  
 1490 E MAIN ST

ASHLAND, OR 97520

Ref #  
 Invoice #  
 PO #  
 Dept #

TUE - 26 FEB 12:00P  
 PRIORITY OVERNIGHT

TRK#  
 0201

XH MFRA

97520  
 OR-US  
 PDX

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(b)(4)

Attachment: 5

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## Evidence Received by Laboratory

Laboratory Case #: 13-000077

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### AGENCIES

Agency Name

USFWS/LE, Las Cruces  
5686 Santa Gertrudis Drive  
Las Cruces, NM 88012

Agency Case Number

2013200634

### EVIDENCE ITEMS:

1 "One (1) female Mexican Gray wolf carcass" [ST#763437; Item#1]

CASE FILE 13-000077

Attachment: 6

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2/26/2013