



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Post Office Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R2/ARD-ES/059204

January 8, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Flake
United States Senator
2200 East Camelback Road, Suite 120
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Dear Senator Flake:

Director Ashe has asked me to respond to your and Senator McCain's letter dated December 21, 2014. In your correspondence, you requested an extension of the comment period on the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Revision to the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*). The final EIS was published November 25, 2014, for a 30-day public review.

Pursuant to the stipulated settlement agreement reached in *Center for Biological Diversity v. Jewell*, Case No. 12-cv-1920 (August 2013), we must submit to the *Federal Register* a final 10(j) determination on or before January 12, 2015. Because of this timeframe, we were unable to grant an extension and have adhered to the 30-day comment period established by Council on Environmental Quality regulation (<https://ceq.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/1506.htm#1506.10>). The comment period closed on Monday, December 29, 2014.

We appreciate your continued interest in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. Should you have further questions, please contact Sherry Barrett, Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator, at 505-761-4748; or Michelle Shaughnessy, Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services at 505-248-6671.

Sincerely,



Regional Director

Copy to your Washington, D.C., office

The Honorable Jeff Flake

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cc: The Honorable John McCain, United States Senator, Washington, D.C.
Assistant Regional Director, External Affairs, Albuquerque, NM
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