

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 21, 2014

The Honorable Daniel Ashe
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3359
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

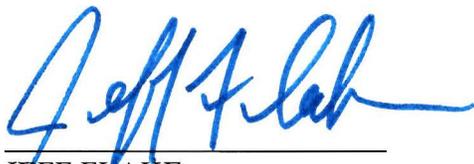
We write to request that you extend the public comment period for the final environmental impact statement (EIS) and record of decision (ROD) on the Proposed Revision to the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf.

The Final EIS, which was published in the Federal Register on November 25, 2014, differs substantially from the draft that the Fish and Wildlife Service (the "Service") published in July. We understand that those differences are due in large part to extensive negotiations between the Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (the "Commission"). While we appreciate that the Service engaged with the Commission on issues such as capping the number of wolves and establishing a phased management approach, we still have concerns about the proposal and believe more time is needed for the public to analyze and comment on the changes.

We further understand that the Service believes it is constrained from extending the public comment period by virtue of a consent decree. As noted in our August letter, that consent decree establishes a process for extending the comment period, and we believe good cause exists to seek such an extension. The Service previously committed to pursuing an extension with the Department of Justice, and we believe that this request is consistent with that earlier commitment.

Thank you for your attention to this request. As always, we ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with all agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines.

Sincerely,



JEFF FLAKE
United States Senator



JOHN MCCAIN
United States Senator