

JEFF FLAKE

ARIZONA

SR-413 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-4521

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0305

STATE OFFICES:

2200 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD

SUITE 120

PHOENIX, AZ 85016

(602) 840-1891

6840 NORTH ORACLE ROAD

SUITE 150

TUCSON, AZ 85704

(520) 575-8633

June 29, 2017

Arizona Cattlemen's Association  
1401 N 24th Street, Suite 4  
Phoenix, AZ 85008

Dear Members of the Arizona Cattlemen's Association:

As you may know, today, June 29, 2017, the Department of the Interior (DOI) released a revised recovery plan for the Mexican Gray wolf. While I am encouraged to see the DOI release this long overdue plan, I am concerned with both the content and the process by which it was developed.

As you know, earlier this year I introduced S. 368, the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Plan Act. This legislation was developed after hearing from many local voices, including the Cattlemen's Association, expressing frustration with a lack of consultation from the federal government on the Mexican Gray wolf. Unfortunately, the DOI's draft recovery plans fails to adhere with many of the principles that were set forth in S. 368. This bill would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to include input from states and key individuals on the wolf's recovery plan. I am disappointed that USFWS did not consult with affected stakeholders before rolling out the revised recovery plan.

The draft recovery plan does little to set a maximum population for the wolf or set a realistic range for the wolf. The plan falls short in requiring USFWS to reduce the population of the wolf within the specified range when the wolf's population exceeds the maximum population. In addition, the plan fails to establish a process for states to manage the wolf if USFWS fails to do so, nor automatically remove the wolf from the endangered species list once the recovery population goal is met. These provisions are critical for a responsible recovery plan that takes into consideration the concerns of affected stakeholders.

Secretary Zinke has asked for comments on the revised recovery plan by August 29, 2017, and I would greatly appreciate input from the Cattlemen's Association about their concerns. I have confidence the DOI will fully consider comments on the draft plan and will undertake a serious effort to address those in revising the draft plan. I want to ensure Arizonans' voices are heard in that process. Please direct any comments, questions, or concerns to me through Melanie Lehnhardt by August 29, 2017 at (Melanie\_Lehnhardt@flake.senate.gov) or 202-224-3963. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Flake", with a stylized, flowing script.

JEFF FLAKE  
United States Senator