



**CATRON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION № 56-2025**

**DECLARING A PUBLIC-SAFETY DISASTER IN THE COUNTY OF CATRON DUE TO THE THREAT OF
INJURY AND THE DAMAGE FROM MEXICAN WOLVES**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners met in a special meeting on Tuesday, April 8th, 2025, at 5:00 PM in the Catron County Fire Administration Building, 3 Mountaineer Rd., Reserve, New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 4-38-1 (1884), the powers of a county as a body politic and corporate shall be exercised by a board of county commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1975) provides that, “[a]ll counties are granted the same powers that are granted municipalities except for those powers that are inconsistent with statutory or constitutional limitations placed on counties. Included in this grant of powers to the counties are those powers necessary and proper to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants; and,

WHEREAS, since 1998, the Federal Government has imposed and has enlarged the Mexican Grey Wolf Recovery Program (MGWRP) on the citizens of Catron County without regard to public safety or damage to the livestock industry, which is a key positive socioeconomic factor and major land use in Catron and is part of our custom, culture and tradition; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has repeatedly increased its minimum recovery objectives for Mexican wolves and misrepresented the nature and impact of Mexican wolves on the public and livestock, insisting that both would only be minimally affected, officially stating that “Mexican wolves predominantly prey on elk in the United States, but other sources of prey throughout their current range include deer, small mammals, and birds. Mexican wolves are also known to scavenge on livestock” (USFWS 2017b, pp. 12-19), 50 CFR Part 17, and,

WHEREAS, the official narrative from the Federal Government and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is blatantly false as Mexican wolves are increasingly habituated and, with dramatic frequency, are stalking our children, roaming our communities, threatening those who venture into our forests, snatching and killing our pets from our front porches, killing our horses and killing our cattle; and,

WHEREAS, not only has the official narrative been found to be blatantly false in recent months the destruction of livestock by Mexican wolves has exponentially exploded to disaster levels; and

WHEREAS, the destruction of the County's hunting and livestock industry not only decimates the local economy but also threatens the State and Country's food supply and thus our national security; and,

WHEREAS, Director Mike Sloan of State of New Mexico Game & Fish Department, stated the April 3, 2025, meeting that the State recognizes that there is a significant problem and it is attempting to address the issue, but has been unable to do so as it only has 3 full time personnel to address the problems; and,

WHEREAS, Brady McGee, US Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator, stated at the April 3, 2025, meeting that he supports additional funds and resources for wolf conflict avoidance; and,

WHEREAS, according to Shawn Menges, Catron County Investigator, since 2024 there have been hundreds of thousands of dollars in actual losses and thousands of missing cattle; and,

WHEREAS, according to County Manager Deborah Mahler, \$907,000 would be the cost for the County adequately staff the wolf investigation program, excluding the operational costs and funds that the County does not have; and,

WHEREAS, the damage from Mexican wolves has caused undue human and animal suffering and hardship that threatens the safety, health, welfare, well-being and livelihoods of our citizens and, if not addressed immediately by the County Commission, will likely result in further injury and damage to people and property and substantial financial loss to Catron County; and,

WHEREAS, all locally available public and private resources and forces available to mitigate and alleviate the damage are deemed insufficient to cope with the current situation and initiate the necessary remedial action to protect our citizens and their property and meet restoration requirements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to the authority granted pursuant through the All-Hazard Emergency Management Act, NMSA 1978, Section 12-10-1 *et seq.*, and particularly NMSA 1978, Section 12-10-5 (2007), the Board of County Commissioners of Catron County authorizes the use of all available resources of the County to assist in the County's response to this situation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Catron County by virtue of the County's general power and the authority provided by the New Mexico Civil Emergency Preparedness Act (NMSA 1978, §§ 12-10-01 to 12-10-11) does hereby declare Mexican wolves in the County of Catron to be a public welfare

emergency/disaster for the purposes of exercising necessary emergency powers and expenditure of available resources, and requesting aid, assistance, and relief programs, and funds from the State of New Mexico and the Government of the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican wolf threat to the citizens of the County of Catron is hereby declared to be a continuing disaster in consideration of the extent of their threat to public safety and damage and the unceasing severity of their threat to pets and livestock that they are killing, maiming or traumatizing.

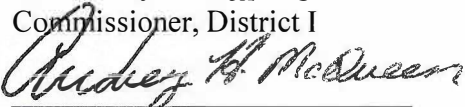
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners requests that the Governor direct that the Department of Finance and Administration make available emergency financial resources to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in Accordance with Sections 12-11-23 to 26, and NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10-14 to 15 to be expended for the resources and services necessary to remove the threat and economic harm resulting from the disaster from Mexican wolves in Catron County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners requests that the Governor direct the Adjutant General to order into service any elements of the New Mexico Army National Guard, the New Mexico Air National Guard and New Mexico State Defense Force as are or may be needed to provide military support to the civil authorities of Catron County as needed to eliminate the emergency threat and damages from Mexican wolves pursuant to and in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 20-1-1 to 8, NMSA 1978, Section 20-2-1 to 8, NMSA 1978, Section 20-4-1 to 14 and NMSA 1978, Section 20-5-1 to 16 during the pendency of the emergency.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution amends, revises and replaces Resolution 56-2025 adopted on April 3, 2025.

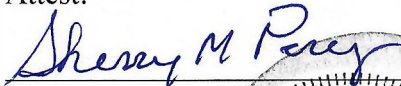
DECLARED, RESOLVED AND PASSED on this 8th day of April 2025.


Buster Floyd Green
Commissioner, District I


Audrey H. McQueen
Commissioner, District II


Haydn Forward
Commissioner, District III

Attest:


Sherry M. Perez, County Clerk

