



RESOLUTION №. 2025- 52

SUPPORTING CATRON COUNTY'S DECLARATION OF DISASTER DUE TO EXTREME AND CONTINUAL INJURY AND DAMAGE CAUSED BY MEXICAN GREY WOLVES

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Valencia County, met upon notice of a duly published special meeting on July 23, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. in the Valencia County Administration Building, 444 Luna Avenue, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 4-38-1, 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 authorizes counties to exercise all powers necessary and proper to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity, and improve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants; and,

WHEREAS, livestock production remains a critical economic and cultural foundation of Valencia and Catron Counties, and the introduction and proliferation of Mexican grey wolves have led to sustained livestock losses in Catron County, which have increased exponentially in recent months to disaster levels, decimating the local ranching economy and causing growing impacts regionally; and,

WHEREAS, Mexican grey wolves have become increasingly habituated and aggressive in Catron County, as evidenced by numerous incidents of wolves stalking children, roaming in and around communities, killing pets on front porches, and otherwise endangering the safety of residents and visitors, causing widespread fear and trauma in local communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Catron County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution № 56-2025, formally declaring a public-safety disaster in Catron County due to the threat of injury and damage caused by Mexican grey wolves; and,

WHEREAS, Resolution № 56-2025 acknowledges that all locally available public and private resources are insufficient to cope with the escalating wolf crisis; and,

WHEREAS, Catron County's emergency declaration invokes the use of all available county resources and necessary emergency powers, and formally requests immediate assistance and relief from the State of New Mexico and the federal government under the All Hazard Emergency Management Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 12-10-1 et seq., the New Mexico Civil Emergency

Preparedness Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 12-10-1 to 12-10-11, and other relevant emergency statutes; and,

WHEREAS, Valencia County acknowledges the inadequacy of local resources to respond to the severity of the crisis in Catron County, which continues to escalate and threatens broader regional economic stability, cultural heritage, and public health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Valencia County, that the County formally supports Catron County's declaration of a public-safety disaster and urges the Governor of New Mexico and relevant state and federal agencies to immediately respond with funding, personnel, and emergency resources as requested by Catron County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Valencia County Board of Commissioners finds that the conditions reported by Catron County constitute a continuing and regional emergency requiring urgent and sustained intergovernmental coordination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Valencia County Commission calls upon all appropriate agencies, including the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Department of Game and Fish, the Department of Finance and Administration, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to take immediate steps to mitigate further harm and to restore balance to the impacted areas.

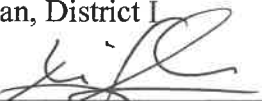
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners requests that the Governor direct the Adjutant General to order into service any elements of the New Mexico Army National Guard, the New Mexico Air National Guard and the New Mexico State Defense Force as are or may be needed to provide military support to the civil authorities of Catron County, to protect the county's livestock, inhabitants and to provide wolf conflict avoidance consistent with the Endangered Species Act 10J rule, as needed for this emergency 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.

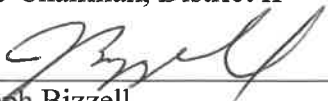
APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 23rd day of July 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF VALENCIA COUNTY


Gerard Saiz
Chairman, District I


Troy Richardson
Vice-Chairman, District II


Morris Sparkman
Commissioner, District III


Joseph Bizzell
Commissioner, District IV


Dante Berry
Commissioner, District V

Attest:


Mike Milam, County Clerk

