



Mexican Gray Wolf Rule Change Public Hearing

What to Expect & How to Prepare



Albuquerque Training Call

Tuesday, November 19th

6:30 to 7:30 pm MST

Call in Number: 1-800-356-8278

Access Code: 585948



Road Map

- What is a public hearing and why should you attend?
- What to expect
- How to prepare
- Hearing details



© Ron Paul



What is a Public Hearing?

- An opportunity for the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to hear from the public directly
- Provides another way to offer official comments (other than in writing)
- Oral testimony becomes part of the official record



If not you, then who?

This is your opportunity to share your passion and opinion
with key decision makers.

Always Remember —your voice does make a difference!



© David Bolin

© Bill Keeting



What to Expect?



- Speak directly to a panel of 3-5 federal officials and biologists
- Testimony will be recorded
- You will not be able to ask questions of the panel while testifying
- Address the panel, not the audience
- Strict time limit – will be between 1 and 3 minutes, depending on how many sign in to speak.



What to Expect?

Who else will be there?

- Fellow wolf supporters
- Press and Media
- People who do not like Mexican gray wolves



It's important to be civil and professional
in your comments and actions

Those who do not like lobos may be vocal and loud – don't let them distract you from giving your important comments and **do not engage them.**



How to Prepare: Before the Hearing

It's essential for FWS to HEAR that you want any new Mexican wolf rules to support real recovery



© Mike Wheeler

Most important: Use your own words!

- Use Defenders' talking points to get started, but...
- Don't use all of the talking points
- Write out your testimony and submit it at the hearing
- You will only have one to three minutes



How to Prepare: Before the Hearing

A few more tips

- Start with the statement that you support full recovery of Mexican wolves
- Explain that any rule changes must be based on the best science
- Personalize your testimony
- You don't need to include background information on wolf recovery

© Jim Luerssen/Defenders of Wildlife



© Marcy Moore



How to Prepare: Before the Hearing

Practice your testimony at home to make sure you are within the time limit



The panel will ask you to stop once you've reached the time limit.



Tips for Testifying in Person

- Speak slowly and clearly
- Make eye contact with the panel
- Stay focused in your message
- Be respectful of the hearing officers and others while they are testifying
- It's okay to be nervous!



The Day of the Hearing

Pick up your Save the Lobo sticker to show your support!

Look for Defenders and other pro-wolf groups in the Ocotillo room

- meet fellow wolf activists
- get last minute information and updates
- practice and refine your testimony



The Day of the Hearing

Be sure to pick up your Save the Lobo sticker to show support

Starting at 4 pm, meet us in the Ocotillo Room for inspiration, information, and refreshments! Sign ups to speak at the hearing begin at 5 pm, and wolf activists will rally outside at 5:15 to show our support for lobo recovery.



There is a lot of interest in this issue, and we want to make sure our voices are heard.



Albuquerque, NM

Wednesday November 20th

- **Hearing Location**

Embassy Suites
Sandia Room
1000 Woodward Place NE
Public Hearing: 6 – 9 pm

- **Save the Lobo Event**

Embassy Suites
Ocotillo Ballroom
1000 Woodward Place NE
4 pm on

Arrive as early as 4 pm for refreshments and inspiration. Be there by 5 pm to sign up to testify, and don't miss the pro-wolf demonstration outside at 5:15.



Questions?

