



Mexican Gray Wolf Rule Change Public Hearing

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# What to Expect & How to Prepare



# **Pinetop Training Call**

Monday, December 2nd  
6:30 to 7:30 pm MST

Call in Number: 1-800-356-8278

Access Code: 562018 #



# Road Map

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



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# 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 Keating



# 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 Hotel Boardroom

- 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 3:30 pm, meet us in the Hotel Boardroom for inspiration, information, and refreshments! The FWS briefing will begin at 3:30, and the hearing will begin at 6.



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



# Pinetop, Arizona

## Tuesday December 3rd

- **Hearing Location**

Hon-Dah Conference Center

3 miles outside of Pinetop - Junction of Hwy 260  
and Hwy 73

Public Hearing: 6 – 9 pm

- **Save the Lobo Headquarters**

Hon-Dah Conference Center

Hotel Boardroom

3 miles outside of Pinetop - Junction of Hwy 260  
and Hwy 73

3:30 pm on

Arrive as early as 3:30 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?

