

Frequently Asked Questions about the Mexican Wolf/Livestock Coexistence Council and 2014 Strategic Plan

What is the Mexican Wolf/Livestock Coexistence Council?

The Mexican Wolf/Livestock Coexistence Council (Coexistence Council) is an 11-member volunteer group of livestock producers, tribes, environmental groups, and county coalitions that directs disbursement of the Mexican Wolf/Livestock Interdiction Trust Fund (Trust Fund) to qualified applicants. The Trust Fund is administered by the non-profit National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The Coexistence Council was appointed by the Southwest Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in April 2011. The intent in forming the Coexistence Council was to gather a broad cross-section of members with divergent views on Mexican wolf reintroduction to develop a strategic plan to address Mexican wolf-livestock conflicts that accompany Mexican wolf reintroduction in Arizona and New Mexico.

The Coexistence Council has now completed the Mexican Wolf/Livestock Strategic Plan (Coexistence Plan), which provides the basis for the disbursement of these funds.

What is the Mexican Wolf/Livestock Coexistence Council Strategic Plan?

The Coexistence Plan is an innovative program to reduce wolf/livestock conflicts and the need for management removals of depredating or nuisance wolves. The Coexistence Council's program creates incentives for ranching in ways that promote self-sustaining Mexican wolf populations, viable ranching operations, and healthy western landscapes.

The Coexistence Plan provides the basis for disbursement of funds from the Trust Fund and is comprised of three core strategies: payments for wolf presence, funding for conflict avoidance measures, and funding for depredation compensation.

Payments for wolf presence are based on a formula that considers a variety of factors to determine allocation of the annual funding for each applicant, including whether the applicant's land or grazing lease overlaps a wolf

territory or core area (e.g., den or rendezvous area) and the number of wolf pups annually surviving to December 31 in the territory, recognizing that survival of wolf pups is not dependent upon the livestock producer. The formula also considers the number of livestock exposed to wolves and the applicant's participation in proactive conflict avoidance measures.

Up to 50% of the yearly budgeted funds will be available to support the voluntary implementation of wolf/livestock [proactive conflict avoidance measures](#) by livestock producers. Adaptive management techniques are available to reduce wolf/livestock conflicts, at the discretion of the livestock producer.

Direct compensation will continue for confirmed livestock deaths or injuries caused by Mexican wolves to livestock producers who are not otherwise receiving payments for wolf presence funding under the Coexistence Plan, unless they require immediate reimbursement. In such cases, the reimbursement amount will be subtracted from the payment for wolf presence allocation to that livestock producer.

The information for application of the formula to calculate a particular livestock producer's share of the Coexistence Council funding is obtained from the Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team, which manages the Mexican wolf project in Arizona and New Mexico, and the landowner or appropriate land management agency. The Coexistence Plan budget projection for year 1 was \$634,000.

The amount of money available each year through the Coexistence Council's program depends on [private and public funding](#) directed to support the Trust Fund, with available Fund balances being divided among eligible livestock producers who have applied to participate in the program. Applications to participate are due by May 1 of each year.

Why did the Coexistence Council develop the Coexistence Plan?

The Coexistence Council was formed to help address the real economic consequences to livestock producers whose operations are directly impacted by Mexican wolf reintroduction efforts in Arizona and New Mexico. In addition to losses incurred from wolf depredations upon livestock, livestock

producers incur costs from undetected depredations, changes in livestock behavior, and management operations in response to wolf presence. Changes in livestock behavior result in reductions in livestock weight gain, reproductive rates, and meat quality; and changes in management operations can mean increased costs tied to managing wolf/livestock interactions.

The aim of the Coexistence Plan is to provide incentives for implementing proactive measures to reduce conflicts between Mexican wolves and livestock on a shared landscape and begin to help offset the economic effects of wolves on participating livestock producers (Pay for Presence).

Are livestock producers in Arizona and New Mexico obligated to participate in the Coexistence Council's Plan?

No, livestock producers are not obligated to participate in the Coexistence Plan. However, any livestock producers who graze livestock on private lands, Tribal lands, or grazing allotments in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA); within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and San Carlos Apache Reservation; and on private lands adjacent to the BRWRA and who are affected by Mexican wolves are eligible to participate in the Coexistence Plan.

Does the Coexistence Council Plan provide for direct compensation for livestock losses incurred by wolf depredations?

The Coexistence Council has been providing depredation compensation for confirmed or probable livestock depredations (death or injury) by Mexican wolves since September 2010. The Council will continue to provide such compensation for livestock deaths or injuries to livestock producers who are not otherwise receiving Pay for Wolf Presence funding under the Coexistence Plan, unless they require immediate reimbursement. In such cases, the reimbursement amount will be subtracted from the Pay for Presence allocation to that livestock producer.

How do livestock producers obtain reimbursement for the presence of wolves on their grazing allotments or private land?

Livestock producers fill out an application form that is provided on the Coexistence Council's website (www.coexistencecouncil.org) and submit the completed application form to the Coexistence Council for review and

processing. The Coexistence Council reviews all applications received for the year, apply the formula, and directs disbursement of funds from the Trust Fund to the livestock producer. Livestock producers who graze livestock on private lands, Tribal lands, or grazing allotments in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA); within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and San Carlos Apache Reservation; and on private lands adjacent to the BRWRA, and who are affected by Mexican wolves, are eligible to apply for funding. Applications to the Coexistence Council are due by May 1 of each year. The Pay for Presence funds will be disbursed based on information from the previous calendar year. Funding for [proactive conflict avoidance measures](#) and depredation compensation is for the current calendar year.

How much funding is available in the Trust Fund to implement the Coexistence Plan?

The Trust Fund was initiated in 2010 with \$45,000 from Defenders of Wildlife; an additional \$40,000 was provided by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2012. This initial funding has been used since September 2010 to compensate livestock producers for Mexican wolf depredations. (Prior to 2010, depredation compensation payments were made directly to livestock producers by Defenders of Wildlife). In 2011, \$60,000 in Federal funding was granted through the [Livestock Demonstration Program](#) to Arizona Game and Fish Department. In 2013, additional Federal funding from the Fish and Wildlife Service's [Livestock Demonstration Program](#) was granted to the States of New Mexico and Arizona - \$50,000 to New Mexico Department of Agriculture and \$40,000 to the Arizona Game and Fish Department. In addition, these two agencies each received \$20,000 in 2013 from the Livestock Demonstration Program for depredation compensation. Both States applied for 2014 demonstration program funds and have been awarded a combined \$190,000 for depredation and preventive measures. The funding granted through the Livestock Demonstration Program requires a 50:50 non-Federal match, which will be provided by the Mexican Wolf Fund and Defenders of Wildlife working directly with livestock producers to implement proactive conflict avoidance measures to reduce conflicts between Mexican wolves and livestock.

With the recent roll out of its Strategic Plan, the Coexistence Council is actively seeking funding support from public and private sources.

When will the Coexistence Council start implementing the Coexistence Plan?

The Coexistence Council started implementing the Coexistence Plan in 2014. Eligible applicants can obtain an application form on the Coexistence Council website: www.coexistencecouncil.org. Applications must be received by May 1. Pay for presence funds are retroactive and will be based on information from the previous calendar year. Funding for proactive conflict avoidance measures and depredation compensation is for the current calendar year.

In November 2014, the Coexistence Council issued its first payments to 26 Arizona and New Mexico livestock operators who participated in the Coexistence Plan's pilot year. The payments, totaling \$85,500, were based on Mexican wolf data and livestock information from calendar year 2013.

What is the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation?

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to creating public/private partnerships to conserve the Nation's fish, wildlife, and plant resources. NFWF supports conservation efforts in all 50 states, U.S. territories and abroad. NFWF neither advocates nor litigates. You can learn more about NFWF by visiting their website at: www.nfwf.org

Anyone interested in supporting the Coexistence Council's efforts can direct their tax-deductible contributions to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Trust Fund.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1133 15th Street N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20005
Attention: Mexican Wolf Fund

Or to [donate online](#), visit the Coexistence Council website:
www.coexistencecouncil.org

For more information on the Coexistence Council's Plan:

Visit the Coexistence Council website at www.coexistencecouncil.org

Or contact:

Sisto Hernandez: Chairman, Coexistence Council, 928.338.1404