

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WOLF-BREEDING PROGRAM SHOULDN'T BE PUT ON HOLD

Everyone in New Mexico and Arizona who cares about our wildlife and wild lands should be outraged that Republican special interests -- in the form of Rep. Steve Pearce and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service -- are attempting to destroy the program to restore the Mexican gray wolf to the Southwest.

While holding public meetings -- ostensibly to allow citizens to discuss the merits of a moratorium on releasing wolves from the captive breeding program and a draconian "predator control" policy -- the agency is already acting on its unscientific, unsound plans, trapping and shooting wolves at the behest of ranchers.

Those animals -- and the hope to restore the biodiversity of the Southwest -- belong to all Americans, not just to a few ranchers who hold leases on public lands. I call on Gov. Bill Richardson and all our public officials to support the wolf program and oppose the moratorium.

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