

Saturday, November 25, 2006

## Wildlife Officials Kill Problem Wolf

**By Tania Soussan**

*Journal Staff Writer*

An endangered Mexican gray wolf targeted for permanent removal from the wild for killing cattle was killed by the government reintroduction team this week.

The male wolf had killed two cows and a calf this year. No details were available Friday about how or where he was killed, said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Elizabeth Slown.

The wolf had been in the Gila Wilderness.

**Michael Robinson** of the **Center for Biological Diversity** in Pinos Altos, said the loss of the wolf was a step away from recovery for the species.

"We find it very sad," **he** said. "It was an unnecessary killing because the Fish and Wildlife Service knew how to prevent this and other wolves from becoming habituated to livestock in the first place."

**Robinson** said the wolf had scavenged on a cow carcass before starting to kill livestock. The wolf was killed Wednesday.

The reintroduction program also captured a female wolf that had fed on a cow with the male last week. She is being held at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, Slown said.

The wolves reintroduced in southwest New Mexico and southeast Arizona are considered "nonessential, experimental" animals so they can be killed for depredations even though they are endangered.

The program has shot other wolves for killing cattle, including four this year and three in previous years.