

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
REPORT#: 2015200932R001
APPROVED - CASE CLOSED

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<i>CASE TITLE</i> MEXICAN GRAY WOLF #1385 (COLLARED).	<i>REPORT DATE</i> 11/21/2017	<i>CASE NUMBER</i> 2015200932
	<i>REPORTING OFFICER</i> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)	<i>CASE STATUS</i> PENDING
	<i>APPROVED BY</i> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) - 01/02/2018 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) - 11/28/2017 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) - 11/21/2017 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) - 11/21/2017	

SUBJECTS OF REPORT

SYNOPSIS

This report documents the findings of female Mexican gray wolf #1385 (Collared) that was found dead in the area of Old Horse Springs, New Mexico. The wolf was sent to the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, for necropsy and the collar was sent to the New Mexico State Police Crime Laboratory for fingerprints examination. No legal hunting activities were authorized in the area.

DISTRIBUTION

Internal List

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

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DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Receives Information about Wolf Mortality

On February 17, 2015, at approximately 1600 hours, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Office of Law Enforcement (USFWS/OLE) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) received a call from Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program (MGWRP) Biologist (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). During the call, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) explained the information she had of a potential wolf carcass in the area of Horse Springs, New Mexico. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) indicated that she would be responding to the scene the following day. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) suggested (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) and ask for an officer to respond with her and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) would respond from Albuquerque, New Mexico. NMDGF Sergeant (Sgt.) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) assigned NMDGF Officer (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to the case and to respond to the scene with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C).

Officer (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and Biologist (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Find Mexican Gray Wolf #1385

On February 18, 2015, at approximately 0900 hours, Officer (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) met and searched for Mexican grey wolf #1385. Mexican grey wolf #1385 was found at the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). The wolf was in early stages of decomposition and the lower jaw was detached from the head.

(b)(3)-16 U.S.C. § 5937 (National Parks Omnibus Management Act)

(b)(3)-16 U.S.C. § 5937 (National Parks Omnibus Management Act)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Arrived at the Scene

On the same date, at approximately 1045 hours, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) arrived at the scene. The wolf was lying with the right side of its body up and head pointing to the east. A close examination of the collar revealed that it had a piece of magnet attached to the electronics of the collar using electrical black tape (*Agent's Note: It was apparent that someone wanted to block the collar from sending signals by attaching a piece of magnet to the electronics of the collar*). With the assistance of Officer (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) collected the carcass of Mexican gray wolf #1385 and the collar. Mexican grey wolf #1385 was assigned Seizure Tag #763919 and the collar was assigned Seizure Tag #763920.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

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Evidence Submitted for Analysis

On February 19, 2015, [redacted] submitted the carcass of Mexican gray wolf #1385 to the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (NFWFL) in Ashland, Oregon, for necropsy. The carcass was shipped via FedEx (See attachment #1, FedEx airway bill # [redacted]). [redacted] requested NFWFL personnel conduct a full necropsy of the carcass in order to determine a possible cause of death.

Collar Transferred to the New Mexico State Police Crime Laboratory

On February 25, 2015, [redacted] transferred the collar of Mexican gray wolf #1385 to NMDGF Investigator [redacted] and signed the Chain of Custody (See attachment #2, Chain of Custody). Then, Investigator [redacted], NMDGF Investigator [redacted] and [redacted] transported the collar to the New Mexico State Police Crime Laboratory in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for fingerprints examination.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECTS

No subjects have been identified at this time.

PRIOR VIOLATIONS

None to document as no subjects have been identified at this time.

WITNESSES

[redacted]
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement
4901 Paseo del Norte NE, [redacted]
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113
[redacted]

Wildlife Biologist [redacted]
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program
P.O. Box 856
Alpine, Arizona 85920
[redacted]

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Officer (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Southwest Area Operations
2715 Northrise Drive
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Investigator (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Investigator (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
3841 Midway Pl. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

LAWS VIOLATED

No violations of law have been identified at this time.

EVIDENCE

1. One (1) male Mexican gray wolf carcass #1385, assigned Seizure Tag #763919 (Item #1), is currently held at the NFWFL in Ashland, Oregon.
2. One (1) collar of Mexican gray wolf #1385, assigned Seizure tag #763920 (Item 2), is currently held at New Mexico State Police Crime Laboratory in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

(b)(7)(E)

Evidence Seized and Maintained by Another Agency:

No evidence has been seized and/or maintained by another agency at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of FedEx Airbill # (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), dated 02/19/2015 (1 page).
2. Copy of Chain of Custody Record, dated on 02/25/2015, (1 page).