Corbin Newman
Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

January 3, 2008

Dear Mr. Newman,

In light of the enclosed article from *High Country News* in which Adobe/Slash Ranch employee Mike Miller is quoted admitting to the baiting of wolves in order to induce them to kill cattle and thus (successfully) cause them to be removed from the wild, we request cancellation of all livestock grazing privileges and outfitting privileges granted to persons verified to have baited or otherwise illegally taken Mexican gray wolves.

The Mexican wolf is considered North America’s most imperiled mammal. Its reintroduction in 1998 was intended to achieve a first step toward eventual recovery through building a population of at least 100 wolves including 18 breeding pairs in the wild. Ninety-five percent of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area, in which the reintroduction is taking place, consists of the Gila and Apache National Forests. Yet federal predator control premised on protecting livestock has resulted in the wolf population only reaching 59 animals including six breeding pairs at the end of 2006, with even lower numbers expected in this month’s enumeration.

Permittees using national forest lands should be held to the highest standards of conduct in relation to their federal privileges. Baiting in order to affect take of wolves is illegal and immoral. All baiting of wolves undercuts recovery. The Forest Service should brook zero tolerance for baiting or other illegal take of wolves and should act expeditiously to cancel permits held by perpetrators or those who employ them. Any lesser standards or equivocation on the part of your agency will fail to ensure conservation of this critically endangered species and undercuts the Forest Service’s own integrity and reputation in fulfillment of its public responsibilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely endorsed by:

Elisabeth A. Jennings, Executive Director
Animal Protection of New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Jeff Williamson, President
Arizona Zoological Society
Phoenix, Arizona

Michael J. Robinson, Conservation Advocate
Center for Biological Diversity  
Silver City, New Mexico  

John Horning, Executive Director  
Forest Guardians  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  

Kim Crumbo, Conservation Director  
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council  
Flagstaff, Arizona  

Paula Lewis, Coordinator  
Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project  
Flagstaff, Arizona  

Stephen Capra, Executive Director  
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  

Daniel R. Patterson, Ecologist and Southwest Director  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility  
Tucson, Arizona  

David R. Parsons, Carnivore Conservation Biologist  
The Rewilding Institute  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  

Sandy Bahr, Conservation Outreach Director  
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter  
Phoenix, Arizona  

Susan Martin, Chair  
Sierra Club - Rio Grande Chapter  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  

Kevin Bixby, Executive Director  
Southwest Environmental Center  
Las Cruces, New Mexico  

Phil Carter, President  
UNM Wilderness Alliance  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  

Melanie Gasparich, Executive Director  
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance  
Gila, New Mexico
Greta Anderson, Arizona Director
Western Watersheds Project
Tucson, Arizona

Please respond to:

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