

# The Reality of Wolf Reintroduction in Catron County

➤ A Different Perspective



# Opening Thought

- I advocate for more wolves — a lot more.
- Let others experience what we live with.





# Why Catron County?

- • Vast federal lands
  - • Sparse population
  - • Minimal political resistance
- 



# Walk a Mile in Our Shoes

- “To understand a man, walk a mile in his shoes.”
  - (Old Proverb)
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# Game and Fish Department Mission

- “To conserve, regulate, propagate, and protect the wildlife and fish within the state of New Mexico...”



# The Wolf: A Unique Predator

- • Pack hunting power
  - • Highly social structure
  - • Hunts for sport
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# Changes I've Seen

- • Mule deer sightings rare
  - • Wild turkey vanished
  - • Loss of biodiversity
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# Economic Impact

- • Nearly \$1 billion/year to NM economy
  - • License sales = \$20M annually
  - • Rural areas depend on Game and Fish efforts
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# Wolf Population Density

- ▶ • 286 wolves on 2 million acres (NM/AZ)
  - ▶ • 100 wolves in Yellowstone (same size)
  - ▶ • 230 wolves across 6 million acres (WA)
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# Reasonable Requests Ignored

- • GPS collar data access
- • Restore original Standards of Evidence (SOE)
- • Lethal control when necessary



# The 500% Increase

- • Probable deprecations:
  - - 6 in 2023
  - - 30+ in 2024



# What Happens If Nothing Changes?

- • 10% growth = 500 wolves by 2030
- • Loss of hunting industry
- • Loss of livestock industry
- • Public safety crisis



# Public Safety Crisis

- • Wolves in town streets
  - • Wolves on school playgrounds
  - • Pets taken from porches
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More







# If It Were Santa Fe or Albuquerque...

- ▶ Would Game and Fish sit idly by if:
  - Wolves stalked schoolchildren?
  - Pets were taken off porches?



# Wolf Attack Statistics

- • 32 attacks in North America since 1995
  - • 3 fatal
  - • No rabid wolves included
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# Catron County's Resolution

- • April 3rd: Special meeting held
  - • Public Safety Disaster declared
  - • Plea for Governor's action
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# Ranchers and Wildlife Conservation

- • Ranchers provide water and salt for wildlife
  - • Vital to ecosystem stability, especially in drought
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# Questions for Game and Fish

- • Why deny GPS collar access?
  - • Why abandon effective SOE standards?
  - • Why refuse lethal control when needed?
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# Final Thought

- Catron County residents are not uneducated or anti-wildlife.
  - We love our land. We fight to protect it.
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# Closing Statement

- ▶ Will the New Mexico Game and Fish Department stand with us?
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