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INFORMATION SOURCES, BELIEFS AND VALUES OF KEY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
IN MEXICAN GRAY WOLF REINTRODUCTION

By

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In 1998, Mexican gray wolves (*Canis lupus baileyi*) were reintroduced to a politically-bounded area of federal public lands in New Mexico and Arizona. Citizen's reactions ranged from extremely positive to extremely negative. Today, the program is marked by both stakeholder conflict and restricted growth of the wild population. Three stakeholder groups are most visible in the current reintroduction effort: government employees from the agencies that develop or implement Mexican gray wolf management policies, livestock producers with permits to graze federal lands and wolf conservation advocates. This study explores stakeholder groups' beliefs and values regarding Mexican gray wolves and their reintroduction management, and assesses types of wolf information sources used by stakeholders. The study implemented a qualitative research design and methodology, using in-depth stakeholder interviews and a systematic analysis. Findings revealed that livestock producers tended to most value land rights and land control, whereas wolf conservationists most valued scientific concepts of wolves' role in the ecosystem and the chance to restore an endangered carnivore and government employees tended to emphasize solving stakeholder issues.