

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2277

To require the delisting of Mexican gray wolves under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 on a determination that the subspecies has been sufficiently recovered in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 4, 2018

Mr. FLAKE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To require the delisting of Mexican gray wolves under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 on a determination that the subspecies has been sufficiently recovered in the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DELISTING OF MEXICAN GRAY WOLVES.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
6 the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife
7 Service.

8 (2) MEXICAN GRAY WOLF.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Mexican
2 gray wolf” means the subspecies Mexican gray
3 wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) of the species gray
4 wolf (*Canis lupus*).

5 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “Mexican gray
6 wolf” includes any subspecies, distinct popu-
7 lation segment, or experimental population of
8 the species gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) that the Di-
9 rector determines after the date of enactment of
10 this Act will take the place of, or correspond
11 with, the subspecies designated as Mexican gray
12 wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) on that date of enact-
13 ment.

14 (b) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
15 vision of law (including regulations), effective beginning
16 on the date on which the Director makes a positive deter-
17 mination under subsection (c)—

18 (1) the Mexican gray wolf shall no longer be in-
19 cluded on any list of endangered species, threatened
20 species, or experimental populations under the En-
21 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et
22 seq.); and

23 (2) management of the Mexican gray wolf shall
24 be assumed by each State in which the Mexican gray

1 wolf is present, effective beginning on the date of the
2 determination.

3 (c) DETERMINATION BY DIRECTOR.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall
6 determine whether a population of not fewer than
7 100 Mexican gray wolves in a 5,000-square-mile
8 area within the historic range of the Mexican gray
9 wolf has been established, as described in the Mexi-
10 can Wolf Recovery Plan of 1982 prepared by the
11 Mexican Wolf Recovery Team (U.S. Fish and Wild-
12 life Service. 1982. Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan.
13 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New
14 Mexico. 103 pp.).

15 (2) STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.—A deter-
16 mination under paragraph (1) shall be made in ac-
17 cordance with applicable standards and procedures
18 used by the Director in determining the status of a
19 species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973
20 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

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