

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4255

To remove the Mexican wolf from the lists of threatened species and endangered species published pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2025

Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. CRANE, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. ZINKE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To remove the Mexican wolf from the lists of threatened species and endangered species published pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Enhancing Safety for
5 Animals Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. DELISTING OF MEXICAN WOLF.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Mexican wolf population has increased
2 for 9 consecutive years, growing by at least 11 per-
3 cent in 2024.

4 (2) At the end of 2024, the United States Fish
5 and Wildlife Service documented a presence of at
6 least 286 wild Mexican wolves and approximately
7 350 captive Mexican wolves.

8 (3) The United States Mexican Wolf population
9 is thriving and will meet its recovery goals for gene
10 diversity, population growth, and abundance.

11 (4) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service
12 has repeatedly moved Mexican wolf recovery goal-
13 posts through amended recovery plans, revised popu-
14 lation and genetic objectives, and reduced mitigation
15 opportunities.

16 (5) Current United States Fish and Wildlife re-
17 covery strategies and goals encompass not only the
18 Mexican wolf population in the United States, but
19 also in Mexico.

20 (6) Americans in the Mexican Wolf Experi-
21 mental Population Area bear the brunt of a rapidly
22 growing United States Mexican wolf population
23 without any chance of recovery because of failing
24 conservation activities in Mexico, a foreign country.

1 (7) Mexican wolves in the United States rou-
2 tinely kill livestock, pose serious safety risks to hu-
3 mans and pets, excessively prey upon game animals,
4 and reduce recreational opportunities.

5 (8) Depredation of cattle, horses, and other
6 livestock by Mexican wolves financially burdens
7 American farmers and ranchers living in and near
8 the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area.

9 (9) Rather than streamline Mexican wolf depre-
10 dation evidentiary standards to ensure ranchers are
11 properly compensated for livestock losses, the Wild-
12 life Services division of the Animal and Plant Health
13 Inspection Service imposed for a year a new stand-
14 ard requiring that subcutaneous hemorrhaging be
15 present on carcasses as a condition of confirming
16 that an animal was killed by a Mexican wolf.

17 (10) Confirming that livestock were killed by
18 Mexican wolves is often impossible under the newly
19 adopted evidentiary standard because livestock graz-
20 ing areas in and near the Mexican Wolf Experi-
21 mental Population Area are often thousands of acres
22 in size, depredations are commonly only discovered
23 days after they occur, scavengers often devour live-
24 stock carcasses along with depredation evidence, and

1 subcutaneous hemorrhaging remains preset for a
2 short period of time following depredation.

3 (11) Requiring evidence of subcutaneous hem-
4 orrhaging is inconsistent with other widely accepted
5 depredation evidentiary standards like bite marks,
6 tracks, and signs of struggle, and significantly re-
7 duces the ability for livestock owners to be made
8 whole financially after suffering losses through Mexi-
9 can wolf depredation.

10 (12) The Animal and Plant Health Inspection
11 Service's opaque depredation evidentiary standards
12 are not subject to a public notice and comment proc-
13 ess but are nevertheless blindly adopted by the
14 United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

15 (13) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
16 ice has refused to take or approve sufficient lethal
17 removal actions against Mexican wolves despite the
18 deaths, injuries, and damage caused by Mexican
19 wolves leading to at least 2 counties within the Mexi-
20 can Wolf Experimental Population Area declaring a
21 public disaster and emergency, and at least 1 Tribal
22 government formally supporting such declaration

23 (b) DELISTING OF MEXICAN WOLF.—Notwith-
24 standing any other provision of law, the Mexican wolf
25 (*Canis lupus baileyi*) is removed from the lists of threat-

1 ened species and endangered species, as applicable, that
2 are published pursuant to section 4 of the Endangered
3 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533).

4 (c) NULLIFICATION OF RULES RELATING TO MEXI-
5 CAN WOLF.—The following final rules issued by the
6 United States Fish and Wildlife Service with respect to
7 the Mexican wolf shall have no force or effect:

8 (1) The final rule titled “Endangered and
9 Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status
10 for the Mexican Wolf” (80 Fed. Reg. 2488; pub-
11 lished January 16, 2015).

12 (2) The final rule titled “Endangered and
13 Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision to the
14 Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexi-
15 can Wolf” (87 Fed. Reg. 39348; published July 1,
16 2022).

17 (d) BIFURCATION OF MEXICAN WOLF POPULATION
18 CRITERIA.—If the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) is
19 listed as a threatened species or an endangered species
20 under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
21 1531 et seq.) after the date of the enactment of this sec-
22 tion, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
23 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, may
24 not reference or otherwise consider—

1 (1) the status of the recovery of the Mexican
2 wolf in Mexico in developing or implementing under
3 section 4(f) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1533(f)) a plan
4 for the Mexican wolf; or

5 (2) the status of the Mexican wolf in Mexico in
6 determining under section 4(c) of that Act (16
7 U.S.C. 1533(c)) whether the Mexican wolf should
8 be—

9 (A) changed in status from an endangered
10 species to a threatened species;

11 (B) changed in status from a threatened
12 species to an endangered species; or

13 (C) removed from the lists of threatened
14 species and endangered species, as applicable,
15 that are published pursuant to section 4 of the
16 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
17 1533).

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