



Executive Summary

2022 Joint Stockmen's Convention

Deleting People from the Land: The Radical/ Government Agenda with Mexican Wolves, Tom Patterson, New Mexico Cattle Grower's Association, Wildlife Committee Chair

Albuquerque, NM—2022 Joint Stockmen's Convention: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities

Summary:

“There are many small ranches in the Mexican wolf experimental population area for which the economic impacts for Mexican wolves may be difficult to sustain,” Tom Patterson said. “That’s our government putting our people out of business, removing us from the landscape.”

In 2022, approximately \$4 million was dedicated to Mexican Wolf repopulation efforts. \$58 million has been spent so far for recovery efforts, and the 25-year projection estimates \$200 million will be required for this project. For cattle producers, the threat of encroaching wolf populations has been devastating.

Eighteen groups have been outspoken in supporting repopulation and redistribution efforts, petitioning for a National Framework for Management of Conflicts Between Livestock and Native Carnivores on National Forest System Lands. In these discussions, producers are expected to face the brunt of the financial disparity for repopulation and redistribution efforts. “The radicals want to remove cow calf operations from the landscape,” Patterson said.

Key Points:

1. Approximately 220 Mexican wolves reside in NM and AZ.
2. Original intentions were to keep wolves south of I-40; activist groups advocate for repopulation north of I-40.
3. A cap limit does not exist for repopulation efforts.
4. Legal, lethal removal of wolves will not be authorized.
5. Producers should advocate for support of technology to identify and track wolf populations and moving patterns.

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