



STATE OF ARIZONA LIVESTOCK LOSS BOARD

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October 8, 2020

Mexican Wolf / Livestock Council
2105 Osuna Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Chairman Sisto Hernandez,

Thank you for responding to my letter dated July 30, 2020. I wanted to clarify some issues that we have relied on correspondence to clarify. Before that though, I want to state that our organizations share the goal of supporting the livestock industry as Mexican wolf recovery moves forward. As our organizations have a shared interest, I believe that communications would be most effective if we could meet and discuss our operations.

To clarify what appears to be an issue between our organizations, the Arizona Legislature established the Arizona Livestock Loss Board pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes 17-491, 17-492 and 17-493 to establish and implement procedures to compensate landowners, lessees or livestock operators for wolf depredation on livestock, and to administer the Livestock Compensation Fund and therefore the ALLB works directly with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to administer the funds provided to that agency via the Wolf Livestock Demonstration Project Grant Program. This program is authorized in Subtitle C of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11) (Act). In that the Arizona Game and Fish Department is the applicant for these grant funds, the agency is ultimately responsible to ensure that all grant requirements are met in accordance with federal guidelines; this includes documenting the match requirements, which are a one to one match either in cash or allowable in-kind match.

The ALLB views the Mexican Wolf Coexistence Council as having the same goal as the ALLB, which includes offsetting the economic impacts of wolves on individual producers by reimbursing confirmed and probable wolf caused losses and help to reduce their losses by approving projects and funding programs that will discourage and prevent wolves from killing livestock. Given the charge of the Arizona Legislature, it is this board that administers the Wolf Livestock Demonstration Grant funding from the AZGFD.

That said, to comply with the federal granting requirements, should the Mexican Wolf Coexistence Council seek to continue their long-standing and respected program, the Council will be required to apply to the ALLB for funding as do all other interested parties. As an applicant, the Council will also be responsible for providing the match for any grant funding provided. To be clear, this only applies to the Council's activity in Arizona and does not affect any operation outside this state.

As I have said in other letters, I think it is important to state that the ALLB and the Coexistence Council have the same goal, and we can best accomplish this in open dialog and not only in letters. I would propose that you and I meet with our respective staff to begin discussions. Please feel free to reach out to me should you like to begin this discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ken Van De Graff', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Van De Graff