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Mexican Wolf Reintroduced 15 Years Ago

#LoboWeek Celebrated

Tenino- No one knows exactly when it happened, but by the mid-1970s, the [Mexican wolf](#) had all but disappeared from the United States and Mexico. Indigenous to North America, five of the rare wolves were eventually located and trapped in Mexico. These five, combined with two others found in captivity, formed the basis for the genetic restoration of the nearly exterminated wolf.

A [Mexican gray wolf](#) Species Survival Plan (SSP) was developed with a goal of restoring the mammal through captive breeding and reintroduction to historic ranges. And on March 29, 1998, in white-out conditions, captive-born Mexican wolves stepped out into the wild for the first time in 15 years.

In 1994, Wolf Haven International was selected to participate in the SSP program. Since that time, the sanctuary has produced five litters of Mexican gray pups and released two packs - 11 wolves - into the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in Arizona. Some of the first Mexican wolves released back into the wild came from Wolf Haven (which is one of only three pre-release facilities for the Mexican wolf in the United States).

During the week of **March 23 - 30**, SSP facilities, wildlife advocacy organizations, Wolf Education Centers and individuals will come together with one common purpose - to educate the public about this most genetically distinct subspecies of gray wolf in North

America, the Mexican gray wolf. The hashtag **#LoboWeek** will be used as we share information about this beautiful, endangered animal.

There are currently about 75 individual Mexican wolves living in the wild in Arizona and Mexico. Thirty-seven years after receiving protection under the Endangered Species Act, the Mexican gray wolf remains the most endangered mammal in North America and the most endangered subspecies of gray wolf in the world.

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Wolf Haven International a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to conserve and protect wolves and their habitat. Wolf Haven gives sanctuary to displaced, captive-born wolves, promotes wolf restoration in historic ranges and educates the public about the value of all wildlife.