LOSING LOBOS

1 By the early 1980s, Mexican gray wolves (also known as lobos) were extinct in the wild. They were saved by a captive breeding program started by only seven remaining wolves. All Mexican gray wolves alive today are descendants of these seven "founders."

2 Since releases from captivity began in 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has never released enough wolves to preserve the full genetic heritage of the founders.

3 As a result, the wild wolves have lost significant genetic diversity, but the wolves in captivity still have genes not represented in the wild.

4 Due to the dwindling genetic diversity in the wild, we are seeing smaller litters, lower pup survival and a population less able to adapt to changing conditions.

5 To increase the genetic health of the wild population, FWS needs to get more wolves into the wild as quickly as possible.

6 The longer the wild population goes without new releases, the worse the problems will become, requiring even more wolf releases in the future.

7 FWS needs to assert its authority over the mounting political pressure from the states and do its job: Recover the Mexican gray wolf!

MORE WOLVES | LESS POLITICS