

Forest Supervisor Dick Markley
Gila National Forest
Silver City NM 88061

December 20, 2007. sent via e-mail.

RE: V & T allotment

Dear Mr. Markley – In today's High Country News online edition, it was revealed today that Mike Miller, a ranch hand for the Adobe-Slash Ranch, intentionally baited a Mexican gray wolf in order to promote cattle depredation in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Area. This action resulted in the killing of the alpha female of the Durango pack.

The admissions of Mr. Miller can be found at
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=17419.

The owner of Adobe Ranch holds a grazing permit for the V +T allotment on the Black Range Ranger District of the Gila National Forest. **The Forest Service should immediately suspend the grazing permit for the V + T allotment and all other permits this operator may have within the forest.** The Forest Service is under no obligation to provide livestock grazing privileges to an operator, which if the admissions are true, has violated the Endangered Species Act, and deeply disrespected the public, who overwhelmingly support Mexican gray wolf reintroduction.

Your agency has a responsibility to send a strong signal that anti-wildlife behavior like this from public lands permittees will not be tolerated. It is clear that the Adobe-Slash Ranch has crossed the line and they should be swiftly penalized for this kind of behavior on public lands.

Please offer us a response at your earliest convenience. Sincerely,

Daniel R. Patterson, Ecologist and Southwest Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Tucson AZ, swpeer@peer.org

Greta Anderson, Arizona Director
Western Watersheds Project, Tucson AZ, greta@westernwatersheds.org

Kim Crumbo, Conservation Director
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Grand Canyon AZ, kcrumbo@grand-canyon.az.us

Michael Robinson, Conservation Advocate
Center for Biological Diversity, Silver City NM, michaelr@biologicaldiversity.org

Jeff Williamson, President
Arizona Zoological Society, Phoenix AZ, jwilliamson@thephxzoo.com

cc: USFWS, NM Gov. Bill Richardson, US Rep. Raul Grijalva