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## **Exciting News At The California Wolf Center**

By Angela McLaughlin - Julian Journal • Thu, Jul 14, 2016

The California Wolf Center in Julian recently confirmed the birth of seven Mexican gray wolf

This is a huge success for the center and for the survival of the species. Mexican gray wolves are a sub-species of the North American gray wolf. Their range has historically covered areas of Mexico, Arizona, Texas and New Mexico. They nearly disappeared from the wild, with only seven unrelated Mexican gray wolves left in the world, before becoming federally protected. Even so, there are fewer than 400 in existence, making them a critically endangered species.

The center recently started a fundraising campaign at www.gofundme.com/protectlobos to help support Mexican wolf recovery and the new litter of puppies.



Mexican gray wolf pups were recently born at the California Wolf Center. Photo Courtesy of the California Wolf

As one of the largest participants in the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan captive breeding program, the center plays an important part in their recovery in the wild. The litter, which includes three females and four males, has successfully passed their first health checks and vaccinations. California Wolf Center Director of Operations Erin Hunt says they are "cautiously optimistic."

The center will be using remote cameras to monitor the pups, striving to be as non-invasive as possible.

"Preventing habituation is absolutely critical to the success of these wolves if they are to be released into the wild — which we hope they will be someday," says Hunt.

Due to the possibility of being release candidates, the puppies and parents will not be exhibited to the public. However, the center's usual public and private tours will continue.

Hunt says, "We are over-the-moon excited about this important contribution to Mexican gray wolf recovery."

For information about the California Wolf Center, visit www.californiawolfcenter.org.

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