



# Red Wolf Recovery Program

## *Welcome*

Welcome!

The meeting will begin momentarily. Thank you for your patience as we wait for others to join.

\*Please join using computer audio

\*Closed captioning is available by selecting the Live Transcript button on your Zoom toolbar and then selecting show subtitles.



# Red Wolf Recovery Program

## *Meeting Agenda*

### **Meeting Agenda**

- Meeting Ground Rules
- Introduction
- USFWS Presentation – Emily Weller
- Question and Answer Session
- USFWS Presentation – Joe Madison
- 5-minute break
- Question and Answer Session
- Closing Remarks



# Red Wolf Recovery Program

## *Ground Rules*

1. The meeting is being recorded; and will be posted to the USFWS website.
2. Microphones and videos of participants will be automatically muted for the duration of the meeting.
3. Questions will be addressed during the Question-and-Answer sessions following each presentation. If you have any questions during the presentation, please submit them via the Zoom chat.
4. If you submitted a question during registration, there is no need to resubmit that question.



# Red Wolf Recovery Program

September 2025

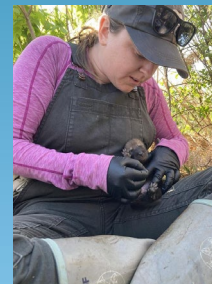
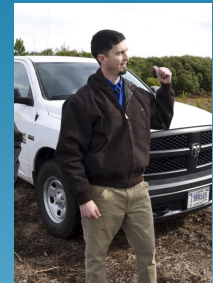
*Virtual Public  
Information Meeting*





# Red Wolf Recovery Program *Team*

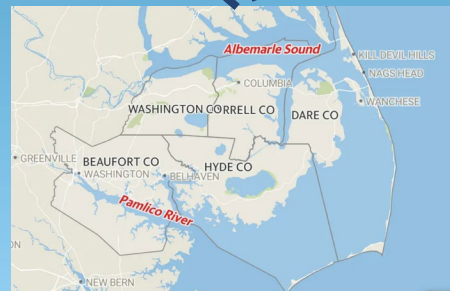
- Program Coordinator
- NC Program Manager
  - 3 Field Biologists
  - PFW Biologist
  - 1-2 Temp Bio Techs
  - Volunteers
- Work closely with:
  - National Wildlife Refuges/  
Law Enforcement
  - Office of Communications
  - Office of Law Enforcement





# Red Wolf Recovery Program

## *Contributors*





# Red Wolf Recovery Program

## *Mission/Approach*

### Mission

Work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance the endangered Red Wolf.



Photo courtesy of Woody Sandy

### Strategic Approach



Landscape-Scale Restoration



Collaborative Conservation



Trust-Building



Community-Driven Conservation

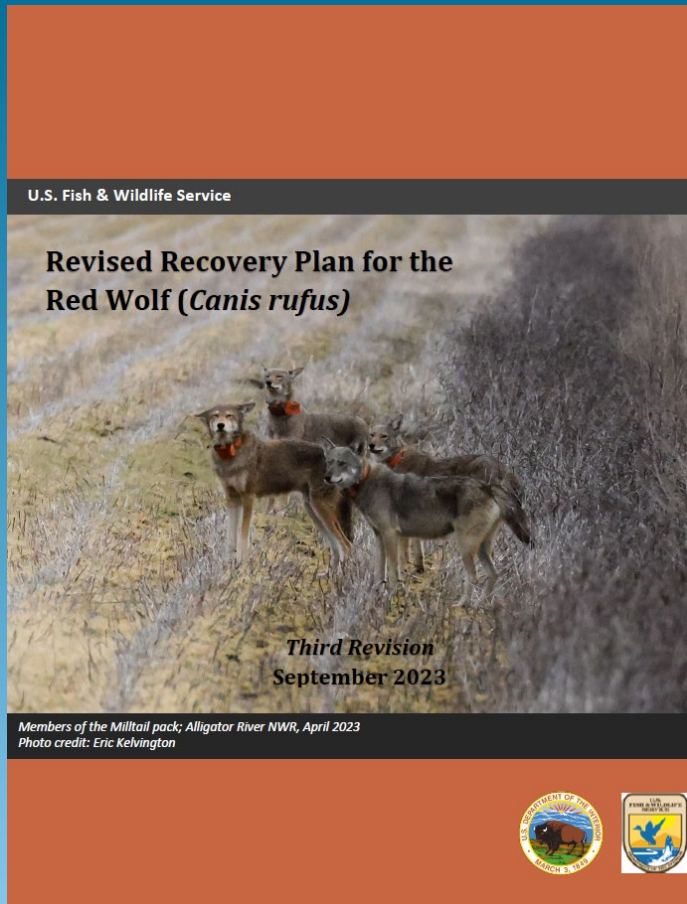


Innovative and Science-Based Management



# Red Wolf Recovery Program

## *Recovery Goals*



- Criterion 1: 3 viable populations distributed to max redundancy
- Criterion 2: Each population meets the following criteria for viability:
  - 1 pop = at least 180; 2 = at least 280
  - At least 80% GD maintained
  - Stable or growing for 10 yrs without extensive human interventions
  - 95% probability of persistence for 100 yrs
- Criterion 3: Adequate mechanisms or long-term commitments are in place
  - Provide high level of certainty that Criterion 2 will be maintained without ESA protections



# Red Wolf Recovery Program

## *Recovery Strategy*

- Expand Distribution
  - Additional populations
- Increase Population and Maintain Genetic Diversity Long-term
  - Grow SAFE population
  - Establish and grow wild populations
  - Address threats
- Implement Collaborative Conservation
  - Engage contributors
  - Shared understanding of goals, roles/responsibilities, and expectations

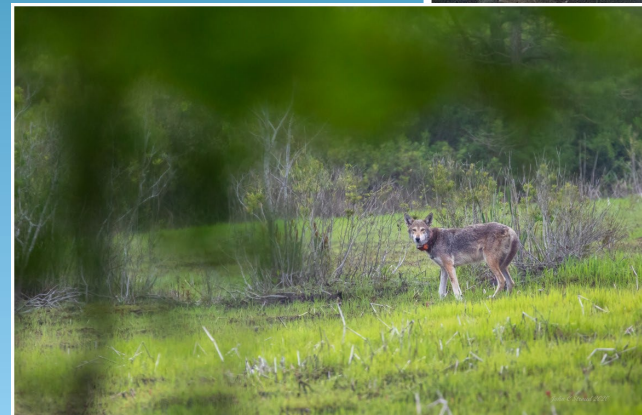


Photo courtesy of John Stroud

| Action Number |  | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1             |  | Develop with State wildlife agencies criteria for and identify all potential ecologically and socially suitable reintroductions sites that could support a viable population of Red Wolves within the species’ historical range                                                                     |
| 2             |  | Further engage State wildlife agencies and other contributors in discussions and collaborative efforts to determine locations for additional Red Wolf populations                                                                                                                                   |
| 3             |  | Increase capacity of the SAFE population to maintain a minimum of 400 Red Wolves to support establishment of wild populations of Red Wolves and maintain gene diversity                                                                                                                             |
| 4             |  | Develop controlled propagation plan for the SAFE population to optimize reproduction and reduce mortality to reach a minimum of 400 Red Wolves, and sustain a healthy population                                                                                                                    |
| 5             |  | Organize and maintain Red Wolf teams (RWT) for each population to work towards recovery                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 6             |  | Develop and implement mechanisms for formal participation of all contributors for each population to ensure engagement of all perspectives in Red Wolf recovery                                                                                                                                     |
| 7             |  | Develop and implement population-specific strategies and recommendations for each population with contributors                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 8             |  | Sterilize or remove coyotes to minimize hybridization and facilitate establishment of Red Wolf populations                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9             |  | Conduct outreach, engagement, and school programs on Red Wolf conservation within local communities associated with Red Wolf populations to improve hunter, trapper, landowner, and global public awareness of Red Wolves and garner support for Red Wolf conservation at local and regional levels |
| 10            |  | Develop, with State wildlife agencies and other appropriate government entities, a management plan for transition of management authority for each population to ensure the population retains viability                                                                                            |
| 11            |  | Gather information needed to assess adequacy of existing management, long-term commitments, and regulatory mechanisms in mitigating or eliminating threats to Red Wolf in each population                                                                                                           |
| 12            |  | Revise recovery plan to include site-specific recovery actions for new Red Wolf populations                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 13            |  | Maintain or restore habitat within the ENC RWP area to provide sufficient resources to support a viable population                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 14            |  | Implement and monitor strategies to reduce gunshot mortality in the ENC RWP to achieve the target 50% reduction of mortality, as detailed in Miller et al. 2023 PVA, to facilitate an increase in the Red Wolf population                                                                           |
| 15            |  | Implement and monitor strategies to reduce vehicle strikes in the ENC RWP to achieve the target 50% reduction of mortality, as detailed in Miller et al. 2023 PVA, to facilitate an increase in the Red Wolf population                                                                             |
| 16            |  | Increase law enforcement presence in ENC RWP area to assist in public outreach, deter illegal killing, investigate Red Wolf mortalities, enforce existing regulations, and coordinate with law enforcement from other agencies                                                                      |



# Red Wolf Recovery Program

## *Current Focus*



- Finalize Recovery Implementation Strategy
- Increase the SAFE population
- Continue to manage/increase the ENC RWP
  - Expand coyote sterilization
- Conservation Conflict Transformation
- Identification of Potential Reintroduction Sites



# Red Wolf Recovery Program

## *Conflict Transformation*

- Conservation Conflict Transformation (CCT)
  - Relationship-centered
  - Wildlife conflicts mirror broader challenges
  - Opportunity
- Progress
  - Deeper Understanding
    - [www.constructive-conflict.com](http://www.constructive-conflict.com).
  - Strategy Shift
  - Respect and learning before shared problem solving
- Much more to do!



Photo courtesy of Eric Kelvington



# Red Wolf Recovery Program

## *Potential New Sites*

- Service has yet not done an analysis
  - No sites have been identified
- Need State agency input
- Better understand State wildlife agency perspective
- Interagency Team
- Timeline?



Photo courtesy of David Busch



# Red Wolf Recovery Program Summary

## Key Messages

- A new approach built on lessons learned
- Recovery Plan is our guide
- Recovery is about more than biology—it's people too
- Red Wolf recovery is about more than Red Wolves
- Collaboration is key to making recovery possible
- Local voices and Tribal knowledge are essential
- We are committed to trust, transparency, and meaningful engagement

## Current Focus

- Finalize the Recovery Implementation Strategy
- Increase the SAFE population
- Strengthen the ENC RWP
  - Grow population
  - Reduce threats
  - Expand coyote sterilization
- Continue CCT/relationship building
- Develop Interagency Team

