



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

75 SPRING STREET, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

April 23, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Refuge Manager, Alligator River NWR, FWS, Manteo, NC
Endangered Species Field Supervisor, FWS, Asheville, NC

FROM: Regional Director, FWS, Atlanta, GA (AFA/SE)

SUBJECT: Intra-Service Section 7 Consultation, Proposed Red Wolf
Reintroduction, Alligator River NWR, Dare and Tyrrell Counties,
North Carolina (FWS Log No. 4-0-86-022)

This responds to your request of March 13, 1986, for a Section 7 consultation on the subject action relative to the listed red wolf (Canis rufus).

On April 11, 1986, we completed the examination of the above action and reviewed the biological information provided by you along with information available in our files. During the course of this review, Mary Anne Young, Marshall Jones, Bob Cooke, and Gary Henry were contacted.

A review of your project and information obtained indicates that the action proposed involves the reintroduction and reestablishment of the red wolf on Alligator River NWR. Acclimating and releasing up to six mated pairs of animals over a 1-year period with the purpose of developing a self-sustaining population as a first step to enhance the potential for recovery of the species in the wild, and into portions of its historic range.

The species' reproductive vigor in captivity is secured and its survival is biologically assured. However, reestablishment in the wild is the only means by which the red wolf can be preserved as a naturally occurring element of our natural resources. The knowledge and techniques required to accomplish such a task are now available.

Experiments have demonstrated that it is feasible to reestablish adult wild-caught red wolves in selected habitats in the wild. In addition, observations on the species indicate that establishment of captive-reared specimens in wild situations is also feasible. The Alligator River NWR possesses many characteristics that make it a primary candidate for a red wolf reintroduction attempt by providing a large, unconfined mainland site that will allow the establishment of a social structure through natural selection. This should result in a truly wild and self-sustaining population.

Therefore, as a result of this examination and rationale, it is our Biological Opinion that your action, as proposed, will promote the conservation and is not likely to jeopardize the existence of the red wolf or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat for this species.

Incidental Take

This incidental take statement addresses all red wolf reintroduction project-related activities. When the experimental population regulations are finalized and approved, those lawful activities included in the regulations will supersede this incidental take statement.

After reviewing the information provided and concerns relative to the possibility of incidental take of red wolves during transportation or as a result of reestablishment efforts, it is anticipated that incidental take of two red wolves may occur. However, to minimize such impacts, the refuge manager and red wolf project coordinator should develop and implement all necessary safety measures needed to avoid incidental take and maintain adequate coordination with project personnel. The refuge manager and red wolf coordinator will assure that every effort is made by project personnel to avoid this possibility.

In the event of incidental take, the refuge manager and/or red wolf coordinator will provide a report describing the incidental take, actions taken to prevent reoccurrence, and disposition of the specimen. The refuge manager and/or red wolf coordinator should contact the special agent to obtain instructions on the disposition of such specimen.

If during the course of the action the amount of extent of incidental taking previously specified is exceeded, the refuge manager and the field supervisor must reinitiate consultation immediately.



SECTION 7 EVALUATION
FIELD OFFICE - ASHEVILLE

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REGION: 4

LOG NO. 4-2-86-315

PROGRAM(S): Red Wolf Reintroduction

LOCATION (ATTACH MAP): Alligator River NWR, Dare & Tyrrell Counties, NC

LISTED SPECIES OR CRITICAL HABITAT CONSIDERED:

Red-cockaded woodpecker (No Critical Habitat)
American alligator (No Critical Habitat)

NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Reestablish the red wolf on Alligator River NWR by acclimating and releasing five mated pairs of animals over a one year period.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION:

To recover the endangered and extinct-in-the-wild red wolf via reintroductions into the species' historic range. Reintroducing the species onto the Alligator River NWR would be the first step in this recovery effort.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT OF ACTION ON LISTED SPECIES OR CRITICAL HABITAT:

The reintroduction and development of a self-sustaining population that would utilize the refuge would not impact any endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat.

RECOMMENDATION TO AVOID ANY IMPACTS:

None

PROJECT LEADER John J. Fay DATE 2/6/86

WILL NOT AFFECT: MAY AFFECT:

COMMENTS:

Red Wolf Project Coordinator
~~SECTION 7 TEAM:~~ Walter T. Palmer DATE 3/13/86

WILL NOT AFFECT: MAY AFFECT:

COMMENTS: I CONCUR that the red wolf reintroduction will not impact other endangered or threatened species on the refuge. There will, however, be a "MAY AFFECT" of this reintroduction on the red wolf itself. Please see attached documentation.

Acting ENDANGERED SPECIES SUPERVISOR: V. Gary Henry DATE 3/13/86

WILL NOT AFFECT: MAY AFFECT:

COMMENTS: I concur in no effect on other endangered species. Because of the "may affect" situation on the red wolf itself, I have changed the evaluation to "may affect." I recommend that the Regional Director issue a "no jeopardy" biological opinion ASAP, recognizing the positive conservation aspect of the project.

Acting ARD-WUR: Phillip J. Morgan DATE 4/8/86

WILL NOT AFFECT: MAY AFFECT:

COMMENTS: ^{J med} Concur with Henry's may affect red wolf portion.

ARD-FA: John Dent DATE 4/23/86

WILL NOT AFFECT: MAY AFFECT:

COMMENTS:

Concur

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: James M. Manning DATE 4/23/86

WILL NOT AFFECT: MAY AFFECT:

COMMENTS: BIOLOGICAL OPINION ATTACHED