

**LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM PARTNER'S AGREEMENT
FOR RED WOLF RECOVERY**

Cooperators:

1. Mattamuskeet Ventures, Attn. Jamin Simmons, [REDACTED]
2. Red Wolf Coalition, Attn. Aubrey Remige, P.O. Box 2318, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
3. Red Wolf Recovery Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1969, Manteo, NC 27954. Phone: 252-473-1131 x 243; Fax: 252-473-4836. (FWS Org Code: 41630)

Summary

Cooperation with landowners is vital to successful achievement of recovery for the endangered red wolf (*canis rufus*). Mattamuskeet Ventures owns and manages approximately 15,000 acres of game land located in Hyde County, North Carolina, south of the Intracoastal Waterway and north of Lake Mattamuskeet. This partner agreement conveys \$12,000 in Landowner Incentive Program funds in return for mutually agreed to conservation and management actions on Mattamuskeet Ventures land which benefit red wolves.

Background:

A separate five year land access agreement was signed in 1998 between the Red Wolf Recovery Program and Mattamuskeet Ventures. The 1998 agreement is renewable in 2003, and it provides \$2,000 per year in Red Wolf Recovery Program funds to Mattamuskeet Ventures. In return, red wolves and Program personnel are allowed access to Mattamuskeet Ventures land for purposes of red wolf conservation, recovery, monitoring and management. This 2002 agreement recognizes the 1998 agreement and its renewal(s).

Authorities:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is authorized to implement actions which develop, manage, advance, conserve and protect wildlife resources. This Service authority and resulting partner agreement are authorized under the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. sec. 742a et seq.), the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. sec. 668dd et seq.), and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543; 87 Stat. 884, as amended).

The Red Wolf Coalition is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting red wolf recovery through education, outreach, research and partnerships. Landowners and hunters are important partners to The Red Wolf Coalition.

Description of Agreement:

Through this Partner Agreement, both the Red Wolf Recovery Program (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and The Red Wolf Coalition provide a total of \$12,000 in Landowner Incentive Program funds to Mattamuskeet Ventures. In return, Mattamuskeet Ventures agrees to implement habitat management and hunter education measures which benefit the endangered red wolf on their land.

Hunter Education. Mattamuskeet Ventures will partner with The Red Wolf Coalition to educate hunters about the red wolf and the importance of distinguishing red wolves from coyotes while hunting.

Habitat Management. Mattamuskeet Ventures will implement habitat and/or game management measures which benefit red wolves by enhancing prey availability (e.g., mice, rabbits, racoons, deer, etc.) or otherwise providing habitat components important to the red wolf for breeding, food, shelter and general refugia. Habitat or game species management measures may include the following kinds of actions.

- a. Food plots; other contracted plots
- b. Successional vegetation management (grasslands, brush, trees, etc.)
- c. Prescribed burning
- d. Wetland management; moist soil management.
- e. Creation of edge habitat
- f. Creation of wolf den protection zones
- g. Other measures as mutually agreed to by all three cooperators

Since all of the management measures described above will benefit red wolves, the \$12,000 conveyed by this agreement will be used in 2002 and 2003 to accomplish tasks related to all or several of the measures.

Adaptive Clause:

This Landowner Incentive Program Partners Agreement may be revised at any time by any of the three cooperators listed at the top of the first page of this agreement.

Mutual Protections:

No part of this agreement shall adversely affect or interfere with the fulfillment of obligations and rights of the agreement's cooperators to manage, administer or otherwise implement the lands and programs within the scope of each cooperator's authority, ownership or jurisdiction.

Any of the three cooperators in this partner agreement may terminate the agreement by providing written notice to the other cooperators. Early termination of the agreement may result in returning Landowner Incentive Program funds to the Red Wolf Coalition.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the three parties hereto have executed this Landowner Incentive Program Partner Agreement on the latest date of the three dates written below.

DATE
8/2/02

SIGNATURES (NAME and TITLE)
Mattamuskeet Ventures
Mattamuskeet Ventures

7/31/02

Red Wolf Coalition
Red Wolf Coalition

8/2/02

Buddy B. Fazio, TEAM LEADER
Red Wolf Recovery Program, USFWS