

Subject: Important Q and A

Date: Monday, August 18, 2014 at 7:15:36 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Miranda, Leopoldo

To: Jon Gassett

Jon,

Below is a question I posted to our legal office (Solicitors) regarding our authorities to release animals on private lands. I think this question and answer may be important as part of the evaluation. Specifically for the "management" section.... Just recently, I found out that we in fact, have released many animals onto private lands.

Leo

Question 1: According to the 1986 and 1995 Final Rules published in the Federal Register, the Service was to introduce wolves "on federal lands only." Through the years, it looks like red wolves also have been introduced onto private lands (presumably with the approval of the landowners approval although there is no documentation of such approvals or agreements). There are data on wolves being released onto private and federal lands. *Given the Service's statements in the final rules regarding establishing wolves on federal lands and the relaxed regulations for private landowners under the 10(j) rule, does the Service have authority to release red wolves directly onto private lands?*

Answer: No. Although your Rules acknowledge that landowners may assent to wolves using their lands, they neither contemplate nor provide authority for the direct release of wolves onto private lands.

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