

Red Wolf Recovery Program Review Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) conducting a review for the red wolf recovery program?

The Service recognized a need to gather additional science and research to help us better guide recovery of the red wolf in the wild under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). To that end, the Service announced in June it would engage state partners and key stakeholders in conducting a review that will support the agency's future recovery planning and implementation actions for red wolves.

2. What are the issues the Service will consider in the review of the recovery program?

The Service is working closely with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, academia, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners to gather the best available science on four components:

- (1) appropriate taxonomic designation and historic distribution of the red wolf;
- (2) long-term viability of the captive red wolf population;
- (3) recovery needs of the red wolf population given pressures such as hybridization with coyotes, human caused mortality, and climate change; and
- (4) how people and red wolves can co-exist.

3. What is a recovery team?

Section 4(f) of the ESA allows for the Service to establish a recovery team of appropriate public and private agencies, organizations and individuals to assist in the development and implementation of recovery plans for federally protected species. These teams serve at the request of a FWS Regional Director.

4. Why did the Service convene a new red wolf recovery team?

The Service is convening a new red wolf recovery team to provide expanded expertise and support as current challenges to recovering red wolves in the wild are addressed. The primary task for the recovery planning team, led by the science experts, will be to review the best available information provided for the each of four components. They have already started the process and are expected to convene in early December. The team will then develop a recommendation to the Service on recovery of the red wolf that reconciles updated science and provides guidance on priority implementation tasks to address the current challenges on the landscape facing recovery of this imperiled species.

5. How did the Service select the red wolf recovery team members?

The red wolf recovery team members have been selected based on professional scientific expertise or experience in one or more of the four components of the review, as well as their capacity to help with the next steps in recovery planning and implementation.

The diverse composition of the recovery team reflects the Service's commitment to ensure its actions are first, and foremost, grounded in sound science while also addressing any identified shortcomings of our past recovery efforts, especially in terms of engaging landowners in recovery planning and program implementation.

6. Is it typical to have non-biologists on a recovery team?

Yes. Recovery teams are often used to bring together the diversity of expertise necessary to develop an effective recovery program for a federally protected species and help with its implementation. This concept proved very valuable for the manatee recovery efforts. Recover teams provide numerous advantages including: focusing best available science, increasing depth of expertise, and providing a mechanism for multiple agencies and engaged stakeholders to interact and participate in the planning and implementation of actions necessary to recover and sustain the listed species.

Additional frequently asked questions related to the red wolf recovery program are available at: www.fws.gov/redwolf/faq.html