



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
DOI-FWS-2021-001752

1 Wildlife Drive  
Sanibel, Florida 33957

March 9, 2021

Email: [erasheed@selcnc.org](mailto:erasheed@selcnc.org)

Elizabeth Rasheed  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
601 West Rosemary Street, Suite 220  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516

Dear Ms. Rasheed:

The Fish and Wildlife Service Atlanta Regional FOIA office received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated January 11, 2021 and assigned it control number DOI-FWS-2021-001752. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request.

In your request, you asked for the following records:

- *“All records from January 7, 2020 through the date of the agency's search for this request related to the trapping, collaring, or releasing of red wolves, coyotes, or red wolf-coyote hybrids in Northeastern North Carolina, including planned or completed releases of captive red wolves into Northeastern North Carolina.*
- *All records from January 7, 2020 through the date of the agency's search for this request related to the sterilization of coyotes or red wolf-coyote hybrids in Northeastern North Carolina.*
- *All records from January 7, 2020 through the date of the agency's search for this request concerning FWS's efforts to revise the red wolf rule or develop any supporting analysis for the Proposed Replacement of the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of Red Wolves in Northeastern North Carolina, 83 Fed. Reg. 30, 382 (June 28, 2018) [“Proposed Rule”], or documents received in response to the Proposed Rule”.*

### Response

We are writing today to partially respond to your request on behalf of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

On January 20, 2021 we had a call to discuss your request. The agreement was to first provide the program level documents related to the planning, decisions, and outcomes for the time period in your request related to the trapping, collaring, and moving wolves and coyotes, specifically for bullets 1 and 2 of your request.

It is our understanding that after you receive the first subset of documents (attached), you will advise us if we should continue with additional information within your request OR if the information provided satisfies your request.

We have searched our records and have located eleven (11) files that are responsive to your request. We have enclosed these files consisting of forty (40) pages, which are being released to you in their entirety.

Because this is an interim response to your request and we are waiting to hear back from you, we will provide notice of your appeal rights in our final response letter if necessary.

### **Mediation Services**

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Web: <https://www.archives.gov/ogis>  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Fax: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

You may also seek dispute resolution services from our FOIA Public Liaison, Cindy Cafaro, at (888) 603-7119.

### **Conclusion**

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. See [5 U.S.C. 552\(c\)](#). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (404) 679-4104 or by email at [tiffany\\_mcclurkin@fws.gov](mailto:tiffany_mcclurkin@fws.gov). Thank you for contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,

3/9/2021

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**X** Tiffany McClurkin

Tiffany McClurkin  
Government Information Specialist  
Signed by: TIFFANY MCCLURKIN

Enclosures