



USFWS Red Wolf Plan Update VPM

Welcome! The meeting will begin momentarily. Thank you for your patience as we wait for others to join.

**Please join using computer audio*

**Closed captioning is available by selecting the Closed Caption icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen*



Meeting Agenda

- Meeting Ground Rules
- USFWS Presentation
- Question and Answer Session
- Closing Remarks



Meeting Ground Rules

- 1.The meeting is being recorded; and will be posted to the USFWS website.
- 2.Microphones and videos of participants will be automatically muted for the duration of the meeting unless the moderator unmutes you during the Question-and-Answer session.
- 3.Questions will be addressed during the Question-and-Answer session at the end of the PowerPoint presentation.

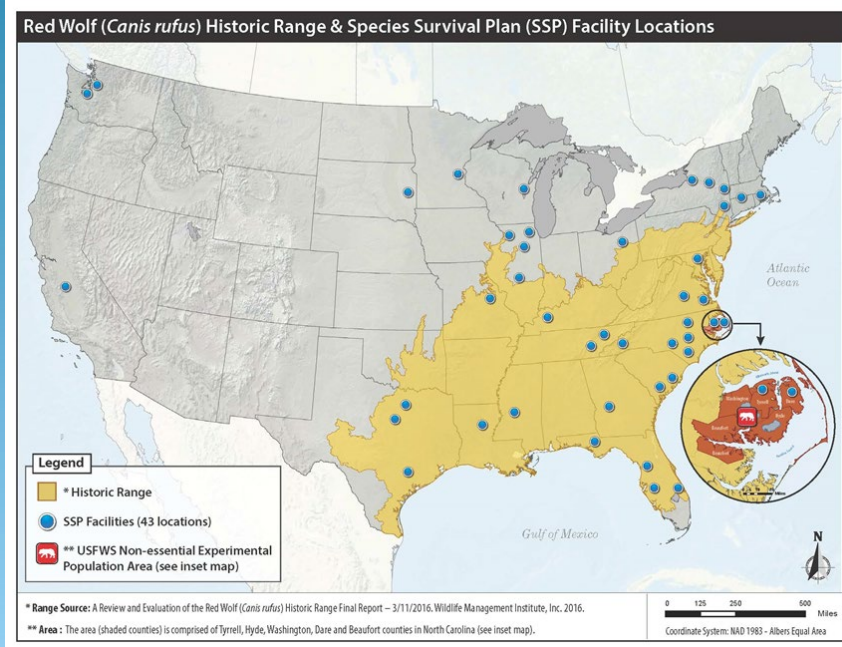


Red Wolf Recovery Program

Red Wolf



- Distinct, native species
- Larger than coyote, but smaller than gray wolf
- Diet = white-tailed deer and small mammals (e.g., nutria, raccoon)
- Once a common species
- Decimated by predator control programs, habitat loss, coyote hybridization
- Listed under the ESA as endangered





Red Wolf Recovery Program

Road to Recovery

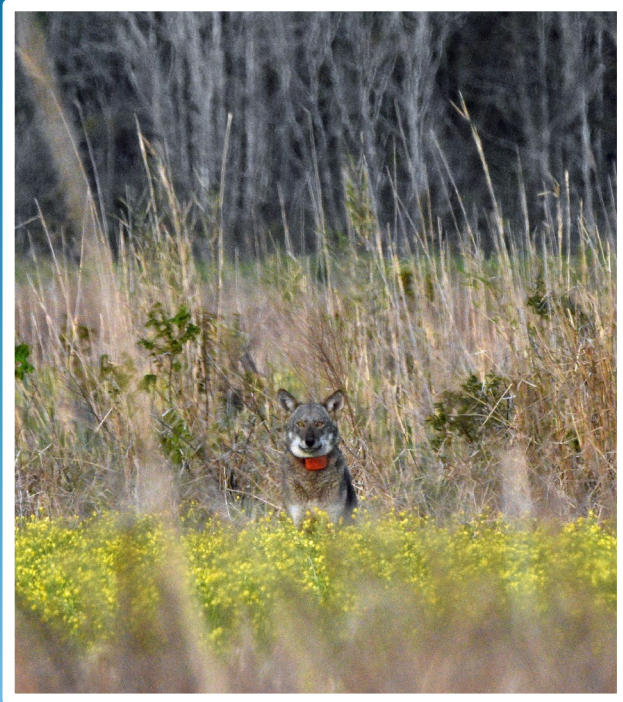


- Focused on:
 - Updating the recovery plan
 - Increasing captive breeding capability
 - Increasing collaboration and communication
 - Restore the NC Population



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

History



- 1986 - Rules established for non-essential experimental population (NC NEP) limited to Alligator River NWR. First red wolves released 1987.
- 1995 - Rules modified to recognize that red wolves were using private lands. Expanded provisions for take of red wolves to address landowner concerns.
- Mid-1990's - Coyotes established themselves on the Albemarle Peninsula. Hybridization a renewed threat to red wolves.
- 2000 - Adaptive management plan implemented to manage hybridization (including use of sterilized coyotes).
- Mid-2000's - Gunshot mortality begins to increase.
- 2012 – NC NEP red wolf population peaks near 120.
- 2018 - Last known wild-born litter in eastern NC.



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Court-Ordered Changes

- Currently within the 5-county NC NEP area the rules allow:
 - Anyone to take a red wolf that is threatening human safety.
 - Anyone to take a red wolf that is in the act of killing livestock or pets.
 - Landowners to harass red wolves found on their property in ways that do not cause harm to the wolves.
 - Fish and Wildlife Service and State biologists to remove animals that pose non-immediate threats to human safety or pet/livestock.
 - Unintentional take (e.g., vehicle strikes).
- The rules no longer allow:
- Fish and Wildlife Service to remove red wolves not posing a threat from private property upon landowner request.
- Fish and Wildlife Service to issue authorizations to allow landowners to remove red wolves from their property.





Red Wolf Population in North Carolina *Management*

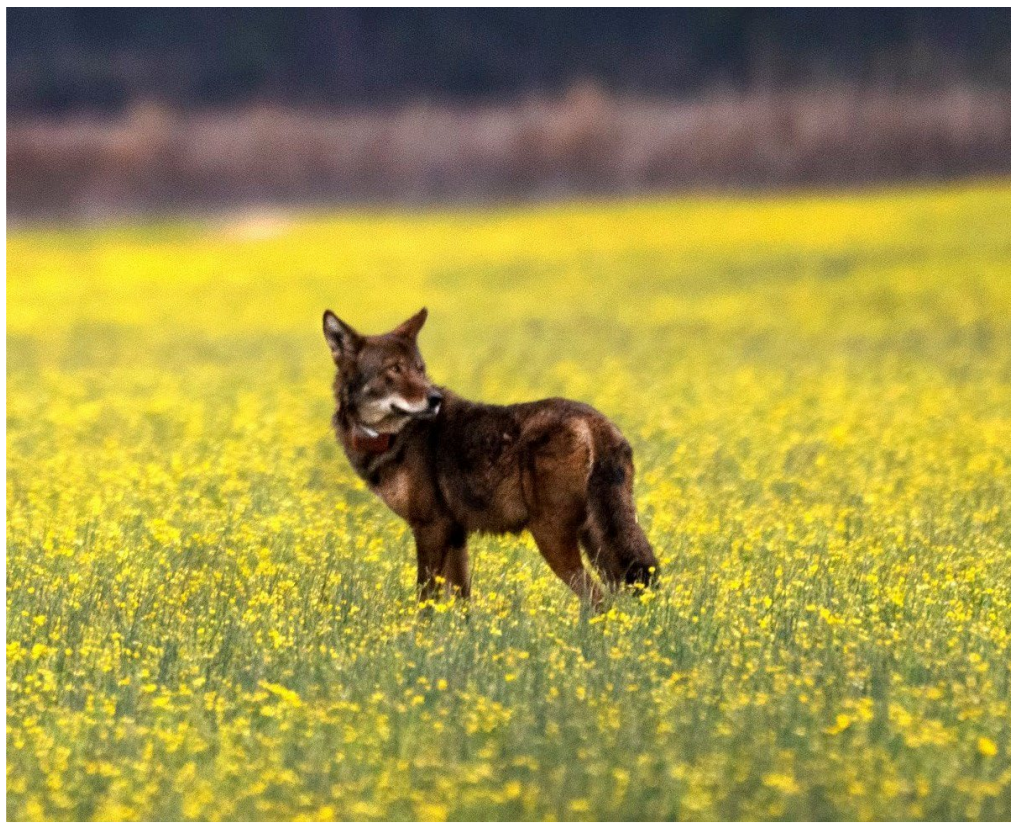


Photo courtesy of Running Wild Media

- No known wild litters of red wolves since 2018. Some known hybrid litters.
- We resumed efforts to increase the wild population in NC in 2019.



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina *Management*

- 2019: One adult male red wolf from St. Vincent NWR released on Alligator River NWR in February 2020.
- 2020-2021: Translocated two adult red wolves from St. Vincent NWR; Both paired with resident females on Alligator River NWR.
- Translocated 4 adult red wolves from captive breeding facilities to the NC NEP.
- Also in 2021 we fostered four pups from a captive-born litter into the litter of a wild red wolf mother with a coyote mate.





Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Mortalities

- 7 known mortalities of wild red wolves in 2021
- 5 vehicle strikes
- 1 undetermined
- 1 gunshot





Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Current Status

- Currently 8 known (e.g. radio-collared) adult wild red wolves in NC NEP.
- Estimated total wild population of less than 20 red wolves in NC NEP.



Photo courtesy of Leigh Gill



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Management



- Track/monitor each red wolf multiple times a week.
- Routinely monitor with remote sensing cameras.
- Conduct trapping from November through February



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Packs and Distribution

- Currently no "fully functioning" packs and no proven breeding pairs.
- One known newly formed pair.



Photo courtesy of Rich Thiesfield



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Current Distribution





Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Management



Photo courtesy of Christy Frank – Running Wild Media

- Plan to release 9 red wolves into the NC NEP this winter
- Family group of 5 on Pocosin Lakes NWR.
- Two pairs on Alligator River NWR.
- We will also pursue opportunities to form additional pairs and pup foster, if feasible.



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Reducing Vehicle Strike Mortality





Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Reducing Gunshot Mortality

- All red wolves will continue to be fitted with bright orange collars
- Red wolves are federally protected under ESA. Killing or harming them is illegal and can result in civil and/or criminal penalties
- Look closely for an orange collar. If you see one, don't shoot



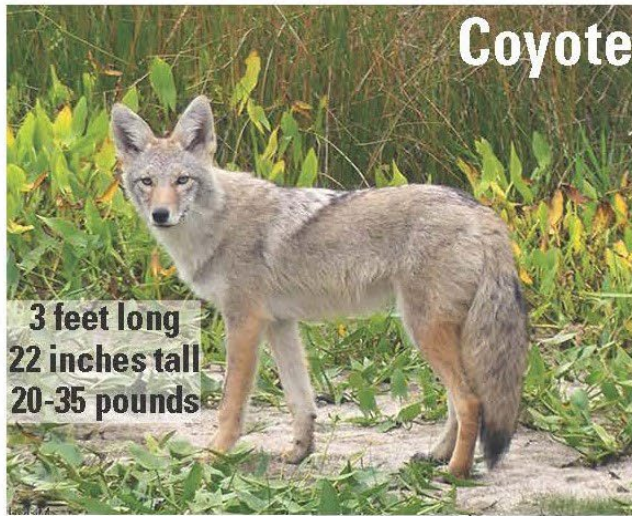


Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Reducing Mortality

**Before you
shoot...
know the
difference**

Harming a red
wolf is against
the law*





Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Coyote Sterilization



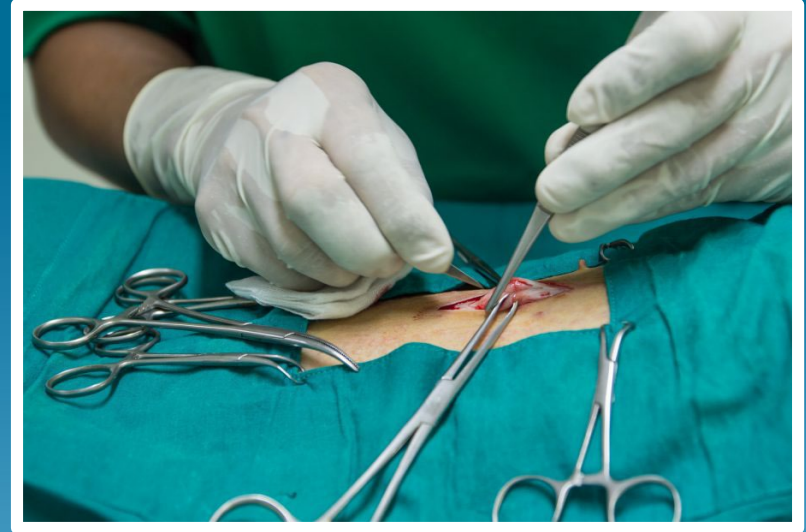
- Part of Adaptive Management Plan that began in 2000
- If a coyote is removed from the landscape, it is quickly replaced by one or more coyotes
- If a coyotes is captured and sterilized, they continue to hold/defend their territory but can't breed



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Coyote Sterilization

- Done at no cost to landowners
- All sterilized coyotes are radio collared and released back where they were captured.
- Reduces hybridization and the coyote population
- Can benefit landowners and their land management goals
- Benefits red wolf recovery





Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Community Engagement

1

Select Habitat to Improve

2

Develop a Habitat
Project with Staff

3

Sign Project Agreement

4

Implement & Complete
the Project

5

Submit Receipts
for Cost-share

6

Reap The Benefits

Interested?

Luke_Lolies@fws.gov

- or -

(252) 256-3676

**Prey For
The Pack**

A Habitat
Improvement
Program

- USFWS provides funding and technical assistance to landowners for habitat work to meet their land management goals
- Landowners agree to:
 - Allow red wolves to be present
 - Allow monitoring
 - And up to their comfort level allow use of the Adaptive Management Plan



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Habitat Improvement

- Partnering with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation on a similar habitat improvement project on Pocosin Lakes NWR.



Photo courtesy of John Stroud



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Community Engagement

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Pocosin Lakes
National Wildlife Refuge | North Carolina
205 S. Ludington Drive
Columbia, NC 27925
(252) 796-3004
www.fws.gov/refuge/pocosin_lakes
A UNIT OF THE
National Wildlife
Refuge System

Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Centers

Red Wolf Center

Call to Schedule

Interested in learning more about red wolves? Join us at

"Red Wolves 101"

Learn the history and biology of the American red wolf!

Program held at the Red Wolf Center located one mile south of Columbia on Highway 94

Walter B. Jones Center for the Sounds

Open Hours:
Thurs. – Sun.
10 am to 3 pm

Stretch your legs and learn!

Boardwalk Nature Walk

Self-guided 30-minute, ½ mile nature walk

Follow the black bear prints along the breezeway to the Center for the Sounds

Questions? Please call 252-796-3004 ext. 222 or email at katerina@ncwf.org
Like us on Facebook (@pocosinlakes)
The US Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access for all participants. Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate should contact 252-796-3004. Please contact us at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

Programs provided in partnership with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. Visit www.ncwf.org for more information.

- Partnership with North Carolina Wildlife Federation and National Wildlife Refuge Association
- Captive pair of red wolves in a public viewing pen
- Continuing to expand outreach and education efforts with partners



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

How Can I Help and/or Get Involved?

PREY FOR THE PACK



A HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FROM



North Carolina
Wildlife Federation



- Become a Prey for the Pack participant and receive funding and technical assistance from USFWS to work toward your land management goals



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

How Can I Help and/or Get Involved?

- Contact the USFWS Red Wolf Team directly if you have any concerns or issues related to red wolves

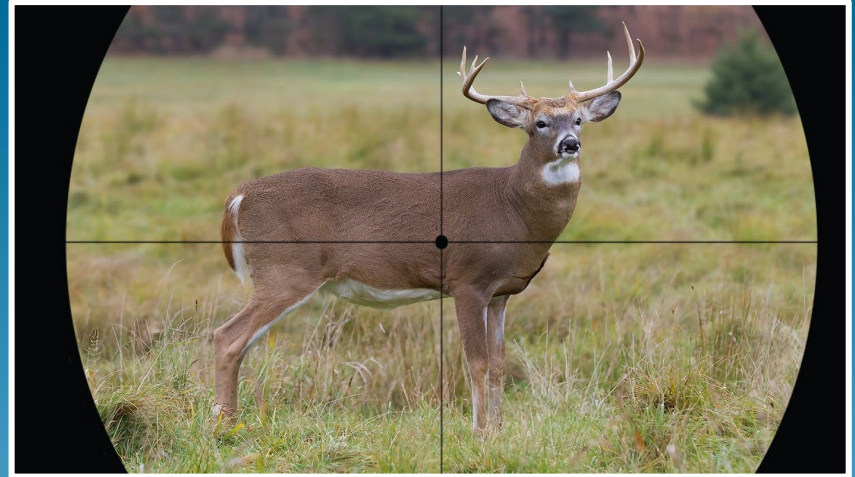




Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

How Can I Help and/or Get Involved?

- Visiting eastern North Carolina to view red wolves supports the local communities and counties with the only wild population of red wolves (e.g., guide services, lodging, food, etc.)



- Visit some of the over 40 zoos and wildlife conservation centers nationwide that are part of the red wolf captive breeding program



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

How Can I Help and/or Get Involved?

- Don't shoot collared canids
 - Illegal to shoot red wolves (orange collars)
 - To your benefit not to shoot sterilized coyotes (black or white collars)
- Drive with caution in areas with red wolves
- Engage in recovery efforts (e.g., public meetings, providing comments on recovery plans, etc.)





Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

Community Engagement

The USFWS Red Wolf Team is committed, available and interested in working with the community regarding questions, concerns and issues, and we are working towards increasing community engagement and transparency.

Who Should I Contact in Regarding Red Wolves in Eastern NC?

- Red Wolf Hotline 1-855-4-WOLVES (1-855-496-5837) or *redwolf@fws.gov*
- Luke Lories, Private Lands Biologist and Prey for the Pack at (252) 256-3676 or *luke_lories@fws.gov*



Red Wolf Population in North Carolina

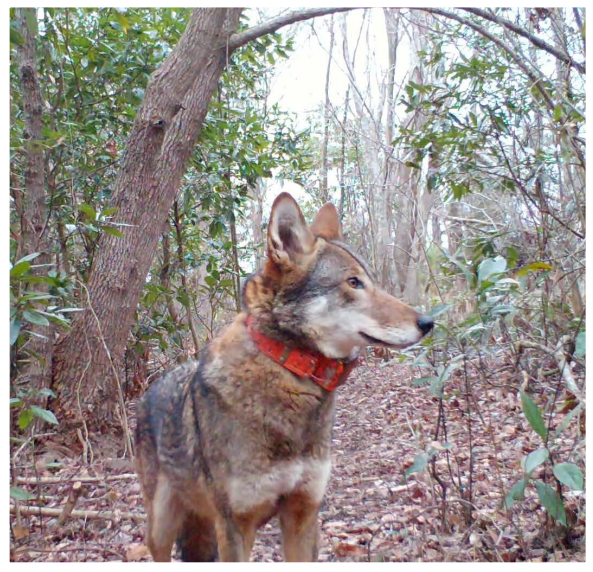
Community Engagement

Submit questions regarding this presentation to:

- redwolf@fws.gov

Answers will be provided via:

- Direct email response and/or posted on the Red Wolf Recovery Program website



Visit our website for more information and updates:

- <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/wildlife/mammals/red-wolf/>

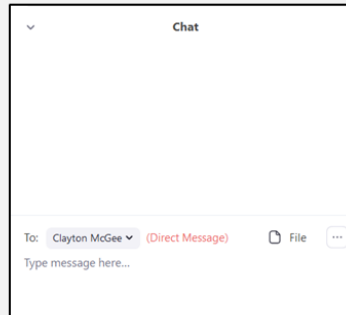
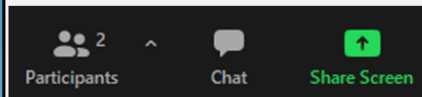


Question-and-Answer Session: Instructions



Using the Zoom Web Platform or App

- Click on the “chat” icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen to write and send your question to the host of the meeting ([Alli Yamnitsky](#)).



- The moderator will read questions aloud for all participants to hear and a USFWS staff member will respond to questions aloud.
- We will try to answer questions in the order they are received.



Using Your Phone

- Press *9 to “raise your hand” to let staff know you have a question. The moderator will then unmute you so that you can ask your question.
- You can unmute yourself by pressing *6 on your phone keypad.
- You will be identified by the last four digits of your phone number.



Thank You for Attending!

Who Should I Contact in Eastern NC?



- Red Wolf Hotline 1-855-4-WOLVES (1-855-496-5837) or redwolf@fws.gov
- Luke Lories, Private Lands Biologist and Prey for the Pack at (252) 256-3676 or luke_lories@fws.gov