

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Red Wolf Recovery Program

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Chronological Update on the North Carolina Red Wolf Population (NC RWP)

- January/February – Constructed acclimation pens
- February 1 – Hosted virtual public meeting to talk about the status of red wolf recovery, the upcoming releases and coyote sterilization.
 - o Announced recommitment to RWRP, including the NC RWP
- Early February – Captured a wild female red wolf on private land. Took this opportunity to try and pair her with a captive-born male from the SSP. She was also the last known red wolf without an orange collar.
- Collared all captive-born red wolves to be released with orange GPS/VHF collars with orange reflective material.
- Placed mobile electronic highway signs in multiple locations in closest proximity to red wolf releases and in areas with red wolf use.
- February 8 – Released red wolf pair (2272F and 2141M) on northern Alligator River NWR.
- March 15 – Released red wolf pair (2262F and 2157M) on southern Alligator River NWR.
- March 31 – Released the family group of 5 red wolves (2133F, 2145M, 2340F, 2339M and 2384M) in central Pocosin Lakes NWR.
- April 4 – Released the wild female red wolf (2280F) and captive born male red wolf (2267M) within her territory on Pocosin Lakes NWR.
- Tracking and monitoring every released red wolf on a daily basis.
- December through early April captured 20 wild canids and received 4 from private trappers. Sterilized/released 12 coyotes with white VHF collars.
- Close to completing additional Prey for the Pack agreements that would add just under 16,000 acres to the program in key locations adjacent to Pocosin Lakes NWR.

- Have worked with multiple local, regional and national media outlets over the past 3 months on articles, videos, etc. to get the word out about red wolf recovery in general and the releases.
- March 10 – Captured the male red wolf (2141M) released on north ARNWR in a neighborhood. He was injured and is currently at NCSU for recovery and will be assessed at a later date whether or not to re-release him into the wild
- March 11 - Found the female (2272F) released on northern Alligator River NWR deceased. Necropsy results are pending.
- April 11 – Captured the 2 year old male red wolf (2339M) released on Pocosin Lakes NWR as part of the family group. He will be returning to the SSP due to concern for his survival in the wild based on his continued behavior.
- During capture operations caught 2 of the pups fostered from Akron Zoo into a wild den on May 1, 2021. Both were females (2359F and 2361F). Both were collared with orange VHF collars and released near where they were captured.
- April 19 - Confirmed a wild red wolf litter of 6 pups (4F, 2M) on Alligator River NWR from red wolf pair 2225F and 2323F. First wild red wolf litter born since 2018! 2225F is a resident wild red wolf and 2323M was born in the wild on St. Vincent NWR and translocated to the NC RWP in late 2020 before being released onto Alligator River NWR in February 2021.
- St. Vincent NWR - Captive born red wolf male released on St. Vincent NWR in late January appears to have paired with one of the resident female red wolves. Remote camera footage indicated mating. Potentially denning, but has not been confirmed.