

Red Wolf Partnership Coordination Call – FY21Q4
FWS General Recovery Update
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Updating the Red Wolf Recovery Plan

Recovery Team

- FWS established a new Red Wolf Recovery Team to update the Red Wolf Recovery Plan, last revised in 1990.
- FWS contracted out facilitation and modeling services to help ensure a transparent, joint stakeholder/agency/partner process based on the best scientific information.
- Contract was awarded to Conservation Planning Specialist Group, a key member of the Species Survival Commission, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- An organizing committee consisting of Red Wolf Recovery Program staff, Conservation Planning Specialist Group, and representatives from North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, Red Wolf Species Survival Plan, and Virginia Working Landscapes assembled a diverse 50-member recovery team.
- Team consists of Federal and State agencies, Tribal representatives, County government, Academia, zoos/wildlife conservation centers, non-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations, and landowners.
- The Recovery Team will follow FWS's Recovery Planning and Implementation Process, a three-document approach consisting of:
 - 1) A Species Status Assessment (SSA) – Completed for red wolf in 2018, this document evaluates red wolf viability and provides the foundational biological information to develop and support a recovery plan.
 - 2) A Recovery Plan – A concise, visionary document that contains the elements required under section 4(f)(1)(B) of the Act: recovery criteria, recovery actions, and time and cost estimates.
 - 3) A Recovery Implementation Strategy – An itemization of the prioritized on-the-ground activities needed to implement the actions identified in the recovery plan.
- The team will participate in a series of workshops that will result in an updated recovery plan and recovery implementation strategy for the red wolf.
- A final recovery plan will be made available to the public by February 28, 2023.
- Once the recovery planning process is complete, the Recovery Team will be disbanded.

Recovery Plan

- In mid-September, the team concluded the first workshop which focused on elements of the recovery plan.
 - Breakout groups were utilized for focused discussion and product development. Groups then reported to the entire team for plenary discussion.
 - Below are summaries of those elements
- Vision - the desired future state of the red wolf when recovery has been achieved

- Through randomly assigned breakout groups, the team drafted a recovery vision, which included:
 - Identifying key elements of an effective recovery vision
 - Operational definition of important vision elements
- Recovery Goal – The goal of a recovery plan is simply delisting the species.
- Criteria – Objective, measurable thresholds or targets for the 3Rs (resiliency, redundancy, and representation) and threats to the species. At least one must be quantitative, others when feasible
- Actions – Site-specific, strategic recovery actions needed to meet recovery criteria. These are “visionary”, higher level.

Next steps

- Workshop facilitators will provide the team with a draft report from this workshop.
- A draft recovery plan will be developed from that report.
- PVA-focused workshops will begin after the first of the year.

Documentary Project with Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

- We are excited and honored to announce a collaboration between the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and FWS.
- The Cherokee Nation, with FireThief Productions, will be producing a documentary on the Nation’s relationship with the red wolf and the significance of the red wolf in Cherokee culture.
- The cultural significance will be connected with recovery efforts, particularly the work of the captive breeding program (the Species Survival Plan program) and the nonessential experimental population in North Carolina.
- A featurette will be produced by and broadcast on Osiyo TV. The documentary will be offered to Cherokee Nation schools and be made available for wider broadcast.
- It is our goal that the documentary will be part of future outreach and informational programs.