

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Eastern North Carolina Red Wolf Population

Red Wolf Recovery Program

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Update on the Eastern North Carolina Red Wolf Population (ENC RWP)

- Population

- The current known population of wild adult red wolves (e.g. radio-collared individuals) in the ENC RWP is 10, with the estimated total population of approximately 19-21 red wolves. All of the collared red wolves have orange collars.
- All collared red wolves are within their areas of expected use.
- As of September, all 6 of the red wolf pups born this spring on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge had survived.
- No mortalities of collared red wolves since the last PCC

- Management

- Ground telemetry conducted several days a week to get locations for all collared red wolves and sterilized coyotes. There are 24 sterilized coyotes with active radio collars.
- We have begun implementation of the Phase III release plan. Includes:
 - Increasing the number of breeding pairs in the wild, particularly by pairing a captive born red wolf with a wild red wolf
 - Pup fostering whenever possible
 - Translocating a wild female red wolf from St. Vincent NWR to the ENC RWP
 - A minimum of 4 captive born red wolves will be released and up to 9
- Currently one captive born red wolf in an acclimation pen constructed last week within the territory of wild red wolves on Pocosin Lakes NWR. Constructing a second acclimation pen on Alligator River NWR as we speak (October 20, 2022).
- Two people from the Red Wolf Team in NC will be going to St. Vincent NWR for the first couple of weeks of November to conduct capture operations with refuge staff there with efforts focused on catching one of the wild female red wolves on the island.

- Capture operations within the ENC RWP will likely start around mid-November. Attempts to capture the pups born this spring will not begin until at least January to ensure they are big enough to wear a radio collar.
- Meet with WRC on a monthly basis to coordinate canid management within the ENC RWP.
- Two Student Conservation Association interns started with the Red Wolf Recovery Program in NC this week.

Outreach

- Red Wolf Recovery Program staff conducted two public meetings during the first week of October, one in person and one virtual. A pdf of the PowerPoint is currently available on the Red Wolf Recovery Program website and a recording of the virtual public meeting will be posted soon.
- We are continuing to contact private landowners where we know red wolves are spending time based on tracking/monitoring to make them aware of the presence of red wolves and to address any potential concerns or issues.
- Red Wolf Recovery Program staff promptly responded to all calls, texts or emails received from landowners and members of the public regarding their questions, concerns, sightings and potential issues, including addressing time sensitive calls 24/7.
- Working to finalize multiple Prey for the Pack and other agreements geared toward providing access, monitoring and tolerance of red wolves on private lands.
- Continuing to call and meet with landowners throughout the ENC RWP to work toward potential agreements, including some promising developments with a large landowner.
- Red Wolf Coalition (RWC) has funded and implemented a Depredation Compensation Program to reimburse landowners for loss of livestock by red wolves, which is a rare occurrence. However, due to landowner concerns regarding the potential for red wolf depredation, RWC developed the program to provide valuable assurances to landowners, with hopes to increase tolerance and/or support regarding red wolves.
- RWC and the Red Wolf Recovery Program each purchased an additional electronic mobile highway sign. Along with the ones previously purchased by NCWF and the Red Wolf Recovery Program, we now have 6 signs to deploy in key areas throughout the ENC RWP.
- Sponsoring/mentoring 2 NSCU engineering student groups who are exploring ways to reduce vehicle strike mortalities and other aspects of red wolf conservation.

Questions?