

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
FILE
memorandum

DATE: August 12, 1991
REPLY TO: Red Wolf Coordinator, FWS, Asheville, NC
ATTN OF:
SUBJECT: Monthly activity report - July 1991
TO: Regional Director, FWS, Atlanta, GA (FWE/SE)
Attention: Mr. Dave Flemming

I finally completed perusal, sorting, and organizing project, literature, slide, and photo files for the project. I doubt that I can adequately convey the chaotic nature of this project material. For the entire length of the red wolf project, nothing had been filed in any organized manner. The project did not have clerical personnel and did not request such help from the Asheville Field Office or other offices. All correspondence, slides, literature, etc., were simply placed in totally intermixed stacks, with no organization whatsoever.

Everyday project coordination and information dissemination continues to consume tremendous time. Because our recent move has resulted in a temporary phone system that requires the recording of long distance calls (not including toll-free numbers), I had an opportunity to make a very simplistic evaluation of a portion of my coordination and information dissemination activities. For the last half of July, when calls were recorded, I have placed 95 long distance calls. In contrast, Asheville Field Office personnel, consisting of nine people (supervisor, five biologists, and three clerical personnel) placed a total of 152 calls during this same period of time. In addition I answered nine written requests for technical literature and responded to two letters of inquiry.

Now to subjects of interest, as opposed to those that are frustrating or boring!

The proposed rule for the Smokies release has not been published in the Federal Register; it was still at OMB at the end of the month (published in Federal Register on August 7, 1991).

I hosted (in Asheville) a technical meeting of red wolf project personnel from the Alligator River NWR, GSMNP, Tacoma facility, and University of Tennessee (UT). We reviewed, evaluated, and (where necessary) revised all current issues and future plans for the project.

Project personnel (Henry, Smith, Lucash, Crawford) met with GSMNP and UT personnel regarding status, future plans, schedules, responses to issues, and other items with regard to the GSMNP project. Decisions were made regarding responses to recent genetic research results, disposition of family group and back-up pair of wolves, methods to render released pair reproductively sterile, and details on fund raising.

I prepared and routed a draft position statement and possible news release on the hybridization issue to the recovery team and other experts for their review and comment. Upon request, I sent copies of the draft statement to the Knoxville Zoo, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), and Division of Endangered Species in Washington. The Knoxville Zoo needed it for justification in a grant request, and the GSMNP used it in an update to be distributed to the public regarding the Smokies release.

I prepared and submitted the Section 7 evaluation for the Smokies to the Cookeville Field Office for approval.

I distributed a project proposal for the Stennis Space Center/Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant to the recovery team and other experts for review and comment. This project has been placed on hold until the evaluation is completed.

I completed a questionnaire and provided other information to Garland Publishing Inc. for use in "Environmental Profiles: An International Directory of Projects and People."

I accepted an appointment to the Wolf Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Significant changes in the various projects and facilities are as follows:

A. Wild Populations

1. Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge - One adult yearling male was killed by a vehicle; the adult male reported as hit by a vehicle in my recent quarterly report had one front leg amputated and will be placed into captivity because he is not well represented in the captive population. His ability to breed will be evaluated; if there is a problem, his semen will be collected for use in artificial insemination. Unfortunately, both these male animals are from the group that was documented as having four pups. Thirteen adults and at least four pups remain in the wild.
2. GSMNP - Three of the pups have been transferred to captive pens at Alligator River NWR. The adult pair with their remaining two pups will be released this fall. The unbred pair will remain in a holding pen at GSMNP for possible future releases and as a possible attractant for holding the wild released animals in the area of release.

B. Captive Propagation

1. Graham, Washington - One female has died since my recent quarterly report. That leaves 35 adults and 11 pups.

2. Sandy Ridge, Alligator River NWR - The three pups from the Smokies bring the total in this facility to 7 young and 11 adults.
3. Baton Rouge Zoo, Louisiana - The male died, leaving only the female.

C. Total: We currently have 164 red wolves (114 adults and 50 pups).

This report is somewhat lengthy. Future reports should be more brief now that I have vented my frustrations!

V. Gary Henry

cc:

Mr. Roland Smith, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, 5400 N. Pearl Street,
Tacoma, WA 98407

Refuge Manager, Alligator River NWR, P.O. Box 1969, Manteo, NC 27954

Refuge Manager, Cape Romain NWR, 390 Bulls Island Road, Awendaw, SC 29429

Refuge Manager, St. Vincent NWR, P.O. Box 447, Apalachicola, FL 32320

Mr. Chris Lucash, c/o Cades Cove Ranger Station, Townsend, TN 37882

Field Supervisors, All Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Field Offices,
Southeast Region

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