

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
**FILE**  
memorandum

DATE: October 10, 1991

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: Red Wolf Coordinator, FWS, Asheville, NC

SUBJECT: Monthly activity report - September 1991

TO: Regional Director, FWS, Atlanta, GA (FWE/SE)  
Attention: Mr. Dave Flemming

The comment period for the proposed experimental nonessential population rule for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) release ended September 6, 1991. Of 56 comments received by the deadline, 47 were in support, 1 was neutral, and 8 were negative. Comments from groups; i.e., representing more than one person, included 9 in support, 1 neutral, and 2 negative. Thirty copies of the draft environmental assessment were distributed upon request. A final rule package (rule, summary, DOE, FONSI, executive summary, FEA, and Section 7 evaluation) was submitted to the Regional Office on September 12, 1991, and was approved and submitted to the Washington Office on September 19, 1991. Comments received after the deadline and not considered in the final rule totaled 15 (11 in support, 1 neutral, and 3 negative). Four of those in support were from groups; another supporting response was a petition with 262 signatures from students at an elementary school. One of the negative responses was addressed through a congressional by the National Park Service.

Surgery was performed on the red wolves to be released in the Smokies. All animals received abdominal transmitters, and a vasectomy was performed on the adult male. The surgery was performed at the University of Tennessee Veterinary School; everything went well.

A petition to delist the red, wolf based on hybridization of the species, was received from the American Sheep Industry Association. This petition was referenced in a negative response to the GSMNP proposed rule by the Southern States Sheep Council (SSSC). The SSSC comment requested delisting, halting of all reintroductions, and a 120-day extension of the comment period. The requests related to the petition and were therefore addressed, but denied, in relation to the GSMNP rule. A draft petition finding has been prepared and circulated to project and Service personnel for review and comment. The draft finding is that substantial information has not been presented to warrant the requested action.

Wildlife artist Janet Walker committed to assisting the recovery program by donating 50 percent of the purchase price of limited edition prints of an original acrylic painting entitled "Return to the Wild - Red Wolf." Ms. Walker's donations will be matched (up to \$40,000) through a challenge grant administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This is the best red wolf print available to my knowledge.

Mike Phillips prepared a proposal for expanding the Alligator River project westward, and it was submitted to the Regional Office for approval.

The Knoxville Zoo has secured a grant to (1) produce a management/ husbandry video, (2) develop a husbandry survey, (3) compile a red wolf bibliography, and (4) assemble the above materials into a "Red Wolf Conservation" package to be distributed among red wolf cooperators. I endorsed this proposal, and a letter transmitting our draft position on the hybridization issue was instrumental in securing the grant.

As a new member of the Canid, Hyena, and Aardwolf Taxonomic Advisory Group and the Red Wolf Propagation Group, I attended and participated in meetings held at San Diego, California, in conjunction with the 1991 American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums Conference.

This report provides significant changes in the various projects and facilities and provides a revised summary of the current populations and locations and a summary of births and deaths (attached) since I became coordinator on March 4, 1991.

#### A. Wild Populations.

1. Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) - There are 13 adult wolves (4 males, 9 females) and at least 8 pups on the area. We have experienced two setbacks this month in this population. The adult female that produced four pups this year was pulled back into captivity this month because she was frequenting a local community and was a suspect in a rash of domestic cat killings. That leaves this group (Airport Pack) composed of one yearling female and four pups (one male, two female, one unknown). The sex of three of the pups was determined after capturing them this month. This is the group that previously lost the adult and yearling male to vehicle mishaps. Although the yearling male was not killed, his leg had to be amputated, and he was placed into captivity. The other setback concerned the group consisting of two adults and five pups released from captivity last month. (The August report incorrectly indicated six pups in this group. One female pup from the litter had died before release.) As a result of intraspecific aggression, four pups were killed by an adjacent pack, and the adult male and remaining pup (the female from the Smokies) were killed by vehicles. Only the adult female in this released group remains alive.
2. GSMNP - Two pairs of wolves and two pups (females) are in acclimation pens. Another bear climbed into the pen this month, despite electrical wire installed on the outside. This animal was also caught and subjected to adverse conditioning.

#### B. Island Propagation Projects - Two pairs.

1. Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, South Carolina - Two adults are currently free on the island.
2. Horn Island, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi - Same as Bulls Island.

3. St. Vincent NWR, Florida - No wolves are currently present at this project. A pair will be transferred there prior to the next breeding season.
- C. Captive Propagation - 92 adults (43 males, 49 females) and 38 pups (18 males, 20 females).
1. Graham, Washington, Facility - This facility holds 35 adults (16 males, 19 females) and 11 young of the year (5 males, 6 females) for a total of 46 wolves.
  2. Sandy Ridge, Alligator River NWR - 11 adults (6 males, 5 females) and 2 male pups are presently located here. This includes the male whose leg was amputated and a female pulled from the wild this month because she was frequenting a local community and was a suspect in the killing of domestic cats.
  3. Twenty Other Facilities - 46 adults (21 males, 25 females) and 25 pups (13 males, 12 females).
    - a. Wild Canid Survival and Research Center, Missouri - Adult pair.
    - b. Oglebay Zoo, West Virginia - Three adults (one male, two females) and one male pup.
    - c. Audubon, Louisiana - Adult pair and three pups (two males, one female).
    - d. Tallahassee Junior Museum, Florida - Adult pair.
    - e. Alexandria, Louisiana - Adult pair.
    - f. Victoria, Texas - Adult pair and five pups (four males, one female).
    - g. Burnet Park Zoo, New York - Adult pair.
    - h. Ross Park Zoo, New York - Adult pair.
    - i. Los Angeles Zoo, California - Adult pair.
    - j. Baton Rouge, Louisiana - One female.
    - k. Birmingham, Alabama - Adult pair.
    - l. Beardsley Zoo, Connecticut - Adult pair.
    - m. Chaffee (Fresno) Zoo, California - Adult pair and six pups (two males, four females).
    - n. Fossil Rim, Texas - Five adults (two males, three females).
    - o. Lowry Park Zoo, Florida - Adult pair.
    - p. National Zoo, Washington, DC - Adult pair and five pups (two males, three females).
    - q. Knoxville Zoo, Tennessee - Adult pair and five pups (two males, three females).
    - r. Land Between The Lakes, Kentucky - Adult pair.
    - s. Roger Williams Zoo, Rhode Island - Adult pair.
    - t. Point Defiance Zoo, Washington - Five adults (two males, three females).

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- D. Total - We currently have 161 red wolves (113 adults, 48 pups). The adults are 51 males and 62 females. The pups are 21 males, 25 females, and 2 unknown.

*V. Mary Henry*

Attachment

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

"Safety Has No Quitting Time"

## RED WOLF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

MARCH 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 1991

### I. Births

#### A. Captive Propagation Facilities - 11 litters: 25 males (2 died), 25 females (3 died), 1 unknown (died).

1. Graham, Washington - 3 litters: 4 males, 3 females; 1 male (died), 1 female (died); 2 males (1 died), 3 females.
2. Oglebay, West Virginia - 1 male.
3. Audubon, Louisiana - 2 males, 1 female.
4. Victoria, Texas - 4 males, 1 female.
5. Chaffee (Fresno) Zoo, California - 2 males, 4 females.
6. National Zoo, Washington, DC - 2 males, 3 females, 1 unknown (died).
7. Knoxville Zoo, Tennessee - 2 males, 4 females (1 died).
8. Sandy Ridge, Alligator River NWR, North Carolina - 3 males, 2 females (1 died).
9. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee - 2 males, 3 females.

#### B. Wild Populations.

1. Alligator River NWR, North Carolina - 3 litters confirmed: 1 male, 5 females, 1 unknown; 1 suspected but unverified litter.

### II. Deaths (other than pups noted above).

#### A. Wild Populations.

1. Alligator River NWR, NC - 7 (another animal injured, leg amputated and placed in captivity); 1 adult male, 1 subadult male, and 1 female pup killed by vehicles; 3 male pups and 1 female pup killed by adjacent pack.

#### B. Island Propagation Projects.

1. St. Vincent NWR, Florida - Female killed by alligator between May 31 and June 1, 1991; male killed between June 18 and 21, 1991, suspected snakebite.