



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Asheville Field Office
330 Ridgefield Court
Asheville, North Carolina 28806

April 11, 1995



Memorandum

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

FROM: Red Wolf Coordinator, FWS, Asheville, NC

SUBJECT: Monthly activity report - March 1995

Following are my accomplishments and other items of interest for the month of March 1995.

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (ARNWR) Reintroduction - By invitation, I attended and briefed the North Carolina Chapter of the Wildlife Society regarding the red wolf controversy in eastern North Carolina. I sent a letter to a private landowner in eastern North Carolina notifying him that disposal of animal carcasses on his property is attracting red wolves and other predators and that, in the event of future depredations, he would have the burden of responsibility to prove that carcass disposal is in compliance with state regulations before compensation for any losses will be considered. Preliminary results from an attitude survey of residents of the five-county experimental population area showed that the majority of residents support the red wolf reintroduction, with residents of Hyde County being the only county residents showing more opposition than support. Based on contacts with local residents, I have always believed that most of the people support the project (despite all the recent negative press), but this is the first proof of such support. Because it was conducted during a time when the most negative information was being circulated, much of it being inaccurate or false, the survey is even more meaningful. At any other time the support would have been expected to be even more favorable.

Southern Appalachians Reintroduction, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) - By request, I sent a brief summary of this project, which was a part of a status report prepared for the International Wolf Symposium, to the Defenders of Wildlife for them to use as a reference in an article they are preparing on the red wolf.

Captive-breeding Project - I sent a letter to the captive-breeding coordinator regarding the transfer of funds from the Wilds project in Ohio to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and addressing the fact that the grant agreement did not need modification to extend the period of performance in order to utilize these funds this year. I also prepared and sent to the Regional Office answers to questions regarding the Wilds project in preparation for the Service's hearing before the House

Appropriations Committee. In conjunction with participation in the International Wolf Symposium, Chris Lucash, John Weller, and I visited the Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, Minnesota. This is an educational and research facility that has been intimately involved with a lot of early gray wolf work and currently houses several gray wolves. We reviewed the facility and its work and discussed their participation as a red wolf captive-breeding facility, to which they expressed interest. An application to submit for consideration to enter the program has been sent to them.

General - I attended and participated in, along with four other project personnel, an International Symposium entitled "Wolves and Humans 2000" in Duluth, Minnesota. I presented a red wolf status report at a plenary session on wolf status in North America and participated in various functions as a member of the Wolf Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union, including a "Meet the Press" session. Other project personnel made presentations with regard to the (1) Southern Appalachians project, (2) private land initiatives at Alligator River, and (3) evolution of regulations at Alligator River. Alligator River personnel also prepared a poster exhibit for the Symposium. Red wolf personnel also visited the International Wolf Center at Ely, Minnesota, where Alligator River personnel gave two presentations to visiting groups.

I sent a letter to Skulls Unlimited International authorizing them to keep and utilize a red wolf pelt for educational purposes. I sent a letter to the North Carolina Nongame Advisory Committee accepting an invitation to brief them on the red wolf program at their next meeting on May 4, 1995. I reviewed and provided comments on an article on the red wolf by a private individual and also provided the author with 50 copies of the last Red Wolf Newsletter for use as handouts at presentations she is giving on the red wolf. I also reviewed and provided input to the coauthor of a research proposal from the Fort Worth Zoological Association regarding the development of a quantitative method for identifying how behavior and husbandry correlates with reintroduction success for wolves. I made a presentation at a National Parks and Conservation Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, and reviewed and provided input regarding an information packet and poster they are preparing on the red wolf. This packet and poster will be provided to various Service offices and others for use in educating the public. I reviewed and provided comments on the draft recovery planning guidance. I spent a considerable amount of time and effort providing information to several conservation groups in preparation for a hearing in New Bern, North Carolina, conducted by a task force from the House Natural Resources Committee. Included was a copy of the status report presented at the International Wolf Symposium earlier in the month, a draft response to Mr. Fred Bonner's testimony before the Committee, a question and answer document, a fact sheet on the eastern North Carolina project, and the preliminary results of an attitude survey of residents of the area where the red wolves are located in eastern North Carolina.

Students at the Reynolds Middle School in Asheville sent 13 letters of appreciation for a presentation I gave to them last month. I also advised them about ways to get involved in supporting the red wolf

program, including generating money for the Red Wolf Fund. I answered a minimum of 14 information requests, requiring from 1 to 31 documents each. I completed the mandatory HIV/AIDS education training. I familiarized myself with my responsibility regarding the Service's Automated Information System, which included signing a statement of responsibility.

Following are changes in locations and numbers of animals this month, and attached is an updated table of current locations and numbers of animals.

A. Wild Population

1. ARNWR - A female pup was found shot on private land under lease and is under investigation. A yearling male and an adult female were released from captivity as a pair, and another male pup was also released from captivity. The adult female released was later recaptured and returned to captivity because she showed too much tolerance of humans. An adult female whose radio collar malfunctioned in July 1994 was captured, processed, fitted with a collar, examined by the project veterinarian regarding skull damage that was likely inflicted by a deer hoof, and rereleased at the capture site on private property, under an agreement with the landowner. The capture site was at the same general location where she was last monitored, before the collar malfunctioned. These changes result in a total population of 41 to 61 wolves (20 to 25 males, 21 to 26 females, 0 to 10 unknown), including 27 to 41 adults and yearlings (13 to 17 males, 14 to 19 females, 0 to 4 unknown) and 14 to 21 pups (7 to 8 males, 7 females, 0 to 6 unknown).

B. Captive Propagation

1. Sandy Ridge, ARNWR - The yearling and pup males released into the wild bring the population to 17 (11 males, 6 females), including 12 adults and yearlings (8 males, 4 females) and 5 pups (3 males, 2 females).

V. Gary Henry

Attachment

CC:

Regional Director, FWS, Atlanta, GA (RD)
Regional Director, FWS, Atlanta, GA (APA)

"Investing In Safety Pays Big Dividends"

LOCATION	ADULTS AND YEARLINGS				PUPS				TOTAL			
	Males	Females	Unknown	Total	Males	Females	Unknown	Total	Males	Females	Unknown	Total
A. WILD POPULATIONS:												
1. Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)	13-17	14-19	0-4	27-41	7-8	7	0-6	14-21	20-25	21-26	0-10	41-61
2. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NP)	---	---	---	---	0-1	0-1	0	0-2	0-1	0-1	0	0-2
SUBTOTAL	13-17	14-19	0-4	27-41	7-9	7-8	0-6	14-23	20-26	21-27	0-10	41-63
B. ISLAND PROPAGATION PROJECTS:												
1. Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, SC	3	2	---	5	1	---	---	1	4	2	---	
2. St. Vincent NWR, FL	1	1	---	2	2	1	---	3	3	2	---	5
3. Horn Island, Gulf Islands National Seashore, MS	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
SUBTOTAL	5	4	---	9	3	1	---	4	8	5	---	13
C. CAPTIVE PROPAGATION FACILITIES:												
1. Graham, WA	22	26	---	48	2	3	---	5	24	29	---	53
2. Sandy Ridge, Alligator River NWR, NC	8	4	---	12	3	2	---	5	11	6	---	17
3. Great Smoky Mountains NP	5	5	---	10	5	6	---	11	10	11	---	21
4. Point Defiance Zoo, Tacoma, WA	4	3	---	7	---	---	---	---	4	3	---	7
5. Alexandria Zoo, LA	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
6. Audubon Zoo, New Orleans, LA	3	3	---	6	---	---	---	---	3	3	---	
7. Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport, CT	1	1	---	2	3	3	---	6	4	4	---	8
8. Burnet Park Zoo, Syracuse, NY	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
9. Chaffee Zoo, Fresno, CA	2	1	---	3	---	---	---	---	2	1	---	3
10. Fort Worth Zoo, TX	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
11. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Glen Rose, TX	3	6	---	9	3	2	---	5	6	8	---	14
12. Great Plains Zoo, Sioux Falls, SD	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2

LOCATION	ADULTS AND YEARLINGS				PUPS				TOTAL			
	Males	Females	Unknown	Total	Males	Females	Unknown	Total	Males	Females	Unknown	Total
13. Greater Baton Rouge Zoo, Baker, LA	1	2	---	3	---	---	---	---	1	2	---	3
14. Henson Robinson Zoo, Springfield, IL	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
15. Knoxville Zoo, TN	3	1	---	4	---	---	---	---	3	1	---	4
16. Los Angeles Zoo, CA	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
17. Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa, FL	2	1	---	3	---	---	---	---	2	1	---	3
18. Miller Park Zoo, Bloomington, IL	1	1	---	2	3	2	---	5	4	3	---	7
19. Mill Mountain Zoo, Roanoke, VA	1	1	---	2	3	2	---	5	4	3	---	7
20. National Zoo, Washington, DC	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
21. North Carolina Life and Science Museum, Durham, NC	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
22. North Carolina Zoological Park, Asheboro, NC	---	3	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	3	---	3
23. Oglebay Zoo, Wheeling, WV	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
24. Pittsburgh Zoo, PA	2	2	---	4	---	---	---	---	2	2	---	4
25. Roger Williams Zoo, Providence, RI	---	2	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	2
26. Ross Park Zoo, Binghamton, NY	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
27. Tallahassee Jr. Museum, FL	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
28. Texas Zoo, Victoria, TX	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	
29. Trevor Zoo, Millbrook, NY	1	3	---	4	---	---	---	---	1	3	---	4
30. Western North Carolina Nature Center, Asheville, NC	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
31. Wilds, Columbus, OH	6	7	---	13	---	---	---	---	6	7	---	13
32. Wild Canid Survival and Research Center, Eureka, MO	5	3	---	8	---	---	---	---	5	3	---	8
33. Woodlands Nature Center, Land Between the Lakes, Golden Pond, KY	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2
SUBTOTAL	84	89	---	173	22	20	---	42	106	109	---	215
TOTAL	102-106	107-112	0-4	209-222	32-34	28-29	0-6	60-69	134-140	135-141	0-10	269-291