

Guidelines For Applying The Current Red Wolf Rule (April 13, 1995) To Requests To Remove red wolves from private land.

(Effective January 28, 1999)

REMOVAL OF WOLVES THAT ARE CAUSING A PROBLEM

A **PROBLEM** with respect to the potential issuance of written permission for a landowner to take a red wolf is defined as:

1. Any situation where the loss of personal property (e.g., livestock, pets) is directly caused by the actions of a red wolf, or
2. A wolf exhibiting inappropriate behavior, such as tolerance of people or dwellings, that suggests it may become a more serious problem.

Guidelines

When a report of a red wolf caused problem is received, field personnel will respond within 48 hours. Field personnel will attempt to determine if a wolf is indeed responsible for the reported problem. If so, the capture and removal of the offending animal, or the application of some behavioral modification technique, may be attempted. If capture is not successful or feasible, lethal means could be employed or written permission may be provided according to the specifications provided in the current red wolf rule.

Justification

The current red wolf rule articulates our required response and the potential for granting written permission to take depredating (PROBLEM definition #1 above) wolves. The use of behavioral modification is a non-lethal means by which certain problems related to undesirable behaviors (definition #2 above) may be resolved.

REMOVAL OF WOLVES THAT ARE NOT CAUSING A PROBLEM

Guidelines:

When a request is received to remove non-problem wolves, the red wolf field crew will respond, if manpower permits, to the landowner's request, to assess the situation and determine if efforts to capture such wolves are warranted. Traps may or may not be set to attempt to capture non-problem wolves. The criteria upon which this decision will be made include: the history of problems in the area in question, available manpower, presence of wolf or other wild canid sign (feces, tracks), the history of wolf or other canid presence in the area in question, and the known presence of a wolf or other wild canid in the area based on radio telemetry data.

Justification:

The section of the red wolf rule that applies to these types of requests specifies we will recapture such wolves "if possible." While it may be possible to capture certain individuals, given the size and fluidity of the red wolf population 11 years after initial reintroductions, it is not possible to recapture, remove, and keep these wolves off of a tract of land. Because the current red wolf rule requires the release of non-problem wolves as soon as possible, the removed wolves, or other wolves, will often reoccupy the land in question. Also, the more a wolf is trapped the more trap-wary that wolf becomes. Thus, in some cases it may not be possible to capture certain individuals. Furthermore, removal of non-problem wolves may be contributing to the establishment of coyotes in north eastern NC and thus such removals may have a detrimental effect on red wolf recovery efforts by increasing the threat of hybridization.