

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
FILE
memorandum

DATE: September 5, 1991

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

SUBJECT: Monthly activity report - August 1991

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

The proposed rule for the Smokies release was published August 7, 1991. Letters of notification and copies of the proposed rule were distributed to 142 individuals, agencies, and organizations. To date, 38 responses have been received. All but six are from individuals. Two businesses, one state agency, one conservation group, and two county agencies have also responded. Thirty-one comments support the release, including those from the businesses, conservation group, state agency, and one county agency. The other county agency expressed concerns but did not oppose the release. Six individuals oppose the project. I sent a mark-up of the final rule package (rule, FEA, FONSI, summary, DOE, and Section 7 evaluation), except for public comments and responses, to the Regional Office and Washington Office for review in an attempt to pave the way for the final package in order to get it finalized and published as soon as possible.

A meeting regarding expansion of the Alligator River project westward was convened at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. It involved red wolf project personnel and the managers of Alligator River, Pocosin Lakes, and Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuges. Mike Phillips drafted a tentative expansion schedule. This will be finalized and submitted to the region for approval.

I made presentations on the red wolf recovery program at the Advanced Project Wild Workshop for high school teachers, sponsored by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, at the Western North Carolina Nature Center in Asheville and at the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commissions' Annual Division of Game Management meeting at the North Carolina Forest Service Training Facility at Crossnore, North Carolina.

Chris Lucash and I met with Great Smoky Mountains National Park, WBIR-TV, and Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere personnel regarding the development of a red wolf public education package. A tentative schedule for completion, airing, and costs was discussed. A present, we are about \$22,000 short of budget needs, and plans were discussed to meet the shortfall by contacting possible corporate sponsors, etc.

I completed aircraft safety training at Manteo, North Carolina.

I have received responses regarding the draft position statement on the hybrid issue. It has been revised slightly and is in final preparation for submittal to the Regional Office for approval and distribution to cooperators.

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

A. Wild Populations.

1. Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge - Two more litters were verified this month. Two females, approximately 4 1/2 months old (18-21 pounds), were captured August 15, 1991. Another young of unknown sex from another litter was observed from the air on August 13, 1991. Another pair with their litter of five pups (three male, two female), plus another female pup from the Smokies pair that bred successfully were released into the wild from the captive pens. In total, there are now at least 27 wolves in the wild (5 male and 10 female adults; 3 male, 4 female, and 5 unknown sex young).
2. Great Smoky Mountains National Park - A bear climbed into one of the acclimation pens after attempting to dig under the fence, ate food provided for the wolves, and climbed back out. It was trapped and subjected to adverse conditioning using a cattle prod. Repairs were made to the pen, including installation of electrical wire on the outside.

B. Island Propagation Projects.

1. St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, Florida - Carla Mitchell is transferring to another position in refuges, and the vacancy is being advertised for filling.

C. Captive Propagation.

1. Sandy Ridge, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge - One pair and six pups (one from the Smokies) were released into the wild. Also, the adult male which had his leg amputated (see last month's report) was placed into the captive facility. This leaves 10 adults (6 male, 4 female) and 2 female pups translocated from the Smokies remaining in the captive facility.
2. Knoxville Zoo, Tennessee - One female pup died in May but was not reported in the quarterly report or the last monthly report. That leaves an adult pair and five pups (2 male, 3 female) at this facility.

D. Total - We currently have 166 red wolves (114 adults and 52 pups).

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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