

memorandum

DATE: January 8, 1992

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

SUBJECT: Monthly activity report - December 1992

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

FILE

Please note that last month's report was erroneously titled as October, it should have been November. Following are my accomplishments and other items of interest for the month of December.

Alligator River Reintroduction - Mike Phillips and I briefed the Regional Office (RO) on the proposed expansion to Pocosin Lake and received concurrence to proceed slowly. We were advised to brief congressional representatives and state wildlife and agricultural agencies as soon as possible. Approval was also received for an additional wildlife biologist position for the expansion.

Southern Appalachians Reintroduction - I briefed the RO on this project, particularly with regard to a recent Atlanta newspaper article on possible expansion onto national forests lands in north Georgia. I participated in placing radio collars on wolves and giving shots and health checks to the family group to be released in the Tremont area. Six animals were released on December 9, 1992. Two juvenile males had to be recaptured. Both wandered outside the Park onto private lands; they will be rereleased in January. I submitted a draft letter (for the Regional Director's signature) to Southern Living magazine expressing appreciation for the article they published on the red wolf.

Captive-breeding Populations - I forwarded a request to amend the Cooperative Agreement with Tacoma for the 1993 season at the same budget amount as 1992 to Contracting in the RO. By request from the Western North Carolina Nature Center's personnel, I coordinated handling and participated in the health checks of the two wolves at the Center in Asheville.

General - I made a request for disbursement of funds from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "Red Wolf Fund" to the North Banks Rotary Club to provide a stipend for a 4-month internship at Alligator River. I also approved additional disbursement from this fund into the Red Wolf Indemnity Fund at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Information requests in response to the Southern Living magazine article continue at a steady rate. I filled twenty requests, each consisting of a minimum of 15 informational documents. Three of the twenty requests required a letter response, providing information on volunteer opportunities in the program and other ways of supporting the program. I sent two letters responding to negative concerns about the impacts of wolf reintroduction. One was in response to the Southern Living magazine article, and one came down through channels from the Washington Public Affairs Office. I also responded to an inquiry from an artist interested in doing some artwork

regarding the red wolf. My response provided advice and information on facilities where she could observe red wolves, I sent a memo to the RO detailing 1993 budget needs and proposed allocation of funds. As a result, we received additional funds to cover our minimum needs-basically, expansion of Alligator River and status quo elsewhere.

Following are revisions that occurred this month in the locations and numbers of red wolves .

A. Wild Populations.

1. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) - The release of a second group on December 9 and the subsequent recapture of 2 of the pups results in a wild populations temporarily consisting of 10 animals, which includes 4 adults (2 males, 2 females) and 6 pups (6 males, 2 females).

B. Island Propagation Projects.

1. Horn Island - The adult pair was recaptured and transferred to Alligator River.

C. Captive Propagation.

1. Sandy Ridge, Alligator River NWR - A female was received from Alexandria, Louisiana. This animal and the adult pair from Horn Island bring the total to 15 (7 males, 8 females).
2. GSMNP - A male was received from the Audubon Zoo, Louisiana for pairing with the yearling female. This animal, the release of the second family group, and the subsequent recapture of 2 pups bring the total temporarily to 6 animals, including 4 adults (2 males, 2 females) and 2 male pups.
3. Graham, Washington, and Other Facilities - Except for the animals transferred from Alexandria and Audubon, Louisiana, to Alligator River and GSMNP, I will not address changes because animals are now being transferred for the breeding season. I will provide these figures when pairings are completed.

D. Total - Same--203 to 205.

V. Gary Henry

cc:

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