



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Mr. Richard Drake
[REDACTED]

10 February 1993

Dear Mr. Drake:

Thank you for your cooperation the other day. As it turned out I did not contact [REDACTED] because we did not attempt to capture the wolf.

I appreciate your interest in turkey restoration and suggest you direct questions to Jim Johnson (manager, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, 919-473-1131), Jim Savery (manager, Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, 919-797-4431), or Bill Lawrence (manager of private reserve that stocked turkeys, 919-[REDACTED]).

I appreciate your willingness to consider letting wolves inhabit your property. The 5-year experiment to restore a population of red wolves to eastern North Carolina was dramatic. The experiment was the first attempt in conservation history to restore an extinct-in-the-wild species. The fact that the project involved wolves, animals that have been intensely persecuted by humans, added additional significance to the experiment.

By every measure the experiment was successful and generated benefits that extended beyond the immediate preservation of red wolves, to positively affect local citizens and communities, larger conservation efforts, and other imperiled species (for details see enclosure: "Summary of Red Wolf Project"). The Fish and Wildlife Service is now planning to expand the red wolf program to the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (for details see enclosure: "Proposal to Expand the Northeastern North Carolina Red Wolf Reintroduction Project").

The success of the expansion will largely depend on public support. With that in mind, I would appreciate learning of any ideas you have concerning the program. I am particularly interested in involving private landowners who should know that:

1. Red wolves generate benefits for farmers because they eat good numbers of pests like nutria, raccoons, and rodents.
2. Red wolves will probably limit the numbers and distribution of coyotes, which are becoming established in eastern North Carolina and have the potential to create serious management problems for local landowners.

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3. Since red wolves are legally designated experimental-nonessential rather than endangered, their presence on private land does not affect activities of a landowner (for details see enclosure: "Application of the Experimental Population Designation to Recovery of Endangered Red Wolves").
4. The experimental-nonessential designation will not be rescinded, and management protocol is being relaxed so that private individuals can participate if control of a wolf becomes necessary.
5. Project personnel can help with security of private land/property as our trucks, airplane, and mere presence probably often deter individuals from pursuing illegal activities (e.g. poaching, trespass, gate destruction, etc.).

A "Partners Agreement" is a simple way to involve private land in the red wolf program. Enclosed is a draft of such an agreement that is being developed for William T. Smith who owns 250 acres near Gum Neck, NC. Although Mr. Smith is not requiring us to do so, the Service can monetarily compensate landowners who become involved with the red wolf program.

Your property in eastern North Carolina is extremely important to the red wolf recovery program. Indeed, during the last few months the young female wolf that I spoke of to you has wandered through your land. Given its' size and proximity to Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, your property could contribute significantly to the recovery of this highly endangered species.

In addition to the enclosures mentioned above, I included other material concerning the red wolf program. I will call in a week or so to talk to you about a "Partners Agreement" involving your land.

Sincerely,



Mike Phillips
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