



# United States Department of the Interior

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

March 21, 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 - February 1995

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

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (ARNWR) Reintroduction - I requested a disbursement of \$480 from the Red Wolf Fund (maintained by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)--a stipend for an intern for the months of January through March. I reviewed and provided input to ARNWR with regard to a letter to the Defenders of Wildlife concerning the initiation of a puppy reward program for private lands. Barry Sarafin of ABC News interviewed me a couple of times about a news piece on the red wolf. I sent him some red wolf video material and a list of possible local contacts regarding the issues along with substantial information about the general program and the perceived conflicts in eastern North Carolina.

Southern Appalachians Reintroduction, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) - I participated in a meeting with Park personnel with regard to approval for implementing the draft red wolf/other Canis interaction policy in the Park. Approval was granted, and the Park later requested documentation of Regional Office approval of the draft policy prior to implementation. The Acting Regional Director provided a memo documenting Regional Office approval.

Captive-breeding Project - I provided the Wild Canid Research and Survival Center with red wolf information for their use, including a package of the biologue fact sheet, the red wolf poster, and the Front Runner video.

General - I drafted a response for the Regional Director regarding a National Wolf Recovery Strategy. It was obvious that it was drafted primarily for the gray wolf, with the red wolf added as an afterthought. Our recommendation was for a separate gray wolf strategy. If both species are combined in one strategy, the boundaries for the red wolf area need to be extended northward to encompass at least five more states (Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey). I completed a revision of the publication entitled "Protocol for Island

Propagation Projects" and forwarded it to the Regional Office for publication as Red Wolf Management Series Technical Report No. 11. I prepared a draft congressional response to Senator Graham of Florida for the Regional Director regarding funds expended on wolf importation, which is zero. I also reviewed and provided input to the Regional Office on a briefing statement about the red wolf project. I reviewed and provided input to an artist for a fact sheet to accompany a red wolf print she is painting; some of the proceeds are expected to be donated to the Red Wolf Fund. I prepared extensive comments for the North Carolina Chapter of the Wildlife Federation for forwarding to the House Resources Committee with regard to hearings in which much inaccurate information had been presented by a wolf opponent. These comments were rescinded by the Regional Office because of the possibility of antagonizing the committee. As a response to our concerns about getting out in front of the situation with regard to accurate information, a conference call was set up to plan a strategy. A "top ten" question and answer sheet and fact sheets were prepared in cooperation with field project personnel for this effort. I prepared and forwarded an extensive package of information to the Regional Public Affairs Office for their use in preparing material for this strategy. In addition to the question and answer sheet and the fact sheets, this included correspondence to congressmen and local politicians, news media, state agencies, and private individuals. It also included a list of conservation organization contacts, a list of wolf organizations, comments and responses to rule packages, a packet of information consisting of 20 documents now utilized to answer general information requests, papers on the taxonomy/genetic question, and question and answer sheets prepared in the past for the Smokies project. I sent a request to the Publications and Creative Services Division of the Regional Refuges and Wildlife Office for the preparation of four slides and duplicates and also requested additional slides to be prepared with regard to a prior request for slides submitted by ARNWR personnel. I gave a presentation to the Reynolds Middle School in Asheville; as a result, the environmental club at the school is gearing up to actively support the project by raising funds and writing to congressmen. I filled at least 12 information requests this month, providing from 3 to 29 documents each. One of the requests required a written response to also provide information on ways to support the project. The present political situation has resulted in much time being spent on the telephone answering inquiries from various Service offices, politicians, news media, conservation groups, wolf opponents, and the general public. This included interviews with *National Geographic* and *National Audubon* magazines for articles to be published in March.

Following is an update of current locations and numbers of animals.

#### A. Wild Population

1. GSMNP - The fate of the two pups (1 male, 1 female) not captured is now listed as unknown and their existence is doubtful.
2. ARNWR - A yearling male and two young-of-the-year males were returned to captivity and will be rereleased in the future. The yearling male and one of the pups were caught by a private trapper; the pup had multiple lacerations and puncture wounds

indicating possible intraspecific aggression. An adult pair was released from captivity. Three pups (one male, two females) from a previously unknown litter were caught by a private trapper, processed by project personnel, and released. An additional pup from this litter was observed. Radio contact was lost with two yearling males this month. These changes result in a population of 39 to 60 animals (18 to 23 males, 21 to 27 females, 0 to 10 unknown), including 25 to 39 adults and yearlings (12 to 16 males, 13 to 19 females, 0 to 4 unknown) and 14 to 21 pups (6 to 7 males, 8 females, 0 to 6 unknown).

#### B. Island Propagation

1. Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, South Carolina - Capture of animals for processing resulted in the documentation of one male pup born this year. The adult pair and pup were placed temporarily in captivity. However, the large pup (72 pounds) broke his leg in captivity when he apparently tried to climb the fence. His rerelease will depend on his full recovery, which is expected, as long as no further complications occur. This brings the population, all in captivity at this time, to 6 wolves (4 males, 2 females), including 5 adults and yearlings (3 males, 2 females) and the male pup.
2. St. Vincent NWR, Florida - The unknown animal present on the island was captured this month--the third pup from a litter born this year, thus confirming the suspected death of the adult female whose radio collar had previously been found. An adult female was received from Sandy Ridge and was paired with the adult male. These changes result in a population of 5 wolves (3 males, 2 females), including an adult pair and 3 pups (2 males, 1 female).

#### C. Captive Propagation

1. Sandy Ridge, ARNWR - One yearling male and two young-of-the-year males were returned to captivity from the wild and an adult pair was released from captivity into the wild. An adult male was evaluated for possible blindness, which was confirmed, and was thus euthanized. An adult female was transferred to St. Vincent NWR. These changes result in a population of 19 wolves (13 males, 6 females), including 13 adults and yearlings (9 males, 4 females) and 6 pups (4 males, 2 females).
3. GSMNP - The adult male that was returned to captivity from the wild earlier this year was examined, determined to be blind, and euthanized. This brings the population to 21 (10 males, 11 females), including 10 adults and yearlings (5 males, 5 females) and 11 pups (5 males, 6 females).

*V. Gary Henry*

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

LOCATION	ADULTS AND YEARLINGS				PUPS				TOTAL			
	Males	Females	Unknown	Total	Males	Females	Unknown	Total	Males	Females	Unknown	Total
<b>A. WILD POPULATIONS:</b>												
1. Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)	12-16	13-19	0-4	25-39	6-7	8	0-6	14-21	18-23	21-27	0-10	39-60
2. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NP)	---	---	---	---	0-1	0-1	0	0-2	0-1	0-1	0	0-2
SUBTOTAL	12-16	13-19	0-4	25-39	6-8	8-9	0-6	14-24	18-24	21-28	0-10	39-62
<b>B. ISLAND PROPAGATION PROJECTS:</b>												
1. Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, SC	3	2	---	5	1	---	---	1	4	2	---	6
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
<b>C. CAPTIVE PROPAGATION FACILITIES:</b>												
1. Graham, WA	22	26	---	48	2	3	---	5	24	29	---	53
2. Sandy Ridge, Alligator River NWR, NC	9	4	---	13	4	2	---	6	13	6	---	19
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	---	6
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	---	2
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	85	89	---	174	23	20	---	43	108	109	---	217
TOTAL	102-106	106-112	0-4	208-222	32-34	29-30	0-6	61-70	134-140	135-142	0-10	269-292