



RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ON RED WOLVES

Whereas, in 2015, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) adopted two resolutions regarding red wolves on the Albemarle Peninsula of North Carolina (AP); and

Whereas, in 2016, a federal court issued a temporary injunction and, in 2018, issued a permanent injunction against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on the take of red wolves; and

Whereas, in 2019, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) published their findings on the status of the red wolf that suggests red wolves are a distinct species; and

Whereas, in 2019, the NAS was also contracted by the Service to evaluate the taxonomy of wild canids in southern Louisiana; and

Whereas, in 2020, the Service was sued to resume releases of red wolves on the AP; and

Whereas, in 2021, a federal court ordered the Service to draft and implement a plan to release red wolves from the captive population back in the wild on the AP; and

Whereas, the Service's reintroduction plan includes the use of sterilized coyotes as placeholders to prevent hybridization; and


Whereas, coyotes are state trust species under the full authority of the Commission; and

Whereas, the Commission is the state agency tasked to conserve North Carolina's wildlife resources.


Now, therefore, be it resolved, based on the information provided by the NAS, the renewed efforts of the Service to reinvigorate the red wolf program on the AP, and the discovery of canids in southern Louisiana with substantial red wolf DNA, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission does hereby direct staff to work with the Service to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding for collaborative management of canids on the AP in an attempt to meet the recovery goals for red wolves and for the benefits of North Carolina's citizens;

And, be it further resolved, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission issues this resolution to replace all previous resolutions on red wolves and the red wolf program.

This resolution was introduced by Commissioner Wes Seegars and Commissioner Kelly Davis and unanimously passed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in a meeting duly assembled on December 5, 2024 in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Monty R. Crump
Chairman



Cameron N. Ingram
Executive Director