



June 24, 2014

Mrs. Cynthia K. Dohner
Director, Southeast Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Blvd.
Atlanta, GA 30345

Dear Ms. Dohner,

As the Co-Chairmen of the bipartisan and bicameral North Carolina Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus (Caucus), we represent a group of committed state legislators dedicated to protecting and advancing the outdoor traditions of hunting, angling, recreational shooting, and trapping in North Carolina. Since its inception in 2006 the Caucus has consistently worked to promote North Carolina's sporting heritage by supporting pro-sportsmen's legislation and state fish and wildlife management objectives.

Recently, it has become clear that the Red Wolf Recovery Program established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in northeastern North Carolina 27 years ago is failing to adhere to the clear goals outlined in the initial Red Wolf Recovery Plan. Namely, the nonessential and experimental red wolf population has not been effectively managed on 'federal lands' nor have private landowner rights been fully protected. Ultimately, the sustainability of the program, and the potential negative impacts of red wolves on state wildlife management objectives and private landowners' rights alike are a major cause for concern.

As such, we are writing to formally support the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) and their request for "an immediate programmatic evaluation using the abundance of existing data to determine feasibility of achieving a stable, 'self-sustaining' red wolf population on 'federal lands' as prescribed in the Red Wolf Recovery Plan." We strongly believe that the Service's Red Wolf Recovery Program, and related legal matters, inhibit WRC's ability to effectively carry out wildlife management objectives and agree that a review should "determine the appropriateness of continuing the experimental program."

Sincerely,

North Carolina Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus
House Chair - Representative Tim Moffitt

North Carolina Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus
Senate Chair – Senator Buck Newton

cc: Gordon Myers, Executive Director WRC
Honorable Governor Pat McCrory
Honorable Senator Richard Burr
Honorable Senator Kay Hagan
Commissioners, WRC