

Supplemental Responses to Court Questions from August 7, 2020 Hearing on Red Wolf Recovery Plan Settlement Agreement

**(1) What are the mortality rates for the red wolves from drowning, automobiles and gunshot specifically, over the last 10 years, the last 5 years and since November 2018?**

The table below depicts the known causes of death in the requested categories for the known mortalities of wild red wolves within the NC Nonessential Experimental Population (NC NEP) over various time frames.

<b>Last Ten Years (August 2010 - August 2020)</b>	<b>Total Known Mortalities</b>	<b>Percent of Total Known Mortalities</b>
Total Mortalities	135	100%
Gunshot	52	39%
Vehicle	25	19%
Drowning	2	1%
<b>Last Five Years (August 2015 - August 2020)</b>	<b>Total Known Mortalities</b>	<b>Percent of Total Known Mortalities</b>
Total Mortalities	39	100%
Gunshot	12	31%
Vehicle	10	26%
Drowning	0	0%
<b>Since Judge's Ruling (November 2018 - August 2020)</b>	<b>Total Known Mortalities</b>	<b>Percent of Total Known Mortalities</b>
Total Mortalities	8	100%
Gunshot	3	38%
Vehicle	3	38%
Drowning	0	0%

**(2) Is the Service still sterilizing coyotes, and how many coyotes were sterilized this past winter?**

The Service continues to use sterilized coyotes as placeholders on the landscape to reduce hybridization between red wolves and coyotes as an integral part of red wolf management within the NC NEP. To that end, during capture operations conducted on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge during this past winter (winter 2019-2020), eight coyotes were sterilized, radio-collared and released back onto the landscape at their original capture sites on Federal lands.

**(3) What is the current state of the Red Wolf Center in North Carolina that holds red wolves?**

The Red Wolf Center in Columbia has been open for the last two years through an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF) and the National Wildlife Refuge Association. The facility is currently closed to the public due to coronavirus restrictions, but will reopen when possible. The facility consists of a small visitor center focused on red wolf education, and a pair of captive red wolves is housed in an enclosure that is normally open to the public during business hours and by appointment. NCWF funds a position that manages the public portion of the facility and oversees the outreach and education activities associated with the facility and red wolves in general, along with recruiting and managing volunteers that staff it. USFWS personnel, along with a long term volunteer, provide the care and feeding of the captive red wolf pair. USFWS personnel also utilize the portion of the facility that is not open to the public to conduct red wolf management activities.

**(4) What role does the State of North Carolina play in the red wolf partnership calls?**

In accordance with their 2013 agreement, the State of North Carolina and the USFWS coordinate canid management activities through the Albemarle Peninsula Collaborative Canid Conservation (AP3C) group (discussed in more detail below). In the spirit of the increased communication reflective of this agreement, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) requested that five employees be included on the invitation to the quarterly Partnership Coordination Call (PCC). At least one NCWRC employee has attended each call (Q1=3; Q2=2; Q3=1).

In addition to NCWRC participation on the partner calls, Chris Lasher, the national coordinator of the Red Wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) and program leader for the Red Wolf Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) program, actively participates on the calls by giving updates of those programs. Chris is a State of North Carolina employee as an Animal Management Supervisor at the NC Zoo, which operates as an entity of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NC DNCR). Chris is also an active member on the AP3C group as a NC DNCR representative.

**5) What role does the State of North Carolina play in red wolf management?**

In accordance with their 2013 agreement, the State of North Carolina and the USFWS coordinate canid management activities through the AP3C group. USFWS has jurisdiction over the Red Wolf; however, the NCWRC has jurisdiction over all other canids. Further, NCWRC regulates hunting and trapping activities. NCWRC also issues the necessary permits required by State law for the trapping, handling and transport of wildlife, as necessary to implement red wolf management activities. NCWRC Law Enforcement ensures compliance with NC law and responds to private landowners who have concerns about canids. NCWRC biological staff frequently interact with landowners and conduct research on canids in the five-county area of the NEP.

Multiple representatives from the State of North Carolina, including the NCWRC Executive Director, participate in red wolf and canid management within the NC NEP as part of the AP3C. The AP3C is largely made up of USFWS and NCWRC representatives, but there is also one representative from NC DNCR and one representative from the NCWRC Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee.