

EDITORIAL: NC wildlife officials abandon their duties by abandoning the red wolf (*News & Observer [NC], 02/28/15*)

"The red wolf population is now estimated at about 100, down from 130 in 2003, a decline caused mostly by hunting. To stop the toll on red wolves, the Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of conservation groups sued the Wildlife Resources Commission seeking a ban on coyote hunts in the recovery area. Last May, U.S. District Judge Terrence Boyle ordered a stop to the hunts until the case could be heard. Meanwhile, the Wildlife Resources Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to work together to manage coyotes and protect the red wolves. The SELC later settled its lawsuit with an agreement that would ban night coyote hunting in the recovery area. But rather than find a way to cull coyotes and save wolves, the Wildlife Resources Commission now wants to abandon the red wolf recovery effort.... The commission's proposal contradicts its mission and the settlement agreement. The Southern Environmental Law Center representing groups supporting the red wolf recovery – Red Wolf Coalition, Defenders of Wildlife and Animal Welfare Institute – has sent the commission a letter calling on the commission to rescind its resolutions and abide by its agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to promote the recovery of the red wolf. Bringing back the red wolf is challenging, and coyotes complicate the mission. But the answer isn't to give up and start shooting."

EDITORIAL: Our View: Keep the red wolf alive -- somewhere, somehow (*Fayetteville Observer [NC], 10/23/14*)

"The government may continue the restoration program, or it may give it up. But whatever happens, we hope this valiant attempt to keep a beautiful species alive won't end. Our planet will be poorer for yet another loss."

EDITORIAL: A needed ceasefire spares NC's red wolves (*News & Observer [NC], 05/15/14*)

"U.S. District Judge Terrence Boyle issued an unusual stay of execution this week. He ordered that hunters stop killing coyotes in five northeastern North Carolina counties. He did so to end the mistaken killings of an endangered species, the red wolf....Boyle issued a preliminary injunction to stop the hunting until the start of a trial in a lawsuit brought by environmentalists who want a permanent hunting ban near the red wolf's territory.... The judge's order was a sensible abatement that offsets a misguided decision by the state Wildlife Resources Commission.... The errant kills threatened an effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reintroduce the red wolf to the wild.... Boyle made the right call by sparing the coyote to spare the wolf until wildlife managers can come up with a better way to deal with the two populations. That coyotes and red wolves are similar in appearance shouldn't allow for the red wolf to be pushed back to disappearance."

Editorial: Protecting red wolves: Rebounding breed should not be collateral damage (*Winston-Salem Journal [NC], 02/16/14*)

"North Carolina boasts the world's only wild population of endangered red wolves. That population shouldn't become collateral damage to those thinning packs of pesky coyotes in the five northeastern counties where the red wolves live. The Southern Environmental Center, representing wolf advocacy groups, is trying to stop that from happening with a suit that seeks to block the state Wildlife Resources Commission's decision to allow coyote hunting in those coastal counties.... red wolves, which were re-introduced to the North Carolina wild in 1987, have to be protected.... one thing seems certain: In the five counties in question, the state should ban coyote hunting until it establishes firm figures on the numbers of those animals, and establishes whether its plan to prevent cross-breeding and protect the endangered red wolves is working."

Editorial: Our View: Endangered wolves need a judge's intervention (*Fayetteville Observer* [NC], 02/12/14)

"Perhaps a federal judge will provide the stewardship North Carolina wildlife regulators have ignored. That would be the responsible course for one of the world's most endangered species. At least nine red wolves were shot and killed last year in the rural northeastern North Carolina counties that are their only home in the wild. It is possible hunters mistakenly thought they were coyotes - the two species have a remarkably similar appearance. That's why it's ludicrous that the state Wildlife Resources Commission last year approved coyote hunting in wolf-habitat counties. And that's why conservationists went to court this week to ask U.S. District Judge Terrance Boyle to stop the coyote hunt. ... We hope Judge Boyle will intervene and give the wolves the protection they need to survive and thrive in natural surroundings."

Editorial: Deadly - Keep red wolves out of coyote hunters' sights (*Fayetteville Observer* [NC], 11/29/12)

"We knew this would happen. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission had to know it too. Allowing night hunting of coyotes in habitat they share with the endangered red wolf would result in dead wolves. It did. Four have been shot and killed. That's about four percent of the entire remaining red wolf population in the wild.... Telling them apart in daylight can be difficult. By spotlight at night? Nearly impossible. Fortunately, a Wake County Superior Court judge had more sense than the commission and issued an injunction last week halting the hunt because it's a violation of the Endangered Species Act. Now the commission can go back and do what it should have done at the outset: Keep coyote hunters out of the red wolves' five-county range."

Editorial: Fix This - Don't blind coyotes in the red wolf's territory (*Fayetteville Observer* [NC], 10/26/12)

"State wildlife officials, a responsible bunch who should have known better, approved the night hunting of coyotes with spotlights a few weeks ago. Already, one federally protected red wolf has been killed....supporters of the Endangered Species Act are going to court in hopes of having the rule change overturned to protect the remaining wolves.... If the state is set on having a coyote spotlighting program, it should exclude the red wolf's five-county home and leave a buffer."

EDITORIAL: Red wolves need protection (*Greensboro News & Record* [NC], 07/12/10)

"The species was nearly extinct in the wild 23 years ago when 14 red wolves were reintroduced in the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge.... Red wolves should be protected, but that may require separating them from coyotes — no easy task. The best hope may be promoting the red wolves as an attraction for tourists interested in wildlife."