

October 27, 2014

Mr. Tom MacKenzie  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mr. Leopoldo Miranda  
Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services  
Southeast Regional Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1875 Century Blvd, Ste 200  
Atlanta, GA 30345

*Sent via electronic mail to: [redwolfreview@fws.gov](mailto:redwolfreview@fws.gov)*

Dear Mr. MacKenzie and Mr. Miranda,

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute, Defenders of Wildlife, WildEarth Guardians, the Endangered Species Coalition, the North Carolina Conservation Network, the Center for Biological Diversity, Wolfwatcher, and Project Coyote, we are writing to address inaccuracies in a press release (attached) issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“the Service”) on October 7, 2014. This release, stating there were “more than 47,600 comments,” leaves us concerned the Service did not accurately count and is not fully considering the strength of comments supportive of the program.

Contrary to the representation in your press release, individuals taking action through our comment portals alone **submitted at least 110,000 comments** in favor of the red wolf program. Specifically, as of September 25, 2014, we can confirm submission of the following number of comments in support of the red wolf recovery program remaining in North Carolina through these organizations:

Animal Welfare Institute	3,000
Defenders of Wildlife	50,428
WildEarth Guardians	3,405
Endangered Species Coalition	15,015
North Carolina Conservation Network	2,806
Center for Biological Diversity	5,907
National Wildlife Federation	33,588
Red Wolf Coalition	unknown
National Wolfwatcher Coalition	unknown
In Defense of Animals	unknown
Project Coyote	unknown

**It is crucial that the Service accurately take into account and report public sentiment concerning this program.** We thank you for your attention and look forward to continuing to work with you on the recovery of the endangered red wolf in the wild.

Sincerely,

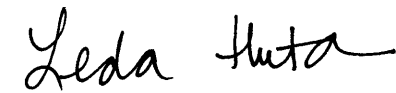


Cathy Liss  
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Mike Senatore  
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Defenders of Wildlife



Bethany Cotton  
Wildlife Program Director  
WildEarth Guardians



Leda Huta  
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Brian Buzby  
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Kieran Suckling  
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Camilla Fox  
Founder & Executive Director  
Project Coyote

Nancy Warren  
Executive Director  
National Wolfwatcher Coalition

cc (Via Email):

Dan Ashe, Director, FWS

Gary Frazer, Assistant Director for Endangered Species, FWS

Cynthia Dohner, Regional Director, Southeast Region, FWS

Steven Williams, President, Wildlife Management Institute

Jonathan Gasset, Southeast Regional Field Representative, Wildlife Management Institute

PRESS RELEASE

## Fish and Wildlife Service Extends Date to Complete Red Wolf Evaluation to November 14

October 7, 2014

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Red wolf. Credit: Seth Bynum.

[Higher Quality Version of Image](#)

The deadline to complete a peer-reviewed evaluation of the Service's Red Wolf Recovery Program and its non-essential, experimental population of red wolves in Eastern North Carolina has been extended to November 14, 2014.

To take into account **more than 47,600 comments** the Service received from interested citizens and organizations over nearly a month along with the feedback from two public focus group sessions, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided an additional month to the [Wildlife Management Institute \(WMI\)](#) to complete its evaluation.

"The Service greatly appreciates the effort of so many citizens and organizations who took the time to share comments and provide feedback to us related to the Red Wolf Recovery Program and its work in Eastern North Carolina," said Leopoldo Miranda, Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services in the Service's Southeast Region.

In August, the Service said it would launch this evaluation and complete it this fall. Under the Service's contract with WMI, the evaluation will be peer reviewed and then used to help the Service thoroughly evaluate the program and determine next steps for the non-essential population. That determination is expected to be finalized in early 2015. The evaluation covers three primary areas: science, management, and public attitudes.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen,

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