

Red Wolf

The red wolf is an endangered wolf. They are slightly smaller than their cousin the gray wolf. The red wolf's range once covered most of the southeastern United States. By the 1970's more than 99% of the red wolf's habitat had been lost or split into small areas due to widespread and large-scale agriculture. Since most people see red wolves as threats to both humans and farm animals, red wolves were hunted in large numbers, almost to extinction. Eventually only 17 wolves remained.

In 1973, a plan was made to try to save the red wolf. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made a breeding program with fourteen of the red wolves. It increased the population. In the 1980's they started releasing a small number of red wolves. Now only about 21 red wolves in the wild remain.