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## Federal Officials Seek Assistance in Investigation of Red Wolf Death

A federally-protected red wolf was found dead on Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Washington County, North Carolina, on December 21, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service needs your help in the investigation of the red wolf's death by gun shot.

Based on the condition of the body and other evidence, the actual date of death is estimated to be Dec. 19, 2016. Initial examination and radiographs indicate the cause of death was a gunshot.

The Service is offering a reward of \$2,500 for information that leads to the successful prosecution in this case. Anyone with information on the death of this or any other red wolf is urged to contact North Carolina Zone Wildlife Officer Frank Simms at 252-216-7504, or Special Agent Jason Keith at 919-856-4520 x34.

Red wolves on national wildlife refuges are fully protected under the Endangered Species Act. Found anywhere else, red wolves are governed by the rules established in 1995 setting up the experimental, non-essential population. This means that landowners may be allowed to remove a nuisance red wolf if it attacks their livestock or pets. Additionally, a red wolf that is taken incidentally to any type of otherwise legal activity (e.g., trapping coyotes following state regulations) on private lands in the red wolf recovery area does not constitute a violation of federal regulations provided that the taking is not intentional or willful and is reported to the Service within 24 hours.

If someone accidentally kills a red wolf, they must report it by calling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service toll-free at 1-855-4-WOLVES (1-855-496-5837). It is important to report red wolf incidents quickly so that Service personnel can minimize conflicts and retrieve any carcasses while they are still intact.

To learn more about red wolves and the Service's efforts to recover them, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/redwolf/evaluation.html>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, 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, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast](http://www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast](http://www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.

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