

Hunters, can you tell a common coyote from a rare red wolf?



Credit: © Christy Frank - Running Wild Media

For information, questions, and to report suspected sightings or an injured or dead red wolf, call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 1-855-4-WOLVES.

For additional information on red wolves, please visit: <https://fws.gov/project/red-wolf-recovery-program>

Coyotes are fair game; red wolves, an endangered species restored to North Carolina, are not. Unfortunately, it can sometimes be tough to tell the two species apart—especially young animals—and red wolves are shot by mistake.

To help the public distinguish between these two species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working toward collaring all red wolves with bright **orange** collars.

Look closely for an **orange** collar and don't shoot if you see one.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Before you
shoot...
know the
difference**

Harming a red
wolf is against
the law*



Coyote

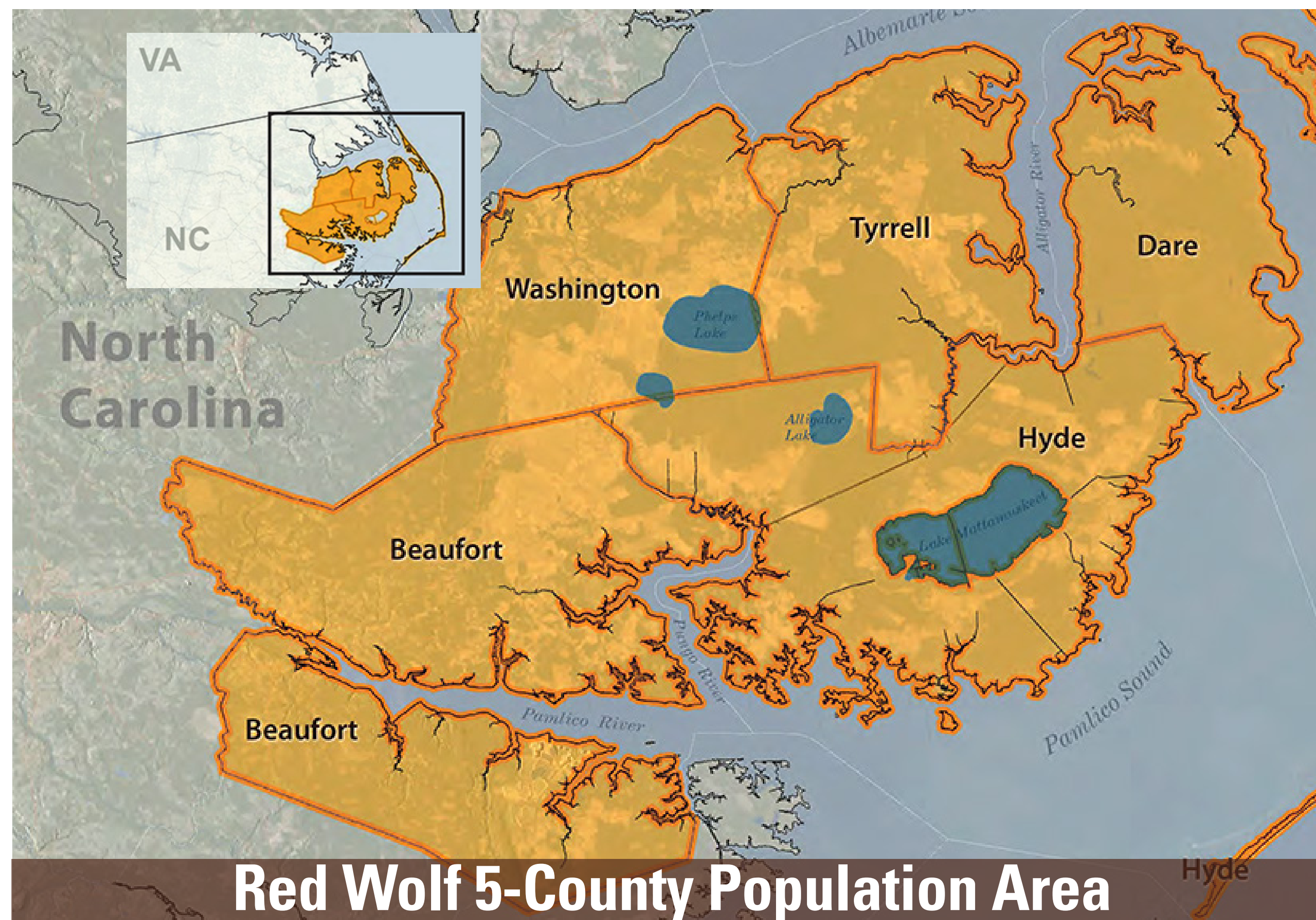
**3 feet long
22 inches tall
20-35 pounds**



Red wolf

**4 feet long
26 inches tall
45-80 pounds**

Credit: coyote: © Michael Klotz, red wolf: © Robert Ondrish



Red Wolf 5-County Population Area

Not all red wolves wear radio collars and, despite their name, they come in many of the same colors as coyotes: brown, buff, tan, gray, reddish brown and a variety of combinations. Adult red wolves are taller, longer, and heavier than coyotes, but in the summer and fall, their pups are similar in size to coyotes.

*Red wolves are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. Killing or harming a red wolf can result in civil and/or criminal penalties that may include fines and forfeiture of any property used in the crime.