

North Carolina Coyotes: Status and Management



Compiled by Colleen Olfenbuttel,
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Black Bear & Furbearer Biologist

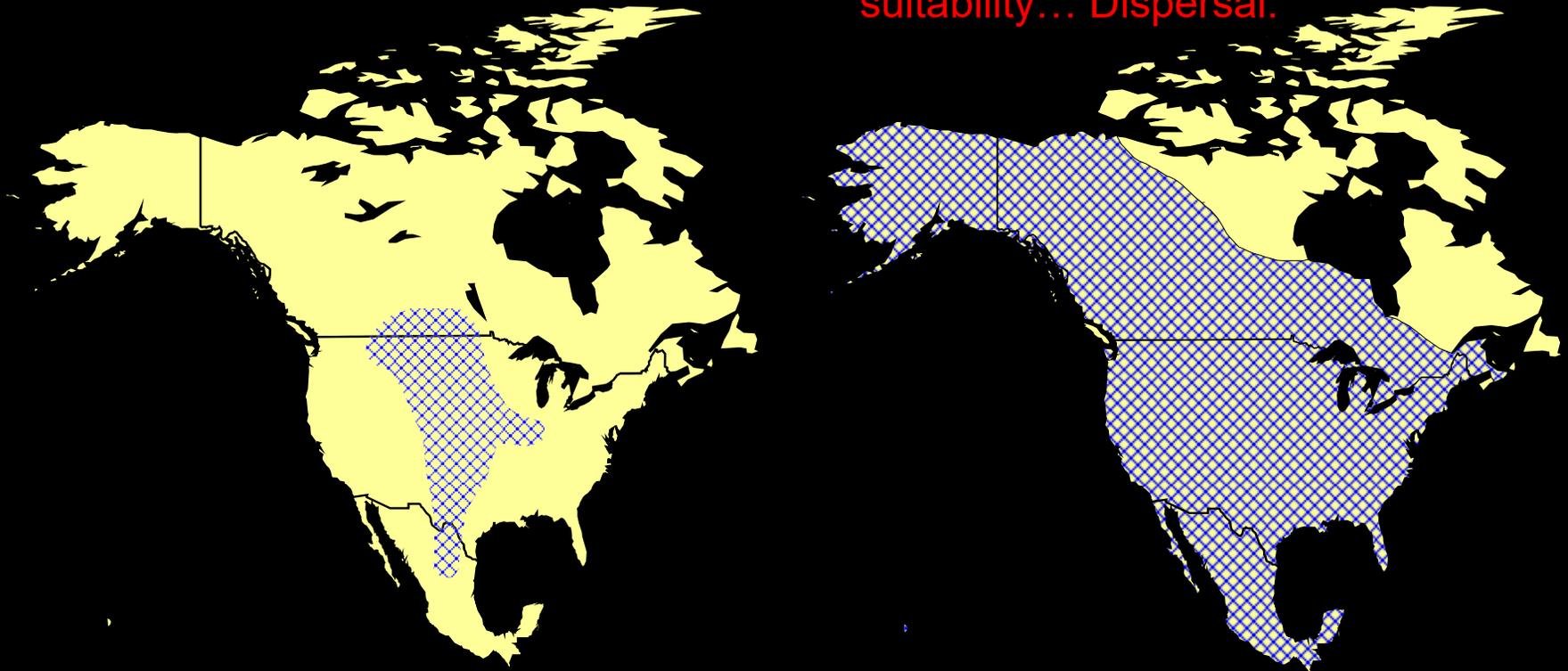
Presented by J. Chris Turner,
NCWRC Coastal Regional Wildlife Biologist, District 1



North American Coyote Distribution: Then and Now

Pre-European Settlement

Now... Why?
Landscape habitat
changes— increased
suitability... Dispersal.



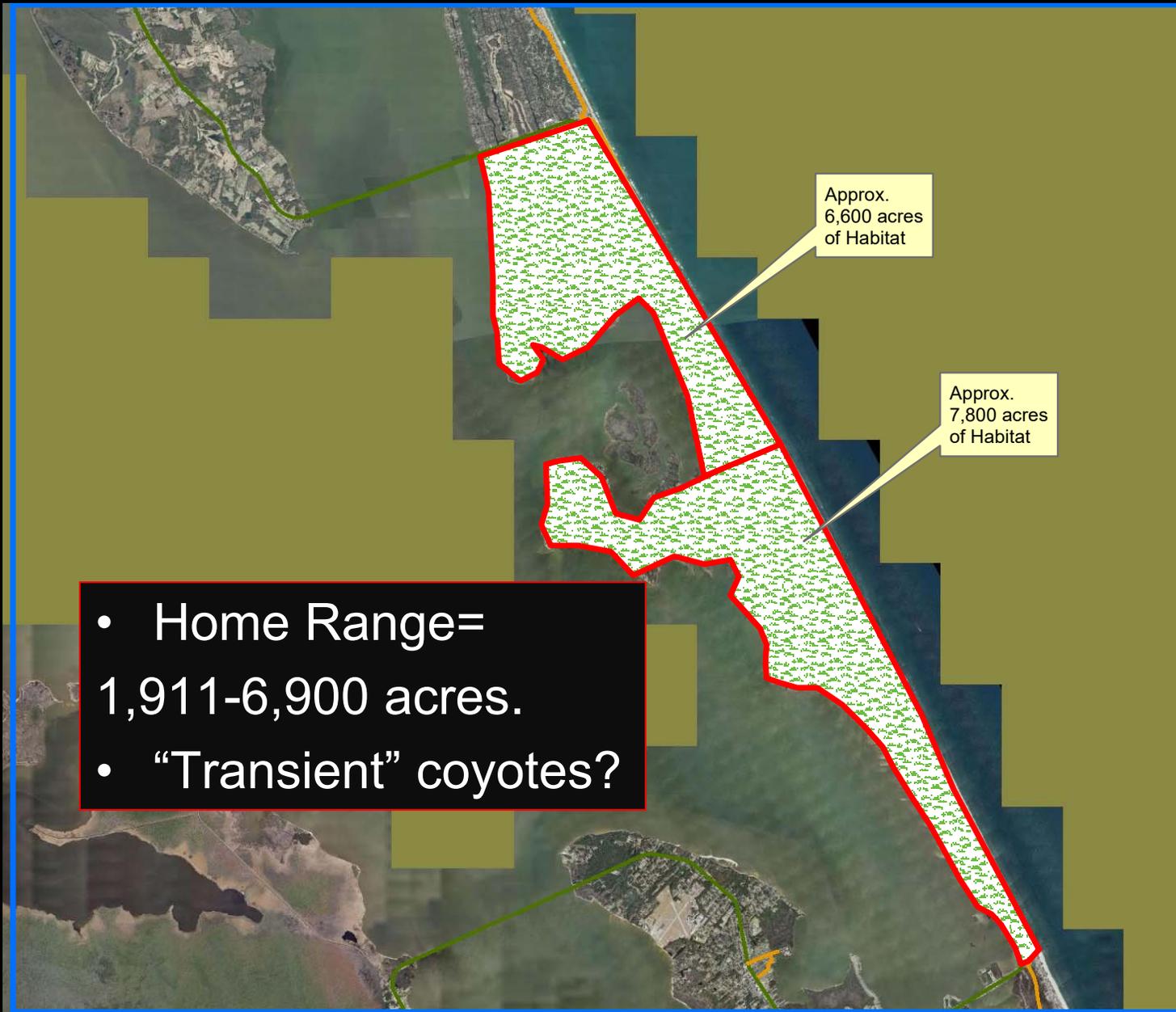
Description & Life History

- Typically 25-40 pounds
- Variations in color
- Live in family units, rather than packs
- Breed in Feb./Mar., pups born in dens Apr./May

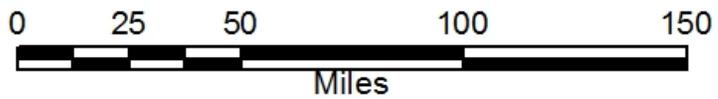
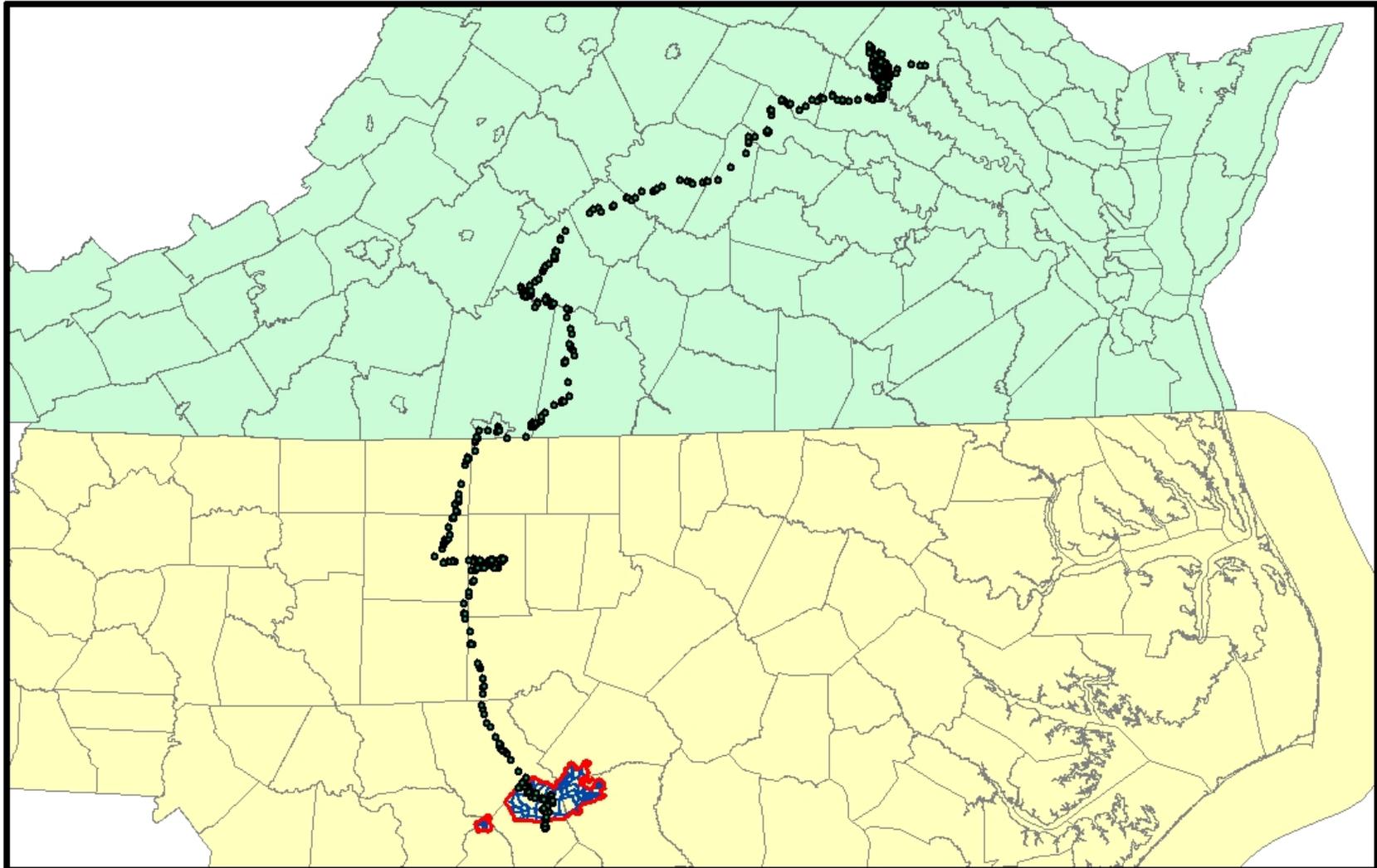
- Home Range= 1,911-6,900 acres.
- ~20-40% of population is made up of “transient” coyotes!



OBX Habitat...



30850 - Female, Juvenile



Credit: Morgan Elfelt, North Carolina State University

Coyote Adaptability

- Habitat
- Generalist
- Omnivorous
- Behaviors
- Tolerance of people



Coyote Interactions in Urban NC

Urban Coyote-Human Interactions

- Just because someone SEES a coyote does not mean there is a “problem”!
- Conflicts may arise when coyotes adapt to living among people and are not harassed.
 - Attacks are rare; no unprovoked attacks in NC
- Attracted to unsecured food
 - Can begin to associate humans with being fed.
 - Prey on unsupervised & unleashed cats & small dogs
 - Pet food! Table scraps!

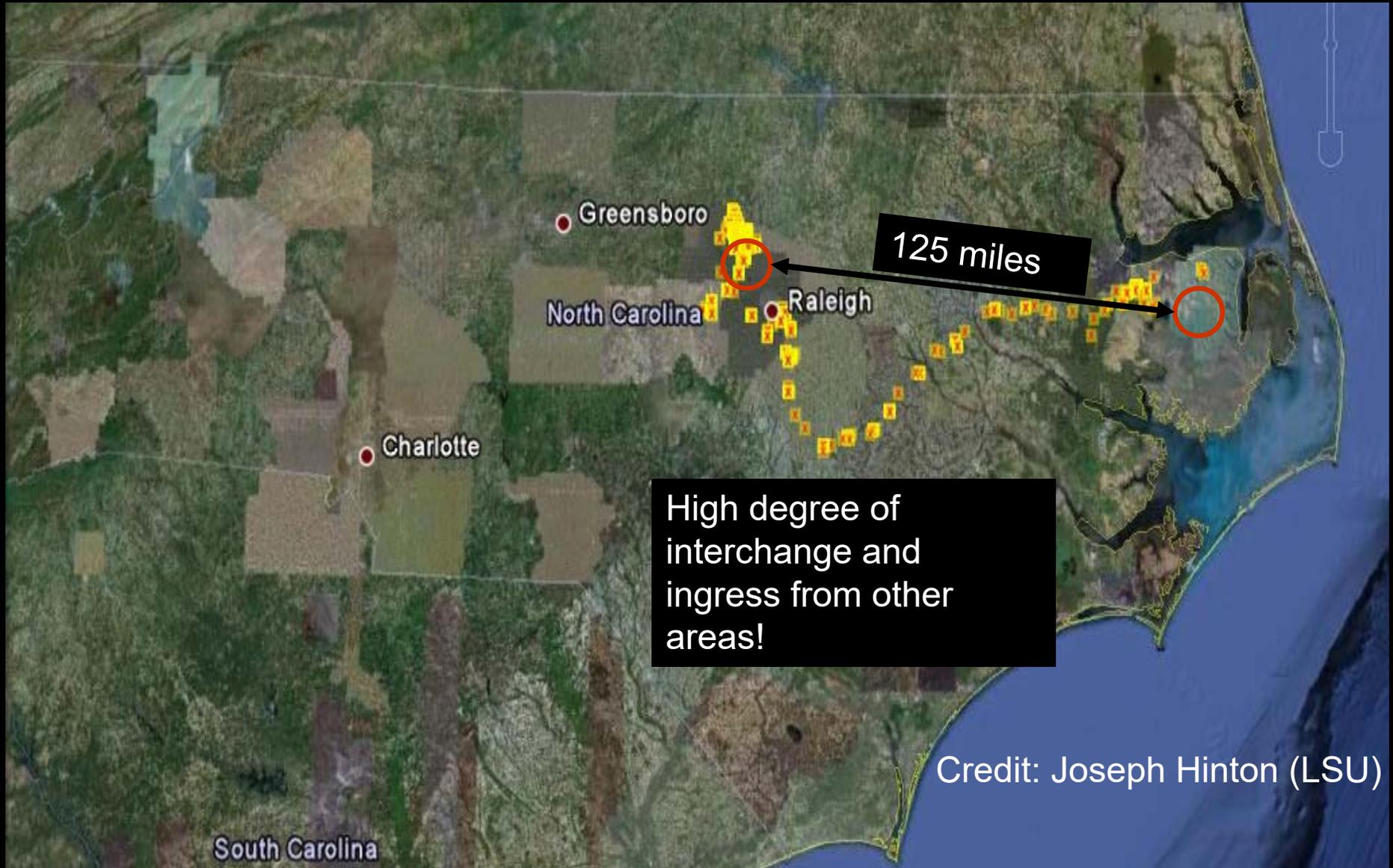


Typical Urban Situations

- Most complaints likely driven by 1 or 2 family units
- Families most active July – September as pups begin leaving den
- Pups should disperse late-Sept. – Nov.
- Juveniles disperse
- 10-200 miles (average being 30-50 miles)

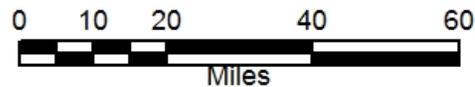
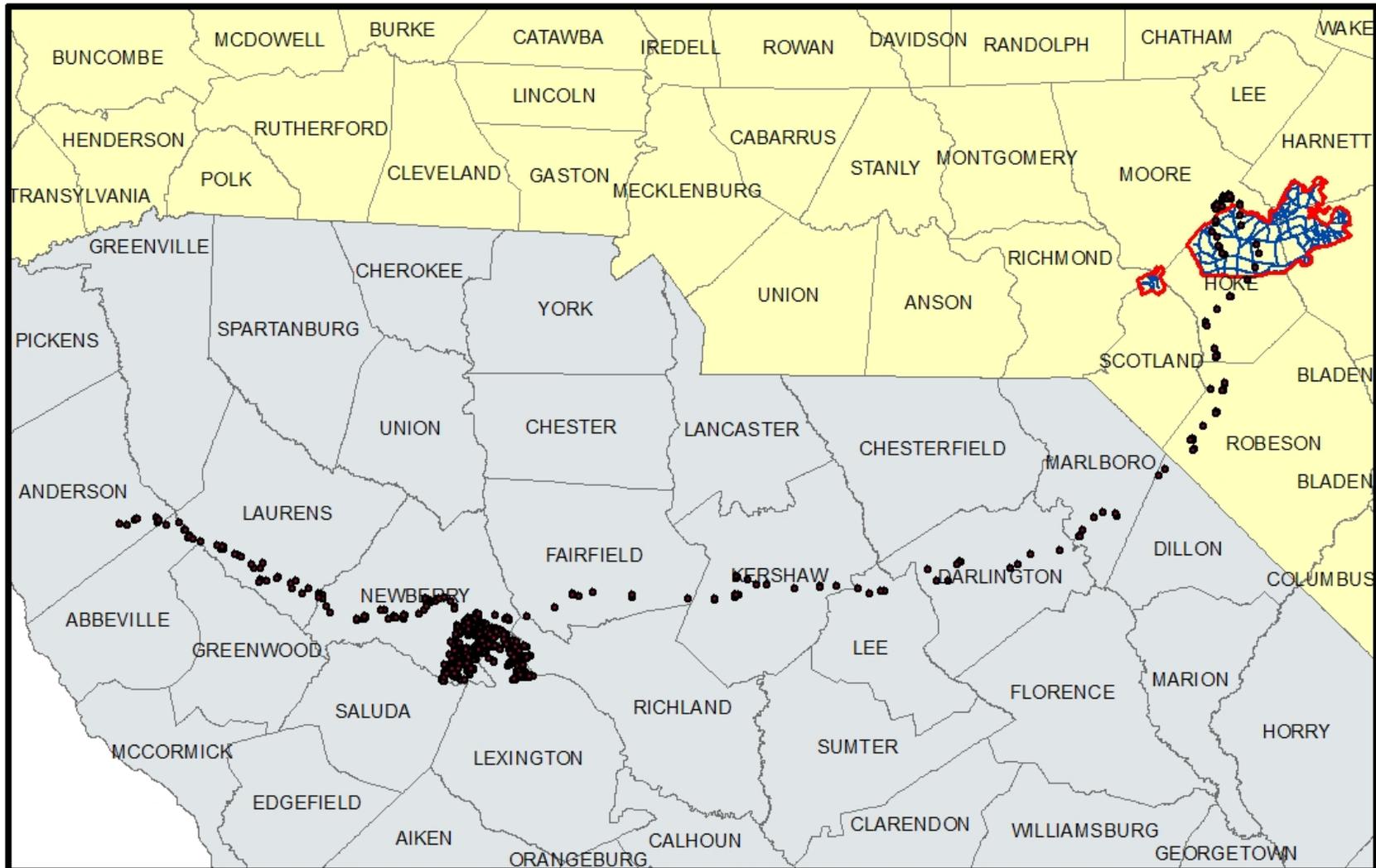


Coyote Dispersal!



Credit: Joseph Hinton (LSU)

30819 - Female, Subadult



Credit: Morgan Elfelt, North Carolina State University

Can we manage N.C.'s Coyote population?

“Eradication”? Must remove 70% of standing population to cause a decline!

1. Population management

- Road-kill, Disease, Natural mortality
- Utilize existing tools in the toolbox--
 - Liberal hunting seasons
 - State framework and County Trapping seasons?

2. Manage individual damage/nuisance situations

- Prevent, reduce, or resolve conflicts
- Small scale removal of individual problem coyotes
- Manage conflicts, case-by-case



Special coyote hunting rules in 5 N.C. counties

- Regulatory changes in those 5 counties included within the Red Wolf re-introduction area, Albemarle Peninsula:
- Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington, and Beaufort Counties, NC.
- 27 February 2015: Special temporary rules put in place to allow coyote hunting, with restrictions:
 1. Special coyote hunting permit required for all hunters. Annual permit, renewable; non-transferable.
 2. Hunting only between the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
 3. Mandatory reporting of ALL coyotes shot to Commission within 24 hours.
 4. Coyote depredation permits can be issued only by WRC personnel. Mandatory reporting of all coyotes killed!

Tools to Prevent & Resolve Conflicts on the OBX

Urban Coyote-Human Interactions

- The best solutions are preventative in nature!
- Cost-effective & efficient
- Non-lethal techniques!
 - Public awareness...
 - Remove attractants!
 - Secure all food sources
 - Leash pets
- Lethal techniques?



Toolbox for Managing and Directly Resolving Conflicts: 3 Tools

1. Hunting
2. Trapping by licensed trappers
3. Depredation Permits



Tool #1: Regulated Hunting

- Annual population management!
- No closed season, no bag limits...
- Limited use in populated areas on Outer Banks
 - Firearm discharge ordinances
- Coyote hunting permit required.
- No hunting between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise.
- Mandatory 24 hour reporting!
- Hair samples...

Canid Cooperator – Hair Submission Form

Please fill out as detailed as possible.

1) Date of Harvest: ____/____/____ (month/day/year) 3) County of Harvest: _____

2) Weapon (check one): Rifle Shotgun Pistol Muzzleloader Other

4) Sex (F=female, M=male, U=unknown): _____

5) Measurements (inches): Head: _____ Tail: _____ Foot: _____ (see pictures for guidance)

Cooperator name, current address, & report ID# (obtained by phone from WRC) required to be sent a ball cap!

6) Cooperator Name*: _____		Hunter Permit Number: _____	
Address*: _____		Phone: _____	
City: _____		State: _____	
WRC Reporting Number* (obtained when reporting animal to WRC): _____		Zip Code: _____	

7) Location of Mortality:
(description or attach map)

or GPS Coordinates: Latitude(N) or UTM (N): _____ Longitude(W) or UTM(E): _____

8) Comments: _____

9) Canid Marked: Yes No Tattoo Number: _____ Tag Number: _____ Collar present: _____

10) Hair Enclosed: Yes No (make sure it has follicles (skin) attached to it)

Sheet Completed by: _____ Date: _____

Please send completed sheet and hair to:
NCWRC
Div. of Wildlife Management
1722 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1722

Questions about submitting hair?
E-mail: maria.palamar@ncwildlife.org
Phone: (919) 707-0050

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JAY WICKENS

Coyote Hunting and Depredation Permits

▼ Permit Description

A Coyote Hunting or Coyote Depredation Permit is required for the taking of coyotes on private lands in the counties of **Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington**. In the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington, coyote hunting on public lands is prohibited, except coyotes may be taken on state-owned game lands by the holder of a Coyote Hunting permit and a NCWRC-issued permit for specific permitted hunt opportunities for coyotes.

In all other counties of North Carolina, coyotes may be taken on private lands anytime day or night; and on public lands without a permit from the hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset, and with a permit from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

Last Revised on 11/24/15

▶ Permit Restrictions, Rules, and Conditions

▶ How to Obtain Permit

▶ Permit Contact Information

[Home](#) | [Contact](#) | [About](#) | [Web Terms and Conditions](#) | [Login](#)
 Headquarters: 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27608
 Mailing Address: 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1701
 Phone: 919-707-0010



Commission Meeting Webcast

Tool #2: Recreational Trapping

- Licensed trappers during trapping season!
 - Annual management of surplus furbearer resource.
 - Means of annually reducing coyote numbers.
 - Site-specific? Can target problem areas...
 - Short-term benefits on individual properties?
- Recreational trapping.
 - Written permission of landowner required.
 - Regular trapping season framework.
 - Dare County= December 1 through end of February
 - Cage traps ineffective... other traps?
 - Coyotes cannot be relocated and released.

Tool #3: WRC Depredation Permits

- Issued only to individual landholders suffering property damage on their own property. Permits-
 - Allow trapping outside seasons, in places with no firearms...
 - Are property-specific, situation-specific...
 - Second-party permits allow someone to assist with activities.
- In Dare Co., coyote permits can only be issued by WRC personnel, not WDCAs.
- Coyotes can be taken at night only by trapping!
- **No transport-release/relocation (Order Carnivora).**
- **Mandatory reporting within 24 hours!**
- **Sick or aggressive animals? Last resort...**
- **Report any coyotes killed for any reason!**

Important note in 5 County Area...

- Trapping by licensed trappers/WDCAs
- Coyote 2nd Party Depredation Permits

ID of Captured canids.... In the event of uncertain identification of a captured canid or capture of any radio-marked animals, contact must be made with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for positive Id and further instructions!

Additional Resources

- WRC home page:

www.ncwildlife.org

– Start at:

“Have a wildlife problem?”

– WDCA list by county

- 9 listed in Dare County

– Trapper assistance list

- 5 listed in Dare Co. for Coyotes

The screenshot shows the homepage of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The navigation bar at the top includes links for Licensing, Conserving, Hunting, Trapping, Fishing, Boating, Enjoying, and Learning. A search bar is positioned on the right side of the navigation bar. The main content area is divided into several sections. The 'At Your Service' section is highlighted with a yellow circle around the 'Have a Wildlife Problem?' link. Below this are sections for 'News & Features', 'Public Notices', and 'Alerts'. At the bottom of the page, there are several promotional banners, including one for the '2016 Light Goose Conservation Season Permit' and another for 'LIFETIME LICENSE HOLDERS Request Seasonal Information'. The footer contains contact information and social media links.

Sources of Education!

- Technical Guidance:
 - Website (www.ncwildlife.org)
 - “Co-existing” Publications
- **WRC local Technical guidance!**
 - Chris Turner, NCWRC
 - Wildlife Biologist in District 1.
 - Call me anytime...
 - 252-221-9961 office

Coexisting with Coyotes



If you live in North Carolina, you've probably seen a coyote, or know someone who has.

The animal's unique ability to adapt to a wide range of habitats, including suburban environments, along with rapid human population growth across the state, has led to an increase in sightings. While in most cases coyotes are harmless, people can take steps to prevent conflicts with the animals.

Coyote Quick Facts

Where did coyotes come from?

Coyotes were once found only in the mid-western portion of North America. But as Europeans settled across the country, the subsequent landscape changes, coupled with elimination of wolves, allowed the coyote to expand its range toward the eastern United States. By the 1980s coyotes started to appear in western North Carolina as a result of natural range expansion from our neighboring states. Coyotes are now established in all 100 counties of North Carolina and live in many towns.



Preventing Conflicts with Coyotes

To prevent problems with coyotes:

- **Secure garbage** in containers with tight-fitting lids, and take them out in the morning if pick up, not the night before. Coyotes and other wildlife will scavenge trash.
- **Don't feed or try to pet coyotes.** Feeding a coyote rewards it for coming in close proximity to people. Once a coyote becomes habituated, it loses its natural wariness of people and may become bold and aggressive.
- **Protect your pets by keeping them inside,** leashed, or inside a fenced area.
- **Install coyote-proof fencing** around your home to protect unsupervised pets.
- **Feed pets indoors** or remove food when your pet is finished eating outside. Coyotes and other wildlife are attracted to pet food left outdoors.
- **Keep bird-feeder areas clean.** Use bird feeders that keep seed off the ground. Coyotes are attracted to small animals congregating on the ground. If coyotes are frequently seen, remove all feeders.
- **Close off crawl spaces** under sheds and porches. Coyotes and other wildlife may use these spaces for nesting and raising young.
- **Cut back brushy edges** in your yard, which provide cover for coyotes.
- **Don't be intimidated** by a coyote. Maintain its wariness by throwing a small object, such as a tennis ball, at it, making a loud noise or spraying it with a hose. Let it know it is unwelcome near your home.
- **Clear fallen fruit** from around fruit trees.
- **Educate your neighbors.** Your efforts to prevent coyote conflicts will be less effective if some neighbors are still providing foods.
- **Allow hunters or trappers** access to your property, so the local coyote population can be managed. Coyotes avoid areas in which threats are perceived.



If you already have a problem with a coyote:

- **Implement the non-lethal steps** described above.
- **Contact a Wildlife Damage Control Agent,** a private individual who charges for his/her services. A list is available at www.ncwildlife.org under "Coexisting with Wildlife."
- **Contact a licensed trapper** during the regulated trapping season. See the list at www.ncwildlife.org under "Coexisting with Wildlife."
- **Coyotes can be hunted year-round** using firearms and archery equipment. However, check to see if local ordinances restrict the discharge of firearms. A landowner can shoot a coyote in the act of causing damage.

Additional Resources:

