Phil W. Hedrick, R. Fredrickson, and L. Waits. Captive breeding and the recovery of Mexican and red wolves. Department of Biology, Arizona State University, USA; Fish and Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho, USA.

Both Mexican (Canis lupus baileyi) and red (Canis rufus) wolves were hunted to near extinction in the middle of the last century. A captive breeding program for the Mexican wolf was established in the late 1970s from three founders (two other lineages, with two founders each were subsequently added) and a reintroduced population of about 50 animals, descended from this captive population, exists in Arizona and New Mexico today. A captive breeding program for the red wolf was also established in the late 1970s from 14 founders. A reintroduced population of about 100 animals, descended from this captive population, exists in eastern North Carolina today. The captive populations of both taxa have been closely managed to minimize mean kinship and there has also been an extensive effort to monitor wolves in the two reintroduced populations and determine their pedigree relationships. In addition, there have been efforts to augment and change the constitution of the wild populations by releases from captivity. These management actions, the current status of the captive and reintroduced populations, and potential recommended further management alternatives will be evaluated and discussed.