



## U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

*Conserving the Biological Diversity of the Great Basin, Eastern Sierra, and Mojave Desert*

## Frequently Asked Questions 90-Day Finding for American Black Bear in Nevada

**Q. Why did the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) complete a 90-Day finding for the American black bear in Nevada?**

**A.** On September 6, 2011, the Service received a petition from Big Wildlife and NoBearHuntNV.org requesting that the American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) in Nevada be listed as a distinct population segment (DPS) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

**Q. What is the result of the 90-Day finding?**

**A.** The petition does not provide substantial information, nor does the Service have information in its files, to indicate Nevada black bears are markedly separate from other black bears outside of the State based on physical, physiological, ecological, or behavioral factors. Based on the review, the Service concludes that the American black bear in Nevada is not a listable entity under the ESA.

Because the petition does not present substantial information indicating that the American black bear in Nevada is a DPS, the Service did not evaluate whether the information contained in the petition regarding threats was substantial. Therefore, the Service is not initiating a status review in response to this petition.

**Q. Where does the American black bear occur?**

**A.** There are 16 subspecies of black bear in North America. Black bears in western Nevada belong to the subspecies *U. a. californiensis*, which is found in the Sierra Nevada of California and Nevada and the Cascade Range of northern California and south central Oregon.

American black bears are large animals with black or cinnamon colored fur. Adult males generally weigh between 300 and 350 pounds in summer, but they can weigh in excess of 600 pounds. Adult females generally weigh around 150 pounds. However, weight varies greatly across the species' range.

**Q. Where can I find more information about the American black bear 90-Day finding?**

**A.** Information about the finding can found at the following web sites: <http://www.fws.gov/nevda> or <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**Q. Can I provide information on the American black bear in Nevada?**

**A.** Although we will not review the status of the species at this time, we encourage interested parties to continue to gather data that will assist with the conservation of the American black bear in Nevada. If you wish to provide information regarding the American black bear in Nevada, you may submit your information or materials to the State Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234, Reno, Nevada 89502-7147.