

From: [Mizzi, Janet](#)
To: [Reid, Rebekah N](#); [Peeples, Gary](#)
Subject: Fwd: example letter to the State
Date: Friday, February 2, 2018 12:34:41 PM
Attachments: [example letter to State.docx](#)
Importance: High

Hey Rebekah. Matt asked that we go ahead and send out the letter attached for Hexastylis as an invitation to the state. Can you also prepare one for SC?

Janet Mizzi
Field Supervisor
Asheville Ecological Services Field Office
160 Zillicoa St.
Asheville, NC 28801
phone: 828/258-3939 x223
fax: 828 258-5330

EXTINCTION IS FOREVER

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dekar, Matthew** <matthew_dekar@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 11:21 AM
Subject: example letter to the State
To: Janet Mizzi <janet_mizzi@fws.gov>

Hi Janet,

Good talking with you. Attached is the example letter we discussed (you might recognize it). Please edit or update as needed. I did not change the address, but I think you indicated that this should go to the Heritage Program?

Thanks and I hope to send out another example (for future SSAs) in the next week or so.

Matt

--

Matthew Dekar, PhD
Deputy Chief, Division of Restoration and Recovery
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
(404) 679-4127

Mr. Phillip Wilson, Plant Industry Division Director
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
1060 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is evaluating a number of species to determine whether or not they warrant downlisting or delisting under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). I am writing to invite you to designate representatives you would want to have participate in developing Species Status Assessments.

The Service developed the Species Status Assessment (SSA) framework to improve implementation of the ESA. These assessments are designed to capture the best available scientific and commercial information, which should include information from the states, in order to guide ESA decisions related to a species.

Additionally, Service policy regarding the role of state fish and wildlife agencies in ESA activities requires us to coordinate, collaborate, and use the expertise of state agencies in developing the scientific foundation upon which we base a determination to downlist or delist a species on the Federal list of threatened and endangered species. To better capture state input for each SSA in development, the Service is inviting at least one representative from each of the affected states to serve on the SSA team for each species being evaluated, subject to the affected state's ability to participate. Input from the states may include (but is not limited to) a solicitation of state data and research in addition to state personnel involvement in the development of the SSA.

We are presently working on the dwarf-flowered heartleaf SSA. We have already reached out to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to request assistance regarding the species' conservation status, occurrence data, and/or technical feedback regarding the management of populations within the state. **At this time, we are inviting you to appoint a representative to participate in the development and review of the SSA to the extent you are able.** We would greatly appreciate a response within 30 days of this letter, including the name, title, and contact information for the individual you would want to appoint to participate in this SSA.

More information about the use of SSAs to improve implementation of the ESA can be found here: https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_esa/ssa.html.

If you have questions about this request, please contact me at (828) 258-3939 ext. 223 or janet_mizzi@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Janet Mizzi
Field Supervisor

From: [Reid, Rebekah N](#)
To: [Mizzi, Janet](#)
Cc: [Peeples, Gary](#)
Subject: Re: example letter to the State
Date: Friday, February 2, 2018 12:51:17 PM
Importance: High

Thanks, Janet.

NC Natural Heritage Program is on our technical team and is currently/actively involved. I talked with PCP about two months ago and they do not work with *Hexastylis naniflora*. They know about the SSA but didn't know how much they would be able to add. I called and emailed SC Heritage Trust in Dec. and Jan. to ask for their participation and they declined the opportunity by indicating they haven't been working with the species and don't think they are the best group to participate. All agencies mentioned, regardless of their level of interest received a "Dear Interested Parties" letter in January.

I can send the letter but at this point, it might be a little confusing to do so...they've all already been contacted and have already chosen how to participate (or not).

Let me know. Thanks.

Rebekah Reid

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Asheville Ecological Services Field Office
160 Zillicoa St.
Asheville, NC 28801
phone: 828-258-3939 x238
cell: 828-782-0090

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 12:34 PM, Mizzi, Janet <janet_mizzi@fws.gov> wrote:

Hey Rebekah. Matt asked that we go ahead and send out the letter attached for *Hexastylis* as an invitation to the state. Can you also prepare one for SC?

Janet Mizzi
Field Supervisor
Asheville Ecological Services Field Office
160 Zillicoa St.
Asheville, NC 28801
phone: 828/258-3939 x223
fax: 828 258-5330

EXTINCTION IS FOREVER

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dekar, Matthew** <matthew_dekar@fws.gov>

Date: Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 11:21 AM

Subject: example letter to the State

To: Janet Mizzi <janet_mizzi@fws.gov>

Hi Janet,

Good talking with you. Attached is the example letter we discussed (you might recognize it). Please edit or update as needed. I did not change the address, but I think you indicated that this should go to the Heritage Program?

Thanks and I hope to send out another example (for future SSAs) in the next week or so.

Matt

--

Matthew Dekar, PhD
Deputy Chief, Division of Restoration and Recovery
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
(404) 679-4127

From: [Mizzi, Janet](#)
To: [Reid, Rebekah N](#)
Cc: [Peeples, Gary](#)
Subject: Re: example letter to the State
Date: Friday, February 2, 2018 1:05:15 PM
Importance: High

As long as you have that documented than I believe we are okay. Sorry for the confusion. Matt was trying to catch up with all the one initiated in January and last I had heard you had not heard back from several..

Janet Mizzi
Field Supervisor
Asheville Ecological Services Field Office
160 Zillicoa St.
Asheville, NC 28801
phone: 828/258-3939 x223
fax: 828 258-5330

EXTINCTION IS FOREVER

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 12:51 PM, Reid, Rebekah <rebekah_reid@fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Janet.

NC Natural Heritage Program is on our technical team and is currently/actively involved. I talked with PCP about two months ago and they do not work with *Hexastylis naniflora*. They know about the SSA but didn't know how much they would be able to add. I called and emailed SC Heritage Trust in Dec. and Jan. to ask for their participation and they declined the opportunity by indicating they haven't been working with the species and don't think they are the best group to participate. All agencies mentioned, regardless of their level of interest received a "Dear Interested Parties" letter in January.

I can send the letter but at this point, it might be a little confusing to do so...they've all already been contacted and have already chosen how to participate (or not).

Let me know. Thanks.

Rebekah Reid

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Asheville Ecological Services Field Office
[160 Zillicoa St.](#)
[Asheville, NC 28801](#)
phone: 828-258-3939 x238
cell: 828-782-0090

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 12:34 PM, Mizzi, Janet <janet_mizzi@fws.gov> wrote:

Hey Rebekah. Matt asked that we go ahead and send out the letter attached for Hexastylis as an invitation to the state. Can you also prepare one for SC?

Janet Mizzi
Field Supervisor
Asheville Ecological Services Field Office
[160 Zillicoa St.](#)
[Asheville, NC 28801](#)
phone: 828/258-3939 x223
fax: 828 258-5330

EXTINCTION IS FOREVER

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dekar, Matthew** <matthew_dekar@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 11:21 AM
Subject: example letter to the State
To: Janet Mizzi <janet_mizzi@fws.gov>

Hi Janet,

Good talking with you. Attached is the example letter we discussed (you might recognize it). Please edit or update as needed. I did not change the address, but I think you indicated that this should go to the Heritage Program?

Thanks and I hope to send out another example (for future SSAs) in the next week or so.

Matt

--

Matthew Dekar, PhD
Deputy Chief, Division of Restoration and Recovery
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
[1875 Century Boulevard](#)
[Atlanta, Georgia 30345](#)
(404) 679-4127

From: [Reid, Rebekah N](#)
To: [Mizzi, Janet](#)
Cc: [Peeples, Gary](#)
Subject: Re: example letter to the State
Date: Friday, February 2, 2018 1:09:22 PM

Thanks, I have it documented in my notes and emails. And, you are correct, last time we talked I had not heard back from SC. It's been taking them about about 3 weeks to return phone calls and emails!

If something changes and we need to send official letters, just let me know.

Rebekah Reid

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Asheville Ecological Services Field Office
160 Zillicoa St.
Asheville, NC 28801
phone: 828-258-3939 x238
cell: 828-782-0090

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 1:05 PM, Mizzi, Janet <janet_mizzi@fws.gov> wrote:

As long as you have that documented than I believe we are okay. Sorry for the confusion. Matt was trying to catch up with all the one initiated in January and last I had heard you had not heard back from several..

Janet Mizzi
Field Supervisor
Asheville Ecological Services Field Office
[160 Zillicoa St.](#)
[Asheville, NC 28801](#)
phone: 828/258-3939 x223
fax: 828 258-5330

EXTINCTION IS FOREVER

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 12:51 PM, Reid, Rebekah <rebekah_reid@fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Janet.

NC Natural Heritage Program is on our technical team and is currently/actively involved. I talked with PCP about two months ago and they do not work with *Hexastylis naniflora*. They know about the SSA but didn't know how much they would be able to add. I called and emailed SC Heritage Trust in Dec. and Jan. to ask for their participation and they declined the opportunity by indicating they haven't been working with the species and don't think they are the best group to participate. All agencies mentioned, regardless of

their level of interest received a "Dear Interested Parties" letter in January.

I can send the letter but at this point, it might be a little confusing to do so...they've all already been contacted and have already chosen how to participate (or not).

Let me know. Thanks.

Rebekah Reid

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Asheville Ecological Services Field Office
[160 Zillicoa St.](#)
[Asheville, NC 28801](#)
phone: 828-258-3939 x238
cell: 828-782-0090

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 12:34 PM, Mizzi, Janet <janet_mizzi@fws.gov> wrote:
Hey Rebekah. Matt asked that we go ahead and send out the letter attached for Hexastylis as an invitation to the state. Can you also prepare one for SC?

Janet Mizzi
Field Supervisor
Asheville Ecological Services Field Office
[160 Zillicoa St.](#)
[Asheville, NC 28801](#)
phone: 828/258-3939 x223
fax: 828 258-5330

EXTINCTION IS FOREVER

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dekar, Matthew** <matthew_dekar@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 11:21 AM
Subject: example letter to the State
To: Janet Mizzi <janet_mizzi@fws.gov>

Hi Janet,

Good talking with you. Attached is the example letter we discussed (you might recognize it). Please edit or update as needed. I did not change the address, but I think you indicated that this should go to the Heritage Program?

Thanks and I hope to send out another example (for future SSAs) in the next week or so.

Matt

--

Matthew Dekar, PhD
Deputy Chief, Division of Restoration and Recovery
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
[1875 Century Boulevard](#)
[Atlanta, Georgia 30345](#)
(404) 679-4127