



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region



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Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

BA/FOIA

May 2, 2016

Via email: bishop@westernlaw.org

Matthew Bishop
Western Environmental Law Center
103 Reeder's Alley
Helena, MT 59601

REF: FWS-2016-00589

Dear Mr. Bishop:

This letter is in regard to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated March 15, 2016 for “*any and all documents and information pertaining to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (Service’s) Species Status Assessment (SSA) and progress towards completing a recovery plan for Canada lynx (lynx) pursuant to the June 25, 2014 order in Friends of the Wild Swan v. Ashe, Civ. No. 13-cv-57-DWM (D. Mont. 2014).*” Specifically, you are requesting the following:

1. *All documents and information related to the Service’s preparation of a “Species Status Assessment” (SSA) for lynx. This includes, but is not limited to, all inter-agency and intra-agency communications (including correspondence with state wild agencies) including letters, emails, phone records, phone logs, meeting notes, memos, white papers, policy papers, and any other documents or information (and drafts of such documents and information) related to the SSA for lynx.*
2. *A list of all members of the Service’s lynx SSA Framework Implementation Team (which, according to the Service, will oversee development and completion of the SSA) and lynx SSA Core Team (which will draft the SSA and associated documents), as well as any and all documents and information related to the formation and makeup of the two teams.*
3. *All documents and information provided, considered, produced, and/or discussed before, during, or after (but related to) the Service’s October 13, 2015 to October 15, 2015 Expert Elicitation Workshop in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This includes, but is not limited to, a list of attendees, the Service’s “detailed notes of the workshop” which were “subsequently shared with and reviewed by workshop participants,” a copy of any and*

all presentations and power-points presented, and the Service's "report" (both draft and final) analyzing and summarizing the workshop.

4. *All documents and information, including schedules, dates, and times related to future meetings and gatherings pertaining to the lynx SSA, lynx recovery planning, or the lynx's listing status.*
5. *All documents and information related to the Service's preparation of a recovery plan for lynx **since issuance** of the June 25, 2014 order in Friends of the Wild Swan v. Ashe, Civ. No. 13-cv-57-DWM (D. Mont. 2014). This includes, but is not limited to, all inter-agency and intra-agency communications including letters, emails, phone records, phone logs, meeting notes, memos, white papers, policy papers, and any other documents or information (and drafts of such documents and information) related to the preparation of a recovery plan for lynx since June 25, 2014.*

On April 13, 2016 we contacted you by telephone to discuss this request. During that call it was decided that you no longer required documents responsive to items 1 and 5 of your request. We also agreed to provide you a brief paragraph providing information on where we are with the SSA. This was confirmed via email on the same date. Enclosed is a DVD containing thirty-three (33) documents responsive to your request, which are being released in their entirety. Also enclosed is a document named "20160425 MEM_WELC Update for FOIA on Canada Lynx.pdf", which provides the status of the SSA.

This is our only and final response and closes your request, FWS-2016-00589. If you have any questions, you may contact me by phone at 303-236-4473, by email at Stacey_Cummins@fws.gov, or by mail at 134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, Colorado 80228.

Sincerely,



Stacey Cummins
Region 6 FOIA Coordinator