

From: [Ric Costales](#)
To: ["Williams, Erin"](#)
Cc: [Brian Woodbridge](#); [Scott Yaeger](#); [Matt Baun](#); [Jenny Ericson](#); [Nadine Kanim](#)
Subject: RE: Fisher ESA evaluation
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013 12:27:06 PM
Importance: High

Erin:

Thanks for getting back to me so quick. I will write it up for April 2. Unfortunately, I won't be at the meeting, but I don't think my role is that important.

I haven't gotten hooked up on the wolf issue yet. Hoping to be able to talk to folks in both New Mexico and Montana. Pat Griffin, our Ag Commissioner, is the one who will be tagged with any wolf-related County responsibilities. I'm just a policy guy. Pat has been trying to make connections, but so far hasn't had much luck. There is still time to hook up in Montana as that will be at the end of my trip in May. New Mexico, however, is my first stop and if I am going to do wolves there, I need to get hooked up pretty damn quick. Pat's equivalent guy in New Mexico is Jess Carey who is fishing in Texas right now. I talked to his wife this morning and hopefully he will check in at home and be able to give me a call so that we can set something up.

The reason Pat thinks this connection in New Mexico (Catron County) is important is because he feels it bears a lot of similarity to Siskiyou County in terms of the relatively small population of native prey species (deer and elk). As you know, our deer are on the ropes and our elk are just getting started. Apparently in the "recovery" of wolves in Catron County, they had to resort to feeding the wolves because of this situation. With limited natural prey, it would seem the pressure to prey on livestock and the threat to public safety is increased. At least this is Catron County's story and I would be going there to see for myself.

I'll let you know how things develop. Right now it is looking like I won't be doing any wolf research unless one runs in front of my truck.

Ric

From: Williams, Erin [mailto:erin_williams@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 11:03 AM
To: Ric Costales
Cc: Brian Woodbridge; Scott Yaeger; Matt Baun; Jenny Ericson; Nadine Kanim
Subject: Re: Fisher ESA evaluation

Ric -

I could make the April 2nd meeting, and perhaps the April 9th, though the 2nd works best.

Have a great vacation - will you make it to some of the wolf areas in Montana?

Erin

On Thu, Mar 21, 2013 at 10:35 AM, Ric Costales <rcostales@co.siskiyou.ca.us> wrote:
Erin:

I have notified the Board about your offer. They are very appreciative of your effort to keep them in the loop early and they feel it is very important to hear from you at a BOS meeting. Please let me know your earliest convenience for talking to the Board.

I am leaving for extended vacation on Monday, and won't be back until the middle of May. I am hoping I can hear back from you today or tomorrow so that I can do the agenda worksheet before I go. If not, I will be in touch with the County via email most every morning. I have a laptop and have burned all the pertinent files I might need to a flash drive so that I can prepare worksheets, letters and other documents while I'm on my trip, so if we can't figure out a date before I leave, we can set something up while I am on the road.

The Supes meet the first three Tuesdays of every month, so available days are April 2, 9, and 16. The earlier the better so that the County has time to make substantive comments if necessary.

Again, thanks!

Ric

From: Williams, Erin [mailto:erin_williams@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 3:47 PM
To: Ric Costales
Cc: Brian Woodbridge; Scott Yaeger; Matt Baun; Jenny Ericson
Subject: Fisher ESA evaluation

Ric -

As I've mentioned a few times recently, the FWS is evaluating whether or not the West Coast Distinct Population segment of the fisher warrants listing as a threatened or endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act. The fisher has been a "candidate" species (under the ESA) since 2004, and as part of a litigation settlement, we/FWS have committed to conducting our evaluation by September 2014.

Though we didn't need to officially re-announce that the fisher is a candidate species and that the evaluation was moving forward, we felt it was transparent to publish a Federal Register notice opening a public comment period with this information. That FR notice published yesterday and can be downloaded here (<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/03/19/2013-06214/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-status-review-of-the-west-coast-distinct-population>), as well as the press release. Hard copies were sent in the mail, which you hopefully received today. If not, you can find both at our website: <http://www.fws.gov/yreka/> and I've attached the press release.

Could you please share this information with the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors? If the Board would like to discuss at a meeting, please let me know and that can be arranged. The Yreka office is the lead for this evaluation, which spans California, Oregon and Washington.

Thank you,
Erin

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Erin Williams
Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1829 S. Oregon Street
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 841-3112

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