

From: [Grizzle, Betty](#)
To: [Bush, Jodi](#)
Subject: Fwd: Wolverine DIP letter - listing determination/SSA
Date: Friday, October 27, 2017 9:06:01 AM
Attachments: [20161122 LTR Interested Party Wolverine Initiation of Status Review.docx](#)
[20161122 LTR Interested Party Wolverine Initiation of Status Review.pdf](#)

This is all I can find for California/Nevada. I can check with Pam Bierce, but might be best to for me to contact Richard Adkins, Region 8 Native American Liaison, for a distribution list.

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

From: Long, Michael <michael_long@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 29, 2016 at 11:34 AM
Subject: Fwd: Wolverine DIP letter - listing determination/SSA
To: Jennifer Norris <Jennifer_Norris@fws.gov>, Jan Knight <Jan_Knight@fws.gov>, Jenny Ericson <jenny_ericson@fws.gov>, Carolyn Swed <carolyn_swed@fws.gov>
Cc: Lee Carranza <lee_carranza@fws.gov>, Daniel Russell <Daniel_Russell@fws.gov>, Pamela Bierce <pamela_bierce@fws.gov>, "Grizzle, Betty" <betty_grizzle@fws.gov>

Jen, Carolyn, Jenny:

Please see the emails below. I need to have each of your offices send out the DIP letters as soon as you can for interested parties in your jurisdiction. Keep in mind the area of interest in basically the Sierra Nevadas. The primary targets are USFS, NPS, CDFW, BLM, Tribes and any interested groups you may have. Feel free to send to other entities you believe may be interested and/or might have relevant information. Note R6's request that only PDF versions of the letter be sent out.

Pam Bierce is checking to see if EA is going to send the DIP letters to the Tribes, so confirm with Pam before potentially duplicating efforts there.

Thanks folks, and let me know if you have any questions.

Mike

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

From: Grizzle, Betty <betty_grizzle@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 22, 2016 at 1:40 PM
Subject: Fwd: Wolverine DIP letter - listing determination/SSA
To: Michael Long <michael_long@fws.gov>

Hi Mike - I wanted to make sure that you were aware of this email (and request for help in sending DIP letters) that was sent out to various regional offices. Serena Baker (and Pam Bierce for R8 only) are coordinating with the regional tribal liaisons.

Betty

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

From: **Shoemaker, Justin** <justin_shoemaker@fws.gov>

Date: Tue, Nov 22, 2016 at 9:43 AM

Subject: Wolverine DIP letter - listing determination/SSA

To: Seth Willey <seth_willey@fws.gov>, Jodi Bush <jodi_bush@fws.gov>, "Grizzle, Betty" <betty_grizzle@fws.gov>, Caitlin Snyder <caitlin_snyder@fws.gov>, Bryon Holt <bryon_holt@fws.gov>, Steven Detwiler <steven_detwiler@fws.gov>, Kim Turner <kim_s_turner@fws.gov>, "Jacobsen, Dana" <Dana.Jacobsen@sol.doi.gov>

Cc: Kit Hershey <kit_hershey@fws.gov>, "Russell, Daniel" <daniel_russell@fws.gov>, Serena Baker <serena_baker@fws.gov>, "Dikeman, Hayley" <hayley_dikeman@fws.gov>

Team,

We need your help in getting wolverine DIP letters sent out to States, Federal Agencies, and Tribes as soon as possible. Attached is a PDF of the DIP letter for the wolverine status determination/SSA signed by Jodi at the MTFO. You can either send that out or take the word version attached that can be revised with letterhead from your offices and signed accordingly. **Please do not send out a word file to counterparts, send a signed PDF only.**

We are leaving it up to core team members to coordinate within your regions, FOs, and external affairs programs as necessary to get this done. If you have questions or concerns you can reach out to Betty Grizzle.

We hope to have a core team call in a few weeks, plan to report back on the status of the DIP letters in your regions at that time.

Thanks.

Justin Shoemaker
Senior Listing Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
1511 47th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265
Phone: 309-757-5800 ext. 214
Email: justin_shoemaker@fws.gov

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Betty J. Grizzle, D.Env.
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Ave, Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008
760-431-9440, ext. 215
760-431-5901 fax

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Michael Long
Div. Chief, Listing and Recovery
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento
(916) 414-6478

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United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

Ecological Services

Montana Field Office

585 Shepard Way, Suite 1

Helena, Montana 59601-6287

Phone: (406) 449-5225 Fax: (406) 449-5339



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R6/MTESO/wolverine

November 22, 2016

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is in the process of determining the status of the distinct population segment (DPS) of the North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*; wolverine) in the contiguous United States.

On February 4, 2013, we published a proposed rule to list the DPS of wolverine occurring in the contiguous United States as threatened, under the Act, with a proposed rule under section 4(d) of the Act that outlines the prohibitions necessary and advisable for the conservation of the wolverine (78 FR 7864). We also published on February 4, 2013, a proposed rule to establish a nonessential experimental population area for the North American wolverine in the Southern Rocky Mountains of Colorado, northern New Mexico, and southern Wyoming (78 FR 7890). On August 13, 2014, based on our conclusion that the factors affecting the DPS as identified in the proposed rule were not as significant as believed at the time of the proposed rule's publication in 2013, we withdrew the proposed rule to list the DPS of the North American wolverine as a threatened species under the Act (79 FR 47522). In October 2014, complaints were filed in the District Court for the District of Montana by several organizations challenging the withdrawal of the proposal to list the North American wolverine DPS. As a result of the court order (issued April 4, 2016), the August 13, 2014, withdrawal was vacated and remanded to the Service for further consideration consistent with the order.

In effect, the court's action returns the process to the proposed rule stage, and the status of the wolverine under the Act has effectively reverted to that of a proposed species for the purposes of consultation under section 7 of the Act. On October 18, 2016, we published a *Federal Register* Notice reopening the comment period for 30 days on our February 4, 2013, proposed rule to list the distinct population segment of wolverine and announcing our initiation of a new status review of the wolverine, to determine whether this distinct population segment meets the definition of an endangered or threatened species under the Act, and request new information to inform our status review (81 FR 71670).

The wolverine is a medium-sized mammal that resembles a small bear with a bushy tail. Wolverines in North America occupy a wide variety of alpine, boreal, and arctic habitats. The wolverine in the contiguous United States is distributed across parts of the northern Rocky Mountains in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, and the Northern Cascades in Washington. Previously gathered biological and threat assessment information for the wolverine can be found

Dear Interested Party

in our February 4, 2013, proposed rule, available online at <http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?scode=A0FA>.

For this status review, we will be using the Species Status Assessment (SSA) framework to guide our evaluation of the wolverine. The SSA framework is an analytical approach that characterizes a species' ability to sustain populations over time based on the best scientific understanding of current and future abundance and distribution, taking into consideration any threats, stressors, or conservation efforts that could influence or affect the species' status. An SSA is grounded in conservation biology principles and is a transparent and explicit analysis based solely on the best available science. We complete the SSA before any policies are applied or decisions are made, which provides greater flexibility for us to engage with our partners and solicit peer review. The SSA generates clear, logical analyses that not only supports our decisions under the Endangered Species Act (Act), but provides foundational, biological information to help guide species conservation.

As we develop the SSA, we encourage our conservation partners and all interested parties to provide any new information regarding the status of the wolverine. Additionally, we may contact your species experts directly for additional information on the species, request reviews of draft documents, and if needed, ask for their participation in coordination meetings or expert workshops. We greatly appreciate the expertise, involvement, and time of your staff.

Over the next several months, we will be gathering and analyzing available information on the wolverine as part of our process to determine their status. We are required to use the best scientific and commercial data available in our status review, which ensures any potential listing determination is as accurate and effective as possible. Following the status review, the Service will either publish a rule that proposes protections under the Act for the wolverine, or a not-warranted listing determination in the *Federal Register* in late 2017. A final listing rule, if appropriate, would be published in the *Federal Register* in 2018.

With this letter we are providing early notification to interested parties that we are initiating the status review process for wolverine and are seeking your input to ensure we have the best available information upon which to inform the status review. At this time, we are seeking information and data regarding the following items:

- General information concerning the taxonomy, biology, ecology, genetics, and status of the wolverine;
- Specific information on the conservation status of the wolverine, including information on distribution, abundance, and population trends;
- Specific information on threats to the wolverine, including: (i) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; (ii) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (iii) disease or predation; (iv) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and (v) other natural or manmade

Dear Interested Party

factors affecting its continued existence;

- Habitat selection, use, and any changes or trends in the amount and distribution of wolverine habitat;
- Habitat requirements for feeding, breeding, and sheltering, including particular physical or biological features that are essential to the conservation of the wolverine and where such physical or biological features are found;
- Whether any of these features may require special management considerations or protection;
- Specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the wolverine that may be essential for the conservation of the species;

We will accept new information throughout this process; however, we respectfully request that you provide any pertinent information as soon as possible and not later than December 30, 2016, to ensure we have adequate time to consider it during our status review. Please be aware that all data and information submitted to us including names and addresses will become part of the decisional record for this package and may be made public.

Information should be submitted to Betty Grizzle of the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office at:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
Attn: Betty Grizzle
2177 Salk Ave, Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Thank you for your interest in the conservation of the wolverine. If you would like additional information or have questions about the species, please contact Betty Grizzle at (760) 431-9440, extension 215, or betty_grizzle@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Jodi Bush
Office Supervisor

United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service



Ecological Services

Name of Office

Address

City, State Zip

Phone: (xxx) xxx-xxxx Fax: (xxx) xxx-xxxx



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Sincerely,

/Signed/

Name
Title