

From: [Bierce, Pamela](#)
To: [Grizzle, Betty](#)
Cc: [Adkins, Richard](#)
Subject: Re: Looking for information
Date: Friday, October 27, 2017 9:39:27 AM
Attachments: [Tribal Leader Wolverine Initiation of Status Review.pdf](#)

Betty,

Attached is the letter we discussed. I'll check with Richard to see if he has the list of what tribes it went to and if he is coordinating with R6 about tribal notification regarding the SSA.

Pam

On Fri, Oct 27, 2017 at 8:22 AM, Grizzle, Betty <betty_grizzle@fws.gov> wrote:
The one at the bottom - 760-431-9440 ext 215.

On Fri, Oct 27, 2017 at 8:20 AM, Bierce, Pamela <pamela_bierce@fws.gov> wrote:
I can call you now, what's the best number?

On Fri, Oct 27, 2017 at 8:19 AM, Grizzle, Betty <betty_grizzle@fws.gov> wrote:
Hi Pam - Back in November (Nov 29), Mike Long sent an email asking several Project Leaders to send "Dear Interested Party" letters related to the wolverine NOI. But I don't know if anyone sent letters to our Tribal partners in Region 8. Can you please give me a call?
Thanks,
Betty

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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
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Pam Bierce
USFWS Pacific Southwest Region
External Affairs
(916) 414-6542 office
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Sacramento, California 95825



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R8/Ecological Services/wolverine

November 22, 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

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, southern Wyoming (78 FR 7890) and with occasional sightings as far south as California and Nevada. 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.

Dear Interested Party

Previously gathered biological and threat assessment information for the wolverine can be found in our February 4, 2013, proposed rule, available online at <http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=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;

Dear Interested Party

(iv) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and (v) other natural or manmade 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,



Alejandro Morales – Fast Horse
Public Affairs Specialist and Tribal Relations

