

**From:** [Grizzle, Betty](#)  
**To:** [Krueger, Patricia A -FS](#)  
**Cc:** [Turner, Ed](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Discussion with Patricia and Data to come...  
**Date:** Friday, January 6, 2017 3:27:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[20161122\\_LTR\\_Interested Party Wolverine Initiation of Status Review.pdf](#)

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Hi Patti - Thanks so much for your assistance with this information request.

**A bit of background:** I have been assigned to work on our agency's listing determination for the wolverine (lower 48 states). As you are probably aware, a Federal court vacated and remanded back to our agency our proposed rule (from 2014) to withdraw our previous proposed rule (from 2013) to list the species as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. We are preparing a new status review for the species and I have been tasked with preparing a status assessment report that will be used to support our next listing determination, which will be a (revised) proposed rule as either warranted for listing or withdrawal of previous proposed rule. Our agency sent out "interested parties" letters in November to various State, Federal, and Tribal partners, which I have **attached here** (this example was sent from our MT office).

I have been reviewing background information and previous studies, as well as newer studies/publications and other information we have received. I am working with Ed to compile all of the wolverine observations in the lower 48 states into a GIS-based format. Once we have finished that, I expect we will conduct various analyses using these data, but this is a deliberative process, so I cannot say exactly what those analyses and results will be.

I hope this addresses your questions about our request for information.  
Thanks again,  
Betty

On Fri, Jan 6, 2017 at 1:26 PM, Krueger, Patricia A -FS <[pkruieger@fs.fed.us](mailto:pkruieger@fs.fed.us)> wrote:

Hi Ed,

I should have the data for you by Tuesday at the latest per my data person.

Hi Betty,

I did a quick check in with my national leads and they are willing to assist us to get the data you need from our Research branch of the Forest Service. Please provide me with a little more information so that I can share with them so they can start the dialogue/request from their side.

It is our goal in the Forest Service to provide FWS with the information/data necessary so that you/FWS can do your job effectively.

Thanks!

Patti



**Patricia Krueger**  
**Regional Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinator**  
**Forest Service**

**Pacific Southwest Region, Regional Office**

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**Caring for the land and serving people**

**From:** Turner, Ed [mailto:[ed\\_turner@fws.gov](mailto:ed_turner@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 06, 2017 10:19 AM  
**To:** Betty Grizzle <[betty\\_grizzle@fws.gov](mailto:betty_grizzle@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Krueger, Patricia A -FS <[pkrueger@fs.fed.us](mailto:pkrueger@fs.fed.us)>  
**Subject:** Discussion with Patricia and Data to come...

Hello Betty, I just got off the phone with Patricia regarding the Wolverine data and she is going to be a major help.

She will work on a request to pull all Wolverine data from the USFS National Database and that will really help up in the northern region. With luck we will have those data next week sometime. I will then compare to some of the other data we received. The new data pull will be the most up-to-date, unless we have received information that was not yet submitted to the National Database.

She also encouraged that you can reach out to her for assistance for additional data needs, information on what is happening with other USFS researches within the R6/R1, etc.

Very positive and productive call.

Hope this helps,

Ed

--

Edwin Turner, Geographer

GIS Mapping and Analysis Branch

DOI-R8-CFWO

USFWS Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office

2177 Salk Ave. Suite 250

Carlsbad, CA 92008

760.431.9440 x266

[Ed\\_Turner@fws.gov](mailto:Ed_Turner@fws.gov)

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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

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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;

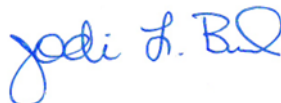
We will accept new information throughout this process; however, we respectfully request that you provide any pertinent information as soon as possible and not later than December 30, 2016, to ensure we have adequate time to consider it during our status review. Please be aware that all data and information 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](mailto:betty_grizzle@fws.gov).

Sincerely,



Jodi Bush  
Office Supervisor