

From: [Grizzle, Betty](#)
To: [Shawn Sartorius](#)
Subject: FYI - public comment re NM
Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 8:23:45 AM
Attachments: [Public Comment Wolverine New Mexico posted Nov 15 2016.pdf](#)

Hi Shawn - I am reviewing the public comments submitted on the notice of the (re)proposed rule for the wolverine. I thought you might be interested in this one (see attached for pdf) about potential sighting in New Mexico. I spoke to Jim Stuart, NM Dept. Fish and Game, yesterday and he had not heard about this. As you know, very difficult to verify these observations without photograph.

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PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Threatened Status for the Distinct Population Segment of the North American Wolverine
Occurring in the Contiguous United States

Comment On: FWS-R6-ES-2016-0106-0001

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: North American Wolverine

Document: FWS-R6-ES-2016-0106-0131

Submitted Electronically via eRulemaking Portal

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General Comment

I would like the wolverine to be listed as threatened or endangered as soon as possible. Out of the fairly vast wildlands where the wolverine lived in the 1800's, there are few left and they need help to secure a viable population.

I backpack several times each month throughout the West and particularly in New Mexico where I live. I spend much of my time observing wildlife, and see animals not seen with frequency by most hikers.

In June of 2016, I saw what appeared to be a wolverine in the Wheeler Peak Wilderness of New Mexico. I was at about 11,800' (at about conifer treeline) at about 7pm. I was watching some bighorn on a ragged ridge and noted a movement below the sheep about 800' away. I saw what was a brown mammal weighing around 40 pounds running very quickly and with great agility at a contour on this steep mountain slope of talus, rock outcrops, and steep slopes. It ran for about 700' until I lost sight of it in some shrubs in an avalanche chute. I had binoculars on it for about one minute, but never saw its face clearly. I was not certain what it was. It looked similar to a bear cub, but was far too swift and agile and moved totally differently. It was too high off of the ground to be a badger, and too large. It was far too large to be a pine marten. It looked from what I saw like a wolverine, but

was not a clear enough sighting to be certain. This area had some of the highest density of marmot populations which I have seen in the West.

Places like the Sangre de Cristo Range need the wolverine back in breeding and viable numbers to help bring balance back to the ecosystem and prey populations that live here. The Sangres are a large wildlands but don't have the healthy wildlife balance that was here before trapping, hunting, and killing occurred to large degrees changing what was here to just a remnant of that. The wolverine is in bad shape for survival and long term existence in the West, we and especially the Wolverine need your help in protection to be listed under the endangered species act to ensure their survival with the hopes of recovery.

Thank you, Grant