

From: [Trina Vigil](#)
To: [Craig Hansen](#)
Cc: [John Guinotte](#); [Justin Shoemaker](#); trina_vigil@fws.gov
Subject: Surname Package: BP Memo Wolverine
Date: Monday, June 12, 2017 12:17:14 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[Briefing Memo for RD Wolverine SSA update_06122017.docx](#)
[Surname Pkg Note to Reviewer.docx](#)
[surname_list.pdf](#)
[Wolverine Detailed Timeline_06122017.docx](#)
[Surname Pkg Routing List.doc](#)
Importance: High

Craig-

Good afternoon, can you please surname the attached surname package. Make sure to sign the Yellow Surname sheet once you have approved it please forward it to next person on the routing sheet and reply to all to allow the author and myself able to track the location of the surname package. If you make any changes to any of the documents please make the changes on the I:\drive document and attach the new version of the document to the email.

All documents can be found at the following location: [I:\- Surname Word Document\Surname ES\Shoemaker\BP Wolverine](#)

Note: Needs to be delivered to RD office today

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES		
#	NAME /TITLE/ OFFICE	LTR*
	Field Office -	F
	Backsen, Sarah	F
	Boroja, Maria	F
	Burgess, Angela	F
	Burgess, Kevin	F
	Gober, Joy	F
	Guinotte, John	F
2	Hansen, Craig	F
	Joersz, Kiana	
	Juliusson, Lara	F
	Kelleher, John/Eileen Lindgren	F
	Konishi, Kathy	F
	Laye, Doug	F
	Lickfett, Todd	F
	Norman, Kate	F
	Orton-Palmer, Amelia	F
	Sattelberg, Mark	F
1	Shoemaker, Justin	F
	Skorupa, Joe	F
	Smith, Kim	F
	Wiechman, Lief	F
3	Nelson, Marjorie/ Chief – Ecological Services	F
	Kales, Matt	F
	Vigil, Trina/Secretary/ES	F
	Naylon, Jill/Secretary/ES	F
	Alt, Nicole/ Deputy ARD-ES	F / G
4	Thabault, Mike / ARD-ES	F / G
5	Regional Director / Deputy RD	F / G
	External Affairs	F
	Budget Administration	F
	Fisheries	F
	Law Enforcement	F
	Migratory Birds /State Programs	F
	Refuges	F
	Ecological Services	H
* F – surname G – signature H – return to originating office		
FROM: Trina Vigil DATE: 6/12/17		

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FROM: Trina Vigil

DATE: 6/12/17

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

DATE: June 12, 2017

FROM: Michael Thabault, Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services

SUBJECT: Wolverine Species Status Assessment Update

To inform the Regional Director of the progress made on the North American wolverine (wolverine) Species Status Assessment (SSA) Report and the key information that will be of interest to the eventual wolverine listing decision. A briefing is scheduled for June 15.

BACKGROUND

In compliance with a Court order that remanded our previous withdrawal of a proposed rule to list the contiguous U.S. Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the wolverine (79 FR 47522; August 13, 2014), we will prepare either a revised proposed rule to list or a revised withdrawal of the previous proposed rule (78 FR 7864; February 4, 2013). In October 2016, we published a notice to announce the vacature of the withdrawal rule to the public, announce the proposed status since the judge's ruling, and to reopen the public comment period on the February 4, 2013 proposed rule to list the wolverine as a threatened species.

DISCUSSION

Highlighted in Judge Christensen's Court order remanding the withdrawal were the Service's determinations regarding: (a) the threat posed to the wolverine by the effects of climate change at the reproductive denning scale, (b) the threat posed to the wolverine by small population size and lack of genetic diversity, and (c) application of the SPR Policy to the wolverine. In our SSA Report we are reviewing previously considered information and new information to inform these points to ensure we are using the best available science upon which to base our listing decision.

Range of the Species – using both previously considered and new information, we have revised our approach to delineate the range of the wolverine across North America and in the contiguous United States to more accurately represent the species' range.

Trapping Data – we have collected additional trapping data not available to us in 2014 to inform the range of the species and the effect of trapping in Canada (British Columbia and Alberta); this information is directly relevant to informing our DPS determination.

NOAA/CU snow persistence model – High resolution snow pack models have been developed for Glacier and Rocky Mountain National Parks. These areas bracket the DPS range for the wolverine in the contiguous United States. The majority of model scenarios indicate significant future snow persistence through April and May for 1) elevations currently used for denning in Glacier National Park and 2) the inferred elevations where wolverines would be expected to den in Rocky Mountain National Park.

New denning information – we have received several peer-reviewed publications and other information from wolverine researchers that were not available to us in 2014 documenting natal den sites and den site conditions that provide new insight into the timing and location of wolverine den sites; natal den sites have been documented in locations outside of areas previously predicted by Copeland et al. (2010) snow model in North America and in Scandinavia.

Population Viability Analysis (PVA) underway – we are coordinating with USGS to develop a PVA to inform minimum viable population size and to develop future scenarios that model the potential effects of demographic and habitat parameters on the wolverine population in the contiguous United States.

Genetics – The court stated that, in our 2014 withdrawal, we failed to articulate how our statements regarding the following did not constitute adverse effects to wolverine:

- Apparent loss of connectivity between Rocky Mountains and Canada prevented influx of genetic material needed to maintain or increase the genetic diversity in contiguous U.S.
- Effective population size is too low to support the subpopulations in contiguous U.S.
- Genetic drift has already occurred in subpopulations in contiguous U.S. as compared to Canada, and a continued loss of genetic diversity may lead to inbreeding depression and inability of wolverines in contiguous U.S. to persist.

To address these concerns we need to evaluate our analysis in previous rules in which we concluded that there is “good evidence” that genetic diversity is lower in wolverines in the contiguous U.S. as compared to Canada and Alaska. We also need to determine whether there is a threat for inbreeding depression based on small population size. In addition to informing these points, knowledge gained through a more thorough and complete analysis of the genetic structure of wolverine populations throughout North America would better inform our DPS determination.

NEXT STEPS

We plan to present the final SSA Report, with peer and partner review incorporated, to the RD and decision team by December 2017.

ATTACHMENTS

See attached for a schedule outlining steps and timelines for preparation of the North American wolverine SSA Report and listing decision documents.

NOTE TO REVIEWER (NTR)

DATE SUBMITTED: June 12, 2017

PREPARED BY: Justin Shoemaker, Classification Biologist, for Mike Thabault

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM ON THE NORTH AMERICAN WOLVERINE FOR THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

CRITICAL DATES (if any): June 15, 2017, In-Person Briefing

DESCRIPTION/MAIN MESSAGE:

- THE BRIEFING MEMORANDUM IS TO INFORM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE PROGRESS MADE ON THE NORTH AMERICAN WOLVERINE SPECIES STATUS ASSESSMENT REPORT AND THE KEY INFORMATION THAT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THE WOLVERINE LISTING DECISION.
 - AN IN-PERSON BRIEFING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 15, 2017 AT 1PM (MST).
 - BRIEFING TOPICS INCLUDE: UPDATED CURRENT RANGE OF THE SPECIES, TRAPPING DATA IN CANADA, NOAA/CU SNOW PERSISTENCE MODEL, NEW DENNING INFORMATION, POPULATION VIABILITY ANALYSIS AND GENETICS
-

S U R N A M E

TITLE	NAME	DATE
FIELD OFFICE		
AUTHOR <i>Justin Shoemaker</i>	<i>JS</i>	<i>6/12/17</i>
FIELD OFFICE SUPERVISOR/PL		
FIELD OFFICE ADMIN ASSISTANT / FIELD OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER		
REGIONAL OFFICE		
AUTHOR / RO LEAD		
SECRETARY	<i>MD</i>	<i>6/12/17</i>
ARD- SCIENCE APPLICATIONS		
ARD – ECOLOGICAL SERVICES		
DARD-ECOLOGICAL SERVICES		
ARD – EXTERNAL AFFAIRS		
ARD – FISHERIES		
ARD – LAW ENFORCEMENT		
ARD – MIGRATORY BIRDS		
ARD – NATL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM		
ARD- BUDGET/ADMINISTRATION		
CHIEF OF STAFF/RD OFFICE		
SECRETARY / REGIONAL DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR		
REGIONAL DIRECTOR		
ECOLOGICAL SERVICE REGIONAL OFFICE		
BRANCH CHIEF, CLASSIFICATION AND RECOVERY		
BRANCH CHIEF, LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION		
BRANCH CHIEF, DECISION SUPPORT		
DIVISION CHIEF, ECOLOGICAL SERVICES		
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Wolverine Listing Determination Timeline
6/12/17 version

Task	Responsible Parties	Dates	Length of time
<i>Species Status Assessment (SSA) Phase</i>			
FR notice opening comment period on 2013 proposed listing rule	MTFO	Oct 18 2016	done
DIP letters sent out to States and partners	MTFO	Oct	done
Public comment period, input from States, partners, etc.		Oct 18-Nov 17	30 days, done
Conduct science analysis (SSA)	SSA core team	By Sept 15 2017	in process
Draft SSA report	Betty Grizzle (FO Lead Bio)	By Oct 7	in process
SSA core team meeting in Denver	Core team, R6 management and decision support staff	Feb 15-16	2 days, done
SSA report check-in w/ RD	SSA core team, management	June 8	1 hr briefing
Peer review planning and contracting	Justin Shoemaker (ULT lead), Caitlin Snyder (ULT assist)	Aug - Oct	2 months to get contracted peer reviewers in place
SSA report core team review	SSA core team	Oct 7-14	1 week
Edit SSA report based on core team review	Betty Grizzle	Oct 14-Oct 21	1 week
SSA report to peer reviewers and partners*	Justin Shoemaker, Jodi Bush (MTFO Project Leader)	Oct 21-Nov 21	1 month
Edit and finalize SSA report	Betty Grizzle	Nov 21-Dec 19	4 weeks
<i>Listing Decision Analysis Phase</i>			
SSA report to recommendation team	Justin Shoemaker, Jodi Bush	Dec 19	At least 2 weeks prior to recommendation team meeting
Decision meeting	RDs or delegates, ARDs, other management, SSA core team	First or second week of Jan 2018	2 days
Draft decision summary for the record or certify decision meeting notes	R6 RD or delegate	early Jan	3 days (after recommendation team meeting)
<i>Process for final withdrawal of proposed listing (if decision is to not list) - or revised proposed listing rule (if decision is to list)</i>			
Draft final withdrawal (not-warranted) FR notice or revised proposed listing rule (and if necessary, proposed 10(j), 4(d))	Justin Shoemaker and Betty Grizzle	Jan 15-Feb 12	4 weeks
Core team reviews FR notice,	SSA core team,	Feb 12-Feb 26	2 weeks

*Includes States, Tribes, Federal Agencies

make revisions	Justin Shoemaker		
Regional Office Surnames and concurrence	Marjorie Nelson, Mike Thabault, Matt Hogan, Noreen Walsh, and concurring regional RDs/ARDs or delegates	Feb 26-March 12	2 weeks
SOL surname	DOI SOL	Feb 26-March 12	2 weeks
PPM	PPM	Feb 26-March 12	2 weeks
Revise based on RO/SOL/PPM comments	Justin Shoemaker and Betty Grizzle	March 12-March 21	10 days
HQ review	Sarah Quamme, Bridget Fahey	March 21-	2 weeks (submit 6 weeks prior to FR submittal date)
Asst. Director for ES Surname	Asst. Director for ES	April 4	5 business days
FWS Director Surname	Director of FWS	April 11	5 business days
Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Surname	FWP	April 18	10 business days
Executive Secretary Surname	Executive Secretary's Office	May 2	3 business days
Deliver to FR	HQ	May 7	
Publication of withdrawal or proposed rule	Federal Register	May 14	
Public comment period on revised proposed listing (only if decision is to list)		May 14-June 12	30 days (may need to be 60 days, if so will revise)
<i>Process for final listing Federal Register document</i>			
Comment and response strategy meeting – develop plan to review and address comments received	SSA core team, management	Mid May (TBD)	half day
Review and address public comments on proposed listing	SSA core team, support staffing as needed from R6 RO	June 12-July 16	1 month
Meeting with decision team to discuss public comment and any new info, revisit decision	Marjorie Nelson, Mike Thabault, Matt Hogan, Noreen Walsh, and concurring regional RDs/ARDs or delegates	Early July 2018	half day
Draft final listing FR doc (if necessary 10(j), 4(d))	Justin Shoemaker and Betty Grizzle	by July 16	2 months from proposed listing publication
SSA core team reviews FR notice, make revisions	SSA core team	July 16-July 23	1 week
Regional Office Surnames and concurrence	Marjorie Nelson, Mike Thabault, Matt Hogan, Noreen Walsh, and	July 23-Aug 6	2 weeks

*Includes States, Tribes, Federal Agencies

	concurring regional RDs/ARDs or delegates		
SOL surname	DOI SOL	July 23-Aug 6	2 weeks
PPM	PPM	July 23-Aug 6	2 weeks
Revise based on RO/SOL/PPM comments	Justin Shoemaker and Betty Grizzle	Aug 6-Aug 13	1 week
HQ review	Sarah Quamme, Bridget Fahey	Aug 7	6 weeks prior to FR date (may need to start this review concurrent w/ RO,SOL, PPM revisions)
AES Surname	Assistant Director Ecological Services	Aug 21	5 business days
FWS Director Signature	Director of FWS	Aug 28	5 business days
Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Surname	FWP	Sep 5	10 business days
Executive Secretary Surname	Executive Secretary's Office	Sep 19	3 business days
Deliver to FR	HQ	Sep 24	
Publication of final rule	Federal Register	Sep 28, 2018	Note: We've committed to final rule in FY 18 in the work plan

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