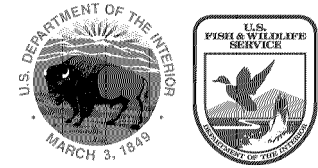


# News Release

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## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Protect Southern Sierra Nevada Distinct Population Segment of Fisher with Endangered Listing**

Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it will list the Southern Sierra Nevada distinct population segment (DPS) of fisher as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This final rule is based on the best available scientific and commercial information for the species.

In November 2019, the Service published a revised proposed rule to list the West Coast DPS of fisher as threatened under the ESA. Based on the most recent data, the Service has now determined there are two distinct West Coast populations of fisher: the Southern Sierra Nevada DPS and the Northern California-Southern Oregon DPS.

Studies show these two populations are genetically different, and separated by a 130-mile geographic gap. The two distinct populations of fisher were re-evaluated individually, and listing determinations were made based on the threats, population size and distribution, and ongoing conservation efforts occurring within the ranges of each population.

Based on several factors including wildfire, climate change, tree mortality, predation, toxicants, collisions with vehicles and potential effects associated with small population size, the Southern Sierra Nevada DPS of fisher will be listed as endangered.

The Northern California-Southern Oregon DPS will not be listed, as it is more widespread within its range, and has more diversity in ages, male to female ratios and breeding success. These factors, along with current and proposed fisher habitat conservation efforts on public and private timberlands, enable this population to maintain balance and withstand setbacks.

“We're grateful for the work our partners are doing to retain and restore habitat for the fisher,” said Paul Souza, regional director for the Service’s California-Great Basin Region. “Their efforts are critical to the recovery of the Southern Sierra Nevada fisher distinct population segment and the continued health of the Northern California-Southern Oregon fisher population.”

Fishers are medium-sized mammals found only in North America. They are classified in the same family as weasels, mink, martens and otters. The Southern Sierra Nevada DPS of fisher is found in high elevation forests from the Tuolumne River in Yosemite National Park south to the Kern River Canyon, including Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kern Counties, California. The Northern California-Southern Oregon DPS of fisher is found across multiple physiographic provinces that represent a wide variety of forest types and ecological conditions.

The final rule to list the Southern Sierra Nevada DPS of fisher will publish in the *Federal Register* on April XX, 2020. The document will be available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) by searching under docket number FWS–R8–ES–2018–0105.

*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information about our work and the people who make it happen, visit <https://www.fws.gov/cno/> or connect with us via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#).*

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