

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# News Bulletin

**Washington Fish & Wildlife Office**

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## Service Seeks Public Comments on Documents Relating to Fishers in Western Washington

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking public review and comment on documents pertaining to efforts to reestablish the fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) in western Washington. The documents are a draft Environmental Assessment describing the potential effects of approving a draft programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), and issuing a proposed Enhancement of Survival Permit to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

A Notice of Availability, and request for comments on the draft CCAA, and draft Environmental Assessment was published in the *Federal Register* on February 29, 2016.

WDFW developed a draft CCAA and applied for a permit covering non-Federal landowners that voluntarily enroll their properties and implement specific conservation measures supporting WDFW's efforts to reestablish the fisher in western Washington. If approved, the Service would provide assurances to enrolled landowners that they would not be subject to increased land use restrictions if the species becomes listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act in the future, provided certain conditions are met. Eligible non-Federal landowners may enroll their properties so long as the fisher has not been listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The Service anticipates a listing decision for the fisher as soon as April 2016.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires that Federal agencies analyze and publicly disclose the social, economic, and environmental effects associated with major Federal actions. The Service created a draft Environmental Assessment to fulfill this requirement and is now making this document available for public review and comment. The Service is specifically interested in public input including information, views, and opinions on the proposed issuance of the requested permit.

To request further information or submit written comments, please use one of the following methods, and note that your information request or comments are in reference to the "Fisher CCAA."

- Internet: You may view or download copies of the draft CCAA and the draft EA and obtain additional information at <http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/>.
- Email: Comments may be emailed to: [wfwocomments@fws.gov](mailto:wfwocomments@fws.gov). Include “Fisher CCAA” in the subject line of the message or comments.
- U.S. mail: Tim Romanski, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102, Lacey, WA 98503
- In-Person drop-off, viewing or pickup: Please call 360-753-5823 to make an appointment (necessary for viewing or picking up documents only) during normal business hours at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503.

**Written comments must be received on or before the close of the public review and comment period on March 30, 2016.**

*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, visit [www.fws.gov/pacific](http://www.fws.gov/pacific), or connect with us through [facebook.com/USFWSPacific](https://www.facebook.com/USFWSPacific), [twitter.com/USFWSPacific/](https://twitter.com/USFWSPacific/), [tumblr.com/blog/usfwspacific](https://www.tumblr.com/blog/usfwspacific), [flickr.com/photos/usfwspacific/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwspacific/) and [youtube.com/user/USFWS](https://www.youtube.com/user/USFWS)*

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