

**Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17****Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Finding on Petition To Reclassify the Grizzly Bear in the North Cascades Area as Endangered**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of petition finding and initiation of status review.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces a 90-day petition finding for a petition to amend the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. The petitioners presented substantial information that reclassifying the grizzly bear in the North Cascades area in Washington from threatened to endangered may be warranted.

**DATES:** The finding announced in this notice was made in July 1990. Comments and information for the Service's use in issuing its 12-month finding must be received by November 20, 1990.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments or questions concerning this finding should be sent to Dr. Christopher Servheen, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NS 312, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812. The petition, finding, and supporting data are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Christopher Servheen (see "ADDRESSES" above) (406/329-3223 or FTS 585-3223).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended in 1982 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to demonstrate that the petition action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, this finding is to be made within 90 days of the receipt of the petition, and the finding is to be published promptly in the **Federal Register**. If the finding is positive, the Service also is required to promptly commence a review of the status of the involved species. A status review is initiated herewith, and the Service seeks information until November 20, 1990.

The Service has received and made a 90-day finding on the following petition:

A petition dated March 13, 1990, was received from The Humane Society of the United States, Greater Ecosystem Alliance, North Cascades Audubon Society, Kittitas Audubon Society, Pilchuck Audubon Society, Skagit Alpine Club, North Cascades Conservation Council, and Carol Rae Smith on March 14, 1990. The petition requested the Service to reclassify the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) in the North Cascades area of Washington State from threatened to endangered.

The petitioners submitted information that there is a very small grizzly bear population remaining in the North Cascades area. They also indicated that a range of threats exist to the survival of the remaining small population of bears from road construction, land management activities, livestock grazing, land development, and

inadequate support from management agencies. The petitioners further indicated that the present population of grizzly bears in the North Cascades area may number fewer than 10-20 animals. They also questioned the numbers and genetic viability of the grizzly bear population on the Canadian side of the United States/Canadian border adjacent to the range of the population in the North Cascades.

After a review of the petition, accompanying documentation, and references cited therein, the Service found the petition presented substantial information that the requested action may be warranted. Within 1 year from the date the petition was received, a finding as to whether the petitioned action is warranted is required by section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act.

#### Author

This notice was prepared by Dr. Christopher Servheen-(see **ADDRESSES** above).

#### Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543).

#### List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and Transportation.

Dated: July 31, 1990.

**Richard N. Smith,**

*Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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