

basis without established protocols or guidelines. Alternative C includes a response team and plan that differs from Alternative A by providing rigid protocols based on frequency of panther sightings and proximity to human-occupied structures, without considering panther behavior or influences of human activity on panther behavior.

We have coordinated this proposal with the National Park Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and local Indian tribes. We announced the availability of our draft EA in the May 25, 2006, **Federal Register** (71 FR 30156). We invited the public to submit written comments on the draft guidelines and response plan by July 24, 2006. Additionally, to improve the quality and credibility of the scientific information, we conducted a formal peer review process for the draft plan. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, NPS, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Seminole Indian Tribe, and the Service provided lists of possible peer reviewers, from which we selected six peer reviewers. All but one peer reviewer provided comments. We received five letters from the public and/or environmental community and one letter from a tribe. We have included responses to specific comments in the EA appendices.

Tribal and public comments; peer reviews; and discussions between us, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, and NPS helped us identify several issues and concerns. Our revisions to the EA and plan include the following: (1) Discussion of cultural resource impacts to the local tribes; (2) elimination of the first two chapters of the Response Plan (Chapter 1: Florida Panther—Status, Biology and Recovery; Chapter 2: Living with Florida Panthers); (3) reorganization of the plan to reduce redundancy and clarify management actions; (4) separation of the section on depredation from the other human-panther interaction classifications (sighting(s), encounter(s), incidents, threat, attack), because depredations are distinctly different from direct human-panther interactions; and (5) inclusion of risk factor with each classification.

#### Public Document Review and Comment

If you wish to review the EA, you may obtain a copy on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/verobeach>. You may also obtain a copy by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta (see **ADDRESSES**.) Please reference the EA associated with the Interagency Florida Panther Response

Plan in such requests. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office in Atlanta (see **ADDRESSES**.)

If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. Please reference the EA associated with the Interagency Florida Panther Response Plan in such comments. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office in Atlanta (see **ADDRESSES**), or you may comment via electronic mail (e-mail) to [pantherresponseplan@fws.gov](mailto:pantherresponseplan@fws.gov). Please also include your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from us that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly at either telephone number listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Finally, you may hand deliver comments to either Service office listed under **ADDRESSES**.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** We provide this notice under NEPA regulations at 40 CFR 1506.6.

Dated: September 7, 2007.

**Cynthia Dohner**,

*Deputy Regional Director, Southeast Region.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey Control Alternatives Workgroup

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce a meeting of the Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey Control Alternatives Workgroup (Workgroup). The Workgroup's purpose is to provide, in an advisory capacity, recommendations and advice on research and implementation of sea lamprey control techniques alternative to lampricide that are technically feasible, cost effective, and environmentally safe. The primary

objective of the meeting will be to discuss potential research initiatives that may enhance alternative sea lamprey control techniques. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The Workgroup will meet on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., with an alternate date of Monday, December 10, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, should the meeting need to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Any member of the public who wants to find out whether the meeting has been postponed may contact Stefi Flanders of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 802-872-0629 ext. 10 (telephone); or [Stefi\\_Flanders@fws.gov](mailto:Stefi_Flanders@fws.gov) (electronic mail) during regular business hours on the primary meeting date.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory, Room 207, 1 College Street, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT; telephone 802-859-3086.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dave Tilton, Designated Federal Officer, Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey Control Alternatives Workgroup, Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Resources Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 11 Lincoln Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 (U.S. mail); 802-872-0629 (telephone); or [Dave\\_Tilton@fws.gov](mailto:Dave_Tilton@fws.gov) (electronic mail).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We publish this notice under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.). The Workgroup's specific responsibilities are to provide advice regarding the implementation of sea lamprey control methods alternative to lampricides, to recommend priorities for research to be conducted by cooperating organizations and demonstration projects to be developed and funded by State and Federal agencies, and to assist Federal and State agencies with the coordination of alternative sea lamprey control research to advance the state of the science in Lake Champlain and the Great Lakes.

Dated: October 5, 2007.

**Thomas J. Healy**,

*Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.*

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