



The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

December 22, 2009

Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

Copies sent via e-mail, feedback@ios.doi.gov; and facsimile, (202) 208-5048.

RE: Sixty-day notice of violation of section 4(a)(3)(D) of the Endangered Species Act, relating to a petition to designate critical habitat for the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*).

Dear Secretary Salazar,

This letter serves as a sixty-day notice from the Center for Biological Diversity, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, and Council of Civic Associations, Inc., of intent to sue you pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”), 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544, for failure to take action required by § 4(b)(3)(D) concerning a petition to designate critical habitat for the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*). 16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(3)(D). This letter is provided to you pursuant to the 60-day notice requirement of the citizen-suit provision of the ESA. 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g)(2)(C).

The petition to designate critical habitat for the Florida panther was filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on September 17, 2009. ESA § 4(b)(3)(D) requires that, to the maximum extent practicable, within 90 days of receiving a petition to revise (or designate) critical habitat, the Secretary make a finding as to whether the petition presents substantial scientific information indicating that the petitioned listing may be warranted. 16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(3)(D). Accordingly, the 90-day finding was due on or about December 16, 2009. To date, you have failed to make such a finding, in violation of the ESA.

If you do not make the required finding for the Florida panther within the next sixty days, we intend to file suit. Please contact me if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Robinson
Conservation Advocate