

RECORD OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DATE: 1/30/07
TIME: 12:30 P.M.
CALL TO: Katrina Dixon, Consultation Biologist, US Fish & Wildlife Service
SUBJECT: Changes to RMRD Travel Plan decision since consultation completed

I called Katrina to discuss with her some changes that we recently made in the Travel Plan Decision that differ slightly from the Decision as analyzed and consulted on in the BA sent to FWS in August (Supplemented in September). I explained the changes to her, namely that we were removing both snowmobile and wheeled travel from the Jones Creek area, and expanding snowmobile use in the Benchmark area. I informed her that my preliminary analysis showed that there would be an additional approximately 4370 acres of lynx foraging/denning habitat open to snowmobiles under the new Decision. I asked whether we would need to re-consult on the Decision because of these changes.

Katrina asked whether the changes would result in any alteration of my Determination of Effects to lynx or grizzly bear as displayed in the BA (I answered no), whether the change would result in our not meeting the LCAS guidelines (we would still meet the guidelines, and there are no specific acreage or %LAU guidelines for dispersed snowmobiling, anyway), and whether the Decision would still reduce the amount of lynx habitat open to snowmobiles as compared to the Existing Situation (yes, by a great deal). I informed her that the removal of wheeled travel from Jones Creek would result in a small improvement in the road density and core figures in one BMU for grizzly bears over those reported in the BA. Katrina then referred to the concurrence letter from FWS, that stated that if the changes do not result in effects other than those described in the BA, then there is no need to revise the BA or re-consult. She noted that some units prefer to re-analyze and re-consult under such a situation, to create a firm "paper trail", but that it is not necessary where the effects would not be different. She also noted that although they are supposed to respond to informal consultation requests within 30 days, that despite their best efforts she could not guarantee that timeline if we chose to re-consult, due to their current workload.

/s/ Wendy C Maples 1/30/07

Wendy C Maples
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Wildlife Biologist