



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES  
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M.19 Kootenai National Forest  
(Access Amendment\_IPNF, KNF, LNF)

November 3, 2011

Ms. Mary Farnsworth  
Forest Supervisor  
Idaho Panhandle National Forest  
3815 Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

Dear Ms. Farnsworth:

This letter is in response to your request for our concurrence with “may affect, not likely adversely affect” determinations for woodland caribou, Canada lynx, and Canada lynx critical habitat regarding the Forest Plan Amendments for Motorized Access Management within the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear recovery zones on the Idaho Panhandle, Kootenai, and Lolo National Forests. We received your amended request for concurrence on October 25, 2011. The amended request covered the allowances for entering core area to stabilize existing roads, per the Forest Plan(s) amendment(s).

We reviewed the biological assessment and your October 25 letter and concur with the determinations that the proposed project “may affect, but will not likely adversely affect” woodland caribou or Canada lynx or its critical habitat. Our concurrence is based on information and analysis in the project’s biological assessment, the aforementioned letter, discussions with Forest staff as well as information in our files.

The Service looks forward to continued cooperation and working with your staff on this and other future projects. If you have any questions or concerns about this consultation, please contact me or Anne Vandehey of my staff at (406)449-5225, extensions 215 and 212, respectively.

Sincerely,

Brent J. Esmoil  
Acting Field Supervisor

Cc to: USFWS, Kalispell, MT (Attn: Tim Bodurtha)  
USFWS, Northern Idaho Field Office ( Attn: Ben Conard)