

**From:** Sugarman, Shelly CIV

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 3, 2018 1:44 PM

**To:** Christy JohnsonHughes <[christy\\_johnsonhughes@fws.gov](mailto:christy_johnsonhughes@fws.gov)>

**Cc:** 'Fitzgerald, Katy' <[katy\\_fitzgerald@fws.gov](mailto:katy_fitzgerald@fws.gov)>; Fischer, Steven M CIV <[Steven.M.Fischer3@uscg.mil](mailto:Steven.M.Fischer3@uscg.mil)>; Moore, James M CIV

**Subject:** US Coast Guard Request for Formal Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for the BNSF Sandpoint Junction Connector Project

**Importance:** High

Dear Ms. Johnson Hughes,

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has received an application for the BNSF Sandpoint Junction Connector Project, which will modify bridges across Lake Pend Oreille and Sand Creek. The Biological Assessment (BA) to initiate formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been discussed in a pre-BA review meeting and subsequently reviewed in draft form by USFWS staff. The USCG BA contains sufficient information to initiate formal consultation based on the following determinations:

As described in the enclosed BA, the proposed action will have no effect on the following ESA-listed species: Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos canadensis*), North American Wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*), and Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*). No concurrence is required for 'no effect' actions.

As also described in the enclosed BA, the proposed action may affect, and is likely to adversely affect Bull Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*). Therefore, we request initiation of formal consultation under Section 7 of the ESA.

Please initiate formal consultation using the attached BA and accompanying information. If you have any questions, please contact the USCG Project Manager, at 206-220-7282 or via email (his email address is in the cc line) regarding this consultation request.

Thank you,

Shelly Sugarman  
Chief, Bridge Permits and Policy Division  
Bridge Program  
Coast Guard Headquarters  
██████████

<[James.M.Moore2@uscg.mil](mailto:James.M.Moore2@uscg.mil)>

Point Connector Project

h would require USCG bridge permits to  
r Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species  
g has been informed by the USFWS that the

*sus arctos horribilis*), Canada Lynx (*Lynx*  
ence or other consultation with USFWS is

*confluentus*) and Bull Trout critical habitat.

contact Steve Fischer, our District 13 Bridge