



Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
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November 27, 2009

Via Email: Shaula.Hedwall@fws.gov

Shaula Hedwall
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
323 North Leroux, Suite 201
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

RE: FR Notice 10/28/2009; 90-Day Finding on a Petition to List the Northern Leopard Frog in the Western United States as Threatened; Reopening of Information Solicitation period

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, representing Wyoming's 34 local Conservation Districts, political sub-divisions of state government statutorily charged, § 11-16-101 *et. seq.*, with natural resource conservation, including but not limited to wildlife habitat, offers the following additional data and information in response to the above reference federal register notice. The Association appreciates the Service's decision to reopen the information solicitation period to allow for additional data to be provided for consideration.

Specifically, the Association is responding to the Services request for data and information on the current status and distribution of the northern leopard frog and the following statement from the original federal register notice dated July 1, 2009: "*Information provided in the petition indicates that the species is declining, considered rare, or locally extinct from historical locations inWyoming*" (Page 31393).

The Association received additional information and data from the Campbell County Conservation, Crook County Natural Resource District (which includes a portion of the Black Hills), Platte County Resource District and Niobrara Conservation Districts since the close of the previous comment period. The attached information submitted from the local conservation districts, along with the previously submitted data and information, demonstrates the abundance of northern leopard frogs throughout Wyoming.

Although photographs were not available, the Association also received an email statement from the Laramie County Weed & Pest Supervisor indicating that numerous frogs were sighted during a field tour.

The Conservation Districts continue to document presence of northern leopard frogs and the Association will continue to submit data and information as it comes available. The Association would reiterate that the northern leopard frogs appear to be widely distributed and extensive in population throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobbie K. Frank". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a stylized "K".

Bobbie K. Frank
Executive Director

Cc: Wyoming Department of Agriculture
Wyoming Agriculture Organizations
Wyoming Congressional Delegation
Wyoming Board of Ag
WACD Board of Directors
Wyoming's Conservation Districts
National Association of Conservation Districts