

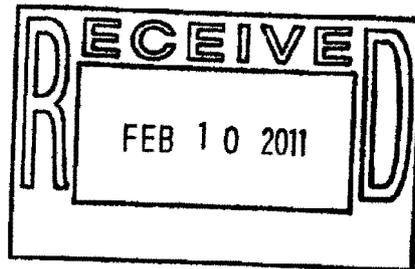
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Laura Ethington

February 6, 2011

FOIA Officer  
Fish & Wildlife Service  
Division of Information Resources & Technology Management  
Arlington Square  
4401 North Fairfax Drive,  
Mail stop #380  
Arlington, VA 22203



**FOIA REQUEST**

Dear FOIA Officer:

MAR 1 2011

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of statistics concerning the catamount, puma, panther, or mountain lion. Specifically, I am requesting information on eastern cougars spotted from Maine to South Carolina and from Michigan to Tennessee since the initiation of the five-year review on January 29, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 18). I am also requesting statistics on the number of mountain lions killed throughout the United States due to an imminent threat to public safety and statistics on the number of mountain lions killed because of a threat to livestock. I would like to receive the information in electronic format.

In order to help you determine my status for the purpose of assessing fees, you should know that I am affiliated with an educational institution and this request is made for scholarly purposes and not for commercial use. I am gathering information on the status of mountain lions throughout the United States and release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities. Please waive any applicable fees.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As I am making this request as a scholar and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone or e-mail. If you have any questions processing this request, you may contact me at \_\_\_\_\_ or the following telephone number:

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Laura Ethington