

From: [Fleming, Jeffrey M](#)
To: [Lueders, Amy L](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Whoopers
Date: Thursday, December 23, 2021 11:51:26 AM

Indeed, indeed.

From: Lueders, Amy L <amy_lueders@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 23, 2021 11:34 AM
To: Fleming, Jeffrey M <jeffrey_m_fleming@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Whoopers

Very nice message by Beth

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 23, 2021, at 11:23 AM, Fleming, Jeffrey M
<jeffrey_m_fleming@fws.gov> wrote:

here's Beth's response.... appreciate the relationship maintenance....

From: Forbus, Beth <beth_forbus@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 23, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Fleming, Jeffrey M <jeffrey_m_fleming@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Whoopers

FYI

From: Daniel Ashe <DAshe@AZA.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 23, 2021 11:15 AM
To: Forbus, Beth <beth_forbus@fws.gov>
Cc: Polk, Jonna E <jonna_polk@fws.gov>; Ellis, Kristy M <kristy_ellis@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Whoopers

Hello Beth and thanks for the helpful and quick reply. I see that Kristy is copied, so I'll send her a separate message about scheduling a time to talk after New Year's Day.

Best,

Dan

Dan Ashe
President and CEO
Association of Zoos and Aquariums

On Dec 23, 2021, at 1:02 PM, Forbus, Beth <beth_forbus@fws.gov>
wrote:

Hello Dan, thank you for your message!

We are currently reviewing the status of the whooping crane and that analysis will inform our required 5 year status review and any potential reclassification. The Unified Agenda does not commit the FWS to any particular action. No decisions have been made regarding the ESA status of the whooping crane.

We value our relationship with AZA and ICF and appreciate all of your work helping us to conserve whooping cranes. We'd be happy to set up a call to discuss any concerns you have. Please contact Kristy Ellis (kristy_ellis@fws.gov) and she can set up a time for Jonna and I to chat with you after the first of the year.

From: Daniel Ashe <DAshe@AZA.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 23, 2021 6:27 AM
To: Tuegel, Marty <marty_tuegel@fws.gov>; Forbus, Beth <beth_forbus@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Whoopers

Hello Marty and Beth. I hope my message finds you and yours happy, healthy and enjoying the holiday season. My message to Jonna Polk generated the out of office response below.

Can I impose on either or both of you to get some basic information. I'd be happy to set up a quick call if that would work best.

Thanks!

Dan

Dan Ashe
President and CEO
Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Ashe <DAshe@aza.org>
Date: December 23, 2021 at 6:35:10 AM EST
To: "Polk, Jonna E" <jonna_polk@fws.gov>
Cc: "Frazer, Gary D" <gary_frazer@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Whoopers

Hello Jonna. I'm trying to help the folks at the International Crane Foundation, and also assess whether we need to engage other AZA members who are holding/working on whooping cranes. Would you be available to meet with me and a couple of folks from ICF, week of January 3?

And can you clarify for me where you are in process? Has the 5-year status review been completed? If so, when would a product be available? If not, briefly, where are you in that process?

And are you working on a proposed rule?

The folks at ICF seem to believe that a proposed rule is imminent. And if you'd rather talk through these questions with me first, I can be available pretty much anytime today, tomorrow, or next week.

Thanks and Happy Holidays!

Dan

Dan Ashe
President and CEO
Association of Zoos and Aquariums

On Dec 22, 2021, at 4:07 PM, Frazer, Gary D <gary_frazer@fws.gov> wrote:

The 5-year review responsibility is delegated to the Region, and neither I or my staff are engaged at this point. They should discuss their concerns (which I hope they've already conveyed to the Service in response to the notice of initiation of the 5-year review) with the Region. I would suggest they contact

Jonna Polk, the new ES ARD, who I've copied here, although she is on leave until after the new year.

Gary Frazer
Assistant Director - Ecological Services
gary_frazer@fws.gov
Ph. (202) 208-4646
Cell (202) 253-4578
he/him: [why pronouns matter](#)

From: Daniel Ashe <DAshe@AZA.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 3:40 PM
To: Frazer, Gary D <gary_frazer@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Whoopers

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Hey Gary. Thanks for the conversation. Just got off a call with some very concerned folks from the International Crane Foundation. They are hearing that the Service is moving to publish a proposed rule to downlist the crane, and they believe it is premature.

They make some very good arguments, which I think you should hear.

Can we set up a time for them to speak with you and members of your team? Maybe week of January 3 or week of the 10th? You know these folks. Very well-intended. Very midwestern nice. They don't want to be confrontational.

Is there a regional lead?

Best,

Dan.

Dan Ashe
President and CEO
Association of Zoos and Aquariums