January 16, 2018

Virgil Moore, Director  
virgilmoore@idfg.idaho.gov  
Greg Wooten  
greg.wooten@idfg.idaho.gov  
P.O. Box 25  
Boise, ID  83707

Re: Wolverine Incidental Trapping on December 8, 2017

Dear Director Moore and Mr. Wooten,

On approximately December 8, 2017, an adult female wolverine was captured and killed in GMU 21A in the Fourth of July Creek drainage in a snare trap set to capture fox. The trapper reported the incident and spoke with Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel regarding the incident.

The wolverine was captured in a snare trap baited with beef scraps. The snare height was 10 inches and the snare loop was 8 inches. Despite state requirements, the trapper reported and IDFG recorded that there was no stop on the snare loop. Despite noting the trapping violation, IDFG has not taken any enforcement action against the trapper.

The wolverine was captured and killed in an area frequented by wolverines. In 2008, IDFG documented a wolverine maternal den just two miles from the site of the incidental capture, and the agency has collected and confirmed wolverine DNA from tracks in the Fourth of July Creek drainage and adjacent drainages over the past 8 years. The area is an important travel corridor for wolverines and is high suitability modeled habitat for the species.

As you are aware, wolverines have been protected under Idaho state law since 1965 and are a species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. In order to avoid future incidents of wolverine trapping and mortality in Idaho, we request that IDFG prohibit trapping by snares, conibears, and other lethal devices in known wolverine habitat, including the Beaverhead Mountains. Moreover, to avoid the death of wolverines caused by illegal traps, we request that IDFG take enforcement action against this trapper for failure to include a stop on this snare.
I look forward to a response on these requests and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. I can be reached by phone at (303) 854-7748, or by email at asantarsiere@biologicaldiversity.org.

Sincerely,

Andrea Santarsiere
Senior Attorney, Center for Biological Diversity

Cc: IDFG Salmon Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service