

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Jim Wiegand  
Submitted On: 12/14/2023  
Docket Number: 23-OPT-01*

### **Jim Wiegand Comments Against Fountain Wind #13'**

Fountain Wind developers are trying to build in the habitat of the Sierra Nevada Red Fox, a species with Department of Fish and Wildlife, S1 status and a species that's critically imperiled.

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

## Sierra Nevada Red Fox

Fountain Wind developers are trying to build, in the habitat of the Sierra Nevada Red Fox

The EIR statement that the Sierra Nevada Red Fox only lives above 5000 ft. is not true and is truly an absurd or deliberately deceptive statement. They move to or live in elevations lower than 5000 ft. and I have the proof. The images shown here, are of a Sierra Nevada Red Fox and were taken at 1200 ft. The habitat at the site is a mix of Yellow pine, Black Oak, Cedar and Digger pine. The footprint of the proposed Fountain wind project, is also habitat largely made up of Yellow pine, Black Oak, Cedar and Digger Pine.

This is the second Sierra Nevada Red Fox I've seen below 5000 ft in Shasta County. The first was located at an elevation of approx. 3300 feet with a similar habitat.

"The Southern Cascades Distinct Population Segment includes several populations, located at various points along the lower Cascades from Lassen National Park in California to near the Columbia River on Oregon's northern border."



The Lassen population of the Sierra Nevada Red Fox has an estimated population of only 40-50. This meets the criteria for being a critically endangered species in

CA. In 2022 the state of Washington, declared the Cascade red fox, with a known population of approximately 50, an endangered subspecies of red fox.

The State of California lists the status of both populations of the Sierra Nevada Red Fox equally with a Rank of S1.

**“S1: Critically Imperiled – At very high risk of extirpation in the state due to very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences, very steep declines, severe threats, or other factors”**

None of this information was disclosed or addressed in any Fountain Wind documents.

[Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2011–0103;  
4500030113]

CURRENT KNOWN SIGHTING AREAS OF SIERRA NEVADA RED FOX IN OREGON AND CALIFORNIA

Location 1 State County Primary

land owners 2

Estimated population size

Lassen National Forest and Lassen Volcanic National Park.

**42 adults (21 breeding, 21 nonbreeding)**

Sonora Pass ..... CA ..... Tuolumne, Mono, and Alpine. Toiyabe portion of the Humboldt-

Toiyabe National

Forest, Stanislaus National Forest, and

Yosemite National Park.

**29 adults (14 breeding, 15 nonbreeding).**



## **False Statement in DEIR**

Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Fountain Wind Project 3.4-13  
ESA / D170788  
July 2020

“Sierra Nevada red fox *Vulpes vulpes necator*

### **Status**

FC/ST

### **Habitat**

Historically ranged from southern Cascades to Sierra Nevada above 5,000 feet in subalpine forests of lodgepole pine and red fir. Chaparral and wet meadows may also be used.

**Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site**

Low. Project Site outside of known occupied range and nearest detection more than 10 miles away.”













## Grey Fox from same camera location



Jim Wiegand - Wildlife Biologist