

From: FOIA, FWHQ fwhq_foia@fws.gov
Subject: New Request; Fwd: [EXTERNAL] New FOIA request received for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Date: March 29, 2018 at 11:35 AM
To: conniebarlow52@gmail.com
Cc: FW4 FOIA R4 foiar4@fws.gov



Dear Connie Barlow,

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Headquarters FOIA Office received your FOIA request dated March 27, 2018. We have forwarded your request to our Region 4 Office for processing. You will re

If you have any questions regarding your FOIA request, please contact Tiffany McClurkin at foiar4@fws.gov or 404-679-4104.

Respectfully,

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Headquarters Freedom of Information Act Office
MS: IRTM
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041

----- Forwarded message -----

From: National FOIA Portal <no-reply@foia.gov>
Date: Tue, Mar 27, 2018 at 10:10 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New FOIA request received for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
To: fwhq_foia@fws.gov

Hello,

A new FOIA request was submitted to your agency component:

The following list contains the entire submission, and is formatted for ease of viewing and printing.

request_id	2971
confirmation_id	3726
address_city	Freeland
address_country	United States
address_line1	5246 Mutiny Bay Rd
address_state_province	WA
address_zip_postal_code	98249
company_organization	TorreyaGuardians.org
email	conniebarlow52@gmail.com
expedited_processing	yes Our group, Torreya Guardians, has been mentioned in many academic papers and some media reports as successfully pursuing the "assisted migration" northward of the USFWS endangered species, Florida Torreya. Yet, March 1-2 a USFWS staffer (Vivian Negron-Ortiz) in charge of this species attended a "Torreya Symposium" organized by a variety of institutions. Today, an article appeared by a journalist in an online environmental magazine that indicates that the "official" plans created by this institutional team exclude coordination with our group. Yet the 2010 recovery plan mentions in 3 places for institutions to coordinate their efforts with us. Our group is entirely engaged in moving seeds north, as and easy to implement and inexpensive solution to the species' ongoing decline (since its listing as an endangered species in 1984) in its small peak-glacial refuge in Florida. Yet the article indicates that the official institutions and scientists plan to engage in expensive and highly interventionist strategies of freezing embryos and also undertaking CRISPR genetic manipulation -- with no indication that they are considering the success we are achieving in simple and cheap actions of simply helping this large-seeded species move its seeds to cooler realms. You can access this journal article (March 27 in Yale Environment 360) via the newest entry posted on our own Torreya Guardians reports page here: http://www.torreyaguardians.org/comments.html
expedited_processing_explanation	
fee_waiver	yes I am the founder of Torreya Guardians, which is a group of citizen volunteers who legally access a loophole in the Endangered Species Act to help the glacial relict ancient conifer tree, Torreya taxifolia, escape a warming climate by legally accessing seeds for planting by botanical gardens and private landholders in states north of its historically native range in n. FL and s. GA. We receive no funding from anyone and we all volunteer our own time for helping this critically endangered tree. You can learn about the history of our actions via this webpage on our website, History of Torreya Guardians: http://www.torreyaguardians.org/guardians.html
fee_waiver_explanation	
name_first	Connie
name_last	Barlow
phone_number	850-420-8002
request_category	other The Fish & Wildlife Service has not yet posted anything in its ongoing reports database as to the actual quantities of endangered Torreya taxifolia seeds produced year-by-year from ex situ plantings in Smithgall Woods and Blairsville GA, since those trees began producing seeds. It is important for the public to know the success of seed production, year by year, and especially the final destinations of those precious seeds, as produced under the terms of the 2010 update of the ESA recovery plan for this endangered species. My concern is that the seeds at Smithgall Woods may have been unharvested, and therefore "wasted" as food for local squirrels. I have already checked the online "Record of Actions" at this USFWS url: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/reports/implementation-activity-status-ore-report?documentId=600127&entityId=1191 No information is available there for any year. However, the 2010 recovery plan, on p. 9, documented that the agency was already
request_description	

aware that at least the Smithgall Woods ex situ plantings were already producing seeds. It says, "The material planted at Smithgall Woods was propagated from all Georgia source population material (Army Corps. of Engineers, site at Woodruff Dam, Lake Seminole, in Georgia). The trees have grown quite large and are now reproductively mature producing male and female cones annually." As founder of the citizen activist group Torrey Guardians, I would like to know documentation of seed production year by year, beginning in 2007. I am aware that the Blairsville site has likely been producing seeds every year since 2007, yet there is no online documentation of quantities and year-by-year reporting of ultimate destinations of the precious seeds. Please provide me (and thereby our group of citizens) this information. You can access our group's website at <http://www.torreyguardians.org/>

The following table contains the entire submission, and is formatted for ease of copy/pasting into a spreadsheet.

request_id	confirmation_id	address_city	address_country	address_line1	address_state_province	address_zip_postal_code	company_organization	email	expedited_processing
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2971	3726	Freeland	United States	5246 Mutiny Bay Rd	WA	98249	TorreyGuardians.org	conniebarlow52@gmail.com	yes
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