



COTTONWOOD

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

Seth Willey, Recovery Plan Coordinator
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
Post Office Box 24486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

April 8, 2015

Dear Mr. Willey,

On July 23, 2014, Western Watersheds Project and Cottonwood Environmental Law Center filed a 60 Day Notice of Intent to Sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to prepare a recovery plan for the Winkler cactus, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Service's Recovery Planning Guidance (Version 1.3) states recovery plans should be completed within 2.5 years of a species being listed. The Winkler cactus was first listed as a threatened species in 1998.

On September 16, 2014, the Service contacted us in regards to the Notice. Since that time, we have worked together and established mutually agreed upon dates for the Service to complete a draft and final recovery plan. Western Watersheds Project and Cottonwood Environmental Law Center agree not to file a lawsuit over this matter provided the Service completes a draft recovery plan for the Winkler cactus by December 31st, 2015 and a final recovery plan by March 31st, 2017. These dates were agreed upon by the Service in its February 18, 2015 letter to Western Watersheds Project and Cottonwood Environmental Law Center.

We are pleased to reach an acceptable resolution to this matter that does not involve litigation. We look forward to continuing to work with you to establish a timeline for completing recovery plans for several other threatened and endangered species.

Best regards,

John Meyer

John Meyer, Executive Director
Cottonwood Environmental Law Center

Travis Bruner

Travis Bruner, Executive Director
Western Watersheds Projects