

## Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

**17. Mount Pinos Sooty Grouse (Consent)****Today's Item**Information Action 

Consider approving the Department's request for a 30-day extension to review the petition to list Mount Pinos sooty grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus howardi*) as a threatened or endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- Received petition March 25, 2026
- Transmitted petition to Department April 6, 2026
- Public receipt of petition April 15-16, 2026
- **Today consider Department's request for a 30-day extension June 17-18, 2026**

**Background**

On March 25, 2026, the Commission received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity to list Mount Pinos sooty grouse as threatened or endangered under CESA. On April 6, 2026, staff transmitted the petition to the Department for review.

California Fish and Game Code Section 2073.5 requires that the Department evaluate the petition and submit a written evaluation with a recommendation to the Commission within 90 days of receiving the petition. Under this section, the Department may request an extension of up to 30 days to complete the evaluation.

The Department has requested a 30-day extension to evaluate the petition (Exhibit 1). If approved, the due date for the Department's petition evaluation would change to August 4, 2026.

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation**

**Commission staff:** Approve the Department's request for a 30-day extension to evaluate the petition to list Mount Pinos sooty grouse as threatened or endangered under CESA.

**Department:** Approve the request for a 30-day extension to allow the Department additional time to analyze and evaluate the CESA petition and complete the written evaluation report.

**Exhibits**

1. [Department memo requesting a 30-day extension, received May 27, 2026](#)

**Motion**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 12 through 17 on the consent calendar

## MEMORANDUM

Date: May 27, 2026

To: Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Meghan Hertel, Director

**Subject: Request for 30-day Extension, Mount Pinos Sooty Grouse Petition  
Evaluation**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests a 30-day extension of time pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2073.5 to allow the Department additional time to analyze and evaluate the petition to list Mount Pinos sooty grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus howardi*) under the California Endangered Species Act and to complete the evaluation report. This extension would extend the Department's review time from 90 to 120 days and would change the due date of the Department's evaluation report from July 5, 2026 to August 4, 2026.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Scott Gardner, Wildlife Branch, at (916) 801-6257 or [wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov).

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