

From: [Szuszwalak, Joseph A](#)
To: [Small, Stephen M](#); [DeBerry, Drue](#); [Alt, Nicole](#); [Bush, Jodi](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#); [Hansen, Craig](#); [Kasdin, Alexandra E](#)
Cc: [Mogadam, Roya](#); [Castiano, Melissa](#)
Subject: Re: Action Required: Grizzly 5-year Review Outreach
Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 9:05:28 AM
Attachments: [NR_Grizzly 5year_Final.pdf](#)

Following up with final News Release that has the links included:

- PDF attached
- ☐ [NR_Grizzly 5year_Final.docx](#)

Joe Szuszwalak

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | [Interior Regions 5 & 7](#)
joseph_szuszwalak@fws.gov | 303-236-4336

He/Him/His

From: Szuszwalak, Joseph A

Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 12:54 PM

To: Small, Stephen M <stephen_small@fws.gov>; DeBerry, Drue <drue_deberry@fws.gov>; Alt, Nicole <Nicole_Alt@fws.gov>; Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>

Cc: Mogadam, Roya <roya_mogadam@fws.gov>; Castiano, Melissa <melissa_castiano@fws.gov>

Subject: Action Required: Grizzly 5-year Review Outreach

Good afternoon ES colleagues,

Please find the IR5/7 ES items in the outreach plan below, as well as the timeline.

Final outreach docs:

- ☐ [OP_Grizzly 5year_Final.docx](#)
- ☐ [NR_Grizzly 5year_Final.docx](#) (final except for links that will go live in the morning and I'll update again with the final final, release will be public at 11am MST)
- ☐ [IfAskedQA_Grizzly 5year_Final.docx](#)

ES Actions Timeline:

•

Prior to public announcement - 3/31 08:00MT pending	Embargoed interview	IR5/7: Szuszwalak, Cooley, Bush
Day of announcement 3/31 10:00ET/08:00MT	Stakeholder (incl. PR) notifications	IR5/7: RD IR5/7: MT ES FO
Day of announcement 3/31 10:00 ET/08:00MT	Tribal notifications <i>*in coordination with NAL Melissa Castiano</i>	IR5/7: MT ES FO*
Day of	Congressional Call	Deputy RD

announcement 3/31 12:00ET/10:00MT		Hogan, with support from ES SMEs, EA, and HQ-CLA and Regional CLA
Day of announcement 3/31 01:00ET/11:00MT	Send news release to media.	IR5/7: Szuszwalak IR9:EA
Day of announcement 3/31, 10:00ET/08:00MT	Publish 5-year review and SSA to ECOS.	IR5/7: ES Hansen

ES Stakeholder Notifications (3/31 08:00 MST):

•

USFS Region 1	Regional Forester Leanne Marten, 303-275-5350, lmarten@fs.fed.us	IR5/7: ES ARD
USFS Region 2	Acting Regional Forester Tammy Angel, 303-275-5451, tamara.angel@usda.gov	IR5/7: ES ARD
NPS Intermountain Region	Regional Director Mike Reynolds, 303-969-2503, michael_reynolds@nps.gov	IR5/7: ES ARD
Tribal contacts	Tribal contacts spreadsheet	IR5/7: ES MT FO in coordination with NAL Castiano

Also wanted to highlight our approved messaging (from If-Asked Q&As doc) on the likely controversial piece of why we didn't pull out individual ecosystems:

• **Doesn't the Service consider some populations of grizzly bear to be recovered? Why recommend they remain listed?**

A: The grizzly bear in the lower 48 states is currently listed as a single entity, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) indicates that the Service complete a five-year review and status recommendation for the listed entity as a whole. **Although populations in certain ecosystems may be recovered, they are not individually listed entities under the ESA that necessitate separate five-year reviews.** As such, this five-year review provided one recommendation for the entire listed entity.

As always, thanks for your help and let me know if you have any questions, thanks!

Joe Szuszwalak

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | [Interior Regions 5 & 7](#)

joseph_szuszwalak@fws.gov | 303-236-4336

He/Him/His

News Release



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Interior Regions 5 & 7, Missouri River and Upper Colorado Regions
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

For Immediate Release

March 31, 2021

Contact: Joe Szuszwalak, 303-236-4336, joseph.szuszwalak@fws.gov

Grizzly Bears in Lower 48 States to Retain Threatened Status Under Endangered Species Act

Determination made by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service following completion of five-year status review



A grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) in Grand Teton National Park.
Credit: Joe Lieb / USFWS

DENVER — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is recommending no change to the current listed status of the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) following the completion of a [five-year status review](#). This recommendation follows a thorough review of the best available science, informed by an independently peer-reviewed [species status assessment](#).

The grizzly bear is listed under the ESA as a single entity in the lower 48 states. As such, the status review and recommendation is made to the listed species as a whole. Although grizzly

bear populations in the Northern Continental Divide and Greater Yellowstone ecosystems are biologically recovered, five-year status reviews must evaluate the status of a species as it is currently listed under the ESA to ensure it is receiving the appropriate level of protection.

The five-year status review is informed by a peer-reviewed species status assessment, which includes the best available scientific information. The assessment evaluated the species' current needs, conditions and threats and model future scenarios. It also involved significant contributions from scientific experts, including an independent peer review as well as review by partners at federal, state and Tribal agencies.

Progress toward recovering the species has been made through close partnerships with local, state, federal and Tribal agencies since the original listing in 1975. This work among recovery partners is a significant factor in the species not being listed as endangered. However, considerable challenges remain to fully recover the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states, resulting in the recommendation to continue listing it as threatened. These remaining challenges include limited habitat connectivity, management of access by motorized vehicles, human-caused mortality and uncertainty surrounding future conservation efforts in some ecosystems. The Service looks forward to continuing grizzly bear conservation work with partners at local, state, Tribal and federal agencies to fully recover the species.

To learn more about grizzly bears, please visit the [species profile page](#); bear safety information is [available from the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee](#). You can also visit our website to learn more about [5-year status reviews](#) and [Species Status Assessments](#).

###

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov, or connect with us through any of these social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Flickr](#), and [YouTube](#).

– FWS –