Label: "YES Grizzly Bear Delisting"

Created by:jodi_bush@fws.gov

Total Messages in label:387 (122 conversations)

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Conversation Contents

Yellowstone Grizzly Bear: Dear Interested Party Email

Serena Baker <serena_baker@fws.gov>

From:	Serena Baker <serena_baker@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Mar 03 2016 09:42:15 GMT-0700 (MST)
To:	Brent Lawrence <brent_lawrence@fws.gov>, Leith Edgar <leith_edgar@fws.gov>, Jodi Bush <jodi_bush@fws.gov>, Mark Sattelberg <mark_sattelberg@fws.gov>, Dennis Mackey <dennis_mackey@fws.gov>
CC:	Anna Munoz <anna_munoz@fws.gov>, Kenneth Ostrand <kenneth_ostrand@fws.gov>
Subject:	Yellowstone Grizzly Bear: Dear Interested Party Email

Good Morning team,

Here is the text of our Dear Interested Party email for distribution at 2 pm MST today. Thanks!
Serena

Dear Interested Party:

Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is announcing a proposed delisting rule for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem population of grizzly bears. This proposed delisting only effects the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. All other populations of grizzly bears in the lower 48 states will remain listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

During the last three decades the grizzly bear population in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho has increased from as few as 136 bears, when they were listed under the ESA in 1975, to an estimated 700 or more bears today. Population and habitat monitoring conducted by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Study Team indicate that this population of grizzly bears has more than doubled their range since the mid-1970s. The bears now occupy more than 22,500 square miles of the Yellowstone ecosystem, an area larger than the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined. For more than a decade the number of grizzly bears in this population has remained stable indicating that the Yellowstone ecosystem is at or near its carrying capacity. Today the bears of the Greater Yellowstone area stand as one of America's great conservation successes, a triumph of the ESA and the strong partnerships it drives.

The proposed rule is available online at http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/grizzlybear.php. When the proposal publishes in the *Federal Register* in a couple days, it will open a 60-day public comment period. In addition, the Service is releasing two other documents for public comment at the same time as the proposed delisting rule: 1) a draft supplement to the 1993 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population, and 2) a draft of the 2016 Conservation Strategy.

We are requesting comments or information concerning this proposed rule to ensure we are considering the best information available. You may submit comments during the open comment period by one of the following methods:

(1) *Electronically*: Comments can be submitted electronically at http://www.regulations.gov. In the Search box, enter Docket Number FWS–R6–ES–2016–0042, and then click on the "Comment Now!" button. If your comments will fit in the provided comment box, please use this feature, as it is most compatible with our comment–review procedures. If you attach your comments as a separate document, our preferred file format is Microsoft Word. If you attach multiple comments (such as form letters), our preferred format is a spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel.

(2) *By hard copy*: Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS–R6–ES–2016–0042; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042–PDM; Arlington, VA 22203.

All submitted comments will be made available to the public at http://www.regulations.gov.

Additional information about the proposed rule can be found online at visit http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/grizzlybear.php.