DRAFT OF GRIZZLY BEAR DELISTING PEER REVIEW SOW:

The independent peer reviewers shall be experienced senior-level ecologists, bear biologists, or population modelers, and/or bear managers who have previously conducted similar reviews or regularly provided reviews of research and conservation articles for the scientific literature. Reviewers must be well-versed in the demographic management of mammals, preferably bears or other carnivores. The reviewers must be independent of the Service, the States of Montana, Wyoming, or Idaho, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, and the Western Governors Association. Peer reviewers cannot be directly or indirectly employed by or associated in any way with any organization that has either litigated the federal government concerning grizzly bears or wolves or taken a position on one side or the other about recovery and delisting of grizzly bears or wolves. The contractor will be responsible for assigning an experienced, senior and well-qualified manager to lead this review and for the selection of 4 (minimum) to 6 (maximum) well-qualified, independent reviewers. The *combined expertise* of the reviewers shall include:

1. A Ph.D. or an M.S. (with significant experience) in Wildlife Ecology, Ecology, or Wildlife Management

2. Demonstrated experience working with the management of large carnivores, especially bears, and wildlife population management.

3. Expert knowledge of wildlife biology, wildlife management, demographic management of mammals (especially carnivores), wildlife population dynamics, wildlife population modeling, available literature on bears and other carnivores, and the management of bears and other carnivores.

4. Experience as a peer reviewer for scientific publications.

In addition, the reviewers shall have no financial or other conflicts of interest with the outcome or implications of the report (reviewers should not be currently employed by the Service, the states of Montana, Wyoming, or Idaho or any organization that has either litigated or taken a position on grizzly bear recovery or delisting). **A list of the reviewers and their combined original reviews and comments, without attribution, shall be submitted to the Service**. The Service will have an opportunity to seek clarification on any review comments through the contractor (Task 003.1), for a period of 10 days, starting 60 days after the Service receives the report from the contractor. The list of reviewers and the combined comments without attribution will be part of the final report and included in the Services' Administrative Record. Four (4) to six (6) reviewers must be engaged in this effort and provide a thorough, objective peer review.