From: Servheen, Chris
To: Michael Thabault
Cc: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer
Subject: Fwd: FW: USFS sensitive species
Date: Monday, March 14, 2016 9:29:19 AM

Mike,
Note the response from the USFS. The new FS planning rules change "sensitive species" to "species of conservation concern (SCC)". Some GYE forests are covered under the old planning rules and some under the new. It seems they will designate grizzly bears as SCC upon delisting. I do not see this as an issue and the USFS folks don't either.
Chris

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Servheen, Chris** <grizz@umontana.edu>
Date: Mon, Mar 14, 2016 at 8:53 AM
Subject: FW: USFS sensitive species
To: "chris_servheen@fws.gov" <chris_servheen@fws.gov>

From: Bev Dixon <bdixon@fs.fed.us<mailto:bdixon@fs.fed.us>>
Date: Friday, March 11, 2016 at 7:18 AM
To: Lisa Landenburger <lalandenburger@fs.fed.us<mailto:lalandenburger@fs.fed.us>>, Chris Servheen <grizz@umontana.edu<mailto:grizz@umontana.edu>>, Dan Tyers <dtyers@fs.fed.us<mailto:dtyers@fs.fed.us>>
Cc: "jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu<mailto:jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu>" <jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu<mailto:jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu>>
Subject: RE: USFS sensitive species

Lisa did a very good job at recapping what I told her. The big issue (as I see it) is terminology. Under the 1982 Planning Rule, the Forest Service (Regional Forester) designated "Sensitive Species" as those for which population viability is of concern. I believe it is Forest Service policy (at least in Region 1) to automatically designate delisted species as Forest Service Sensitive Species. However, under the new (2012) Rule, there will no longer be "sensitive species", but rather, the Regional Forester will designate "Species of Conservation Concern" (SCC). The (2015) Planning Directives for the 2012 Rule identify "Species to consider when identifying Potential Species of Conservation Concern", which includes: "Species that were removed within the past 5 years from the Federal list of threatened or endangered species..." I asked Cara Staab, our Regional Wildlife Ecologist, whether delisted species would automatically be appended to the SCC list. She said she wasn't sure, but could see no reason why we would change policy. She's going to check, but I've not heard back.

The sticky part for the Conservation Strategy is that some Forests in the GYE (B-D, Shoshone and C-T) have recently revised their Plans under the 1982 Rule, and so they still have "Sensitive Species", while the Custer Gallatin is just starting Plan revision under the 2012 Rule, and when we're done, will have SCC instead. I'm not sure where the BT is in their planning process. Probably more info than you were looking for, but thought I'd share. Feel free to contact me if you have questions, or want further clarification.

Bev Dixon

Wildlife Biologist, Forest Plan Revision Team

Forest Service

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-----Original Message-----
From: Landenburger, Lisa A -FS
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 1:27 PM
To: grizz@umontana.edu<mailto:grizz@umontana.edu>; Tyers, Daniel - FS <dtyers@fs.fed.us<mailto:dtyers@fs.fed.us>>
Cc: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer <jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu<mailto:jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu>>; Dixon, Bev -FS <bdixon@fs.fed.us<mailto:bdixon@fs.fed.us>>
Subject: RE: USFS sensitive species

Chris,

Bev Dixon (wildlife biologist on the Custer Gallatin) posed this very question to the Forest legal folks and was told that technically the new forest regulations don't actually mandate the

automatic addition of a delisted species to the Regional Sensitive Species list. Instead the Rule says it must be considered. However, they see no reason why it wouldn't happen and they anticipate a smooth transition from Threatened to Sensitive Species of Concern . Bev, did I interpret you correctly? Dan, what's your take on this?

Lisa

-----Original Message-----

From: Servheen, Chris [mailto:grizz@umontana.edu]

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 1:09 PM

To: Tyers, Daniel - FS <dtyers@fs.fed.us<mailto:dtyers@fs.fed.us>>; Landenburger, Lisa A - FS <lalandenburger@fs.fed.us<mailto:lalandenburger@fs.fed.us>>

Cc: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer <jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu<mailto:jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu>>

Subject: USFS sensitive species

Dan and Lisa,

Does the USFS still have the sensitive species approach in place? I am just checking to be sure since In the proposed rule we state:

"Because grizzly bears would remain on the Forest Service Sensitive Species list after delisting (USDA Forest Service 2006b, p. 26), any increases in roads on National Forests would have to comply with the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) and would be subject

to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) process andanalysis of potential impacts to grizzly bears. This management designation—“sensitive species” under the 1982 Forest Service Planning Regulations (47 FR 43037; September 30, 1982) or “species of conservation concern” under the 2012 Forest Service Planning Regulations (77 FR 21162; April 9, 2012)—ensures that components of land management plans will provide appropriate ecological conditions (i.e., habitats) necessary to continue to provide for a recovered population (USDA Forest Service 2006b, p. 26).”

Chris

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"Try to learn something about everything and everything about something." - Thomas Huxley.