April 13, 2016

Mr. Steve Gess
Contracting Officer
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, CO 80228

SUBJECT: Amec Foster Wheeler Proposal – April 13, 2016
USFWS Request for Proposal dated March 31, 2016
Reference Number: 03310001
Project: Scientific Peer Review for Greater Yellowstone Grizzly Bears
GSA Contract Number: GS-10F-0230J
USFWS Agreement Number: F12PA00005
USFWS Agreement Name: USFWS Scientific, Technical and Advisory Services

Dear Mr. Gess,

In accordance with the Request for Proposal received via email on March 30, 2016, Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. (Amec Foster Wheeler) is pleased to submit our proposal for the following project: Scientific Peer Review for Greater Yellowstone Grizzly Bears. This proposal includes five peer reviewers.

Please contact Dawn Johnson at (805) 252-4370 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn L. Johnson

Dawn L. Johnson, PhD
USFWS Contract Manager, Senior Biologist

Cc: Cuong Vu – Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.

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Proposal for: Peer Review of the Scientific Findings in Proposed Rule Removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Population of Grizzly Bears

US Fish & Wildlife Service

To:	Steve Gess US Fish & Wildlife Service
Re:	Request for Proposal, Reference Number 03310001
Date:	April 13, 2016
From:	Dawn L. Johnson, PhD Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.

1.0 Project Approach

Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. (Amec Foster Wheeler) proposes to provide support to the US Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) for a peer review of proposed rule to remove the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) population of grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) from the Endangered Species List, along with the draft revised Demographic Recovery Criteria in the GYE and the draft Conservation Strategy.

The project will include (1) assembling a panel of five peer reviewers, (2) conducting individual peer reviews without attribution; and (3) providing all four reviews with a cover letter, along with an official record. Amec Foster Wheeler will provide a senior biologist as Project Manager (PM) to facilitate the peer review and ensure completion of the peer review, with experience in leading and facilitating peer reviews and expert panels.

In order to meet the requirements of the OMB *Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review* (December 2004), Amec Foster Wheeler selected the reviewers and identified a process which will ensure scientific and process integrity. The reviewers represent a range of expertise and experience with sufficient independence to evaluate the documents and data provided, respond to the questions posed by the Service, and identify any additional concerns. Each reviewer was provided with the OMB Bulletin language on independence and conflicts of interest, along with the conflict of interest considerations provided by the Service in the SOW. This peer review is part of a larger process being undertaken by the Service to review these documents.

As required by the Statement of Work (SOW) dated March 28, 2016, Amec Foster Wheeler will provide five peer reviewers with experience with bear biology, demography and population ecology (see 4.0 Project Team). The Amec Foster Wheeler team will provide services as defined in the SOW with a summary by Task described below.

Task 1 (Provide Materials)

The PM will coordinate with the Service to receive all materials to be evaluated during the peer review. The PM will distribute these materials to the peer reviewers. The PM will also distribute the questions for the reviewers (provided in the SOW). After award and receipt of all materials, the PM will provide a Timeline, following the schedule proposed in Section 2.0.

Deliverables: Timeline.

Task 2 (Peer Review)

The PM will provide a template for the peer reviewers to use for their responses to the questions. The PM will facilitate any questions from the reviewers for the Service. The peer reviewers will evaluate the materials provided with the intent to answer the questions provided by the Service.

Deliverables: None.

Task 3 (Provide Individual Reviews)

The PM will collect each individual review, ensure there are no typographical or grammatical errors and that each review has no attribution regarding which panelists wrote it. The PM will randomly assign a reviewer number to identify each review and ensure the author's name is not included in the review or the file metadata. The PM will then provide each individual review, without attribution, to the Service. The PM will also provide a letter report that summarizes the materials provided and contains a list of the reviewers, with their CVs attached. If any questions

were asked by the peer reviews to the Service during their review those will be noted in the letter report.

Deliverables: Individual Reviews, Letter Report.

Task 4 (Q&A Period)

The PM will facilitate any clarification required from peer reviewers based on Service comments on the individual reviews. This will be limited to requests for clarification or additional information. If appropriate (i.e., comments are more than typographical/clarification), a comment matrix summarizing the comment(s) and the response(s) will be provided.

Deliverables: Comment Matrix, if applicable.

Task 5 (Official Record)

If any revisions are made, the PM will provide updated letter report, individual reviews, and the comment matrix.

Deliverables: Final Reviews, Final Letter Report, Final Comment Matrix (if any).

2.0 Schedule

Amec Foster Wheeler proposes the following schedule for this project, assuming an award by 13 April 2016. This schedule will be updated and finalized once the project is awarded, if needed.

Task	Calendar Days After Award (Previous Task)	Due Date (Assuming 13 April Award)
Task 1 (Provide Materials)	2 (-)	15 April
Task 2 (Peer Review)	35 (33)	18 May
Task 3 (Provide Reviews)	40 (5)	23 May
Task 4 (Q&A Period)	54 (14)	6 June
Task 5 (Official Record)	59 (5)	10 June

3.0 Price and Assumptions

The price proposal for this technical proposal is $25,379.30 for five peer reviewers. The following assumptions apply to this technical proposal and price proposal.

- There are no in-person meetings. Any meetings will be completed via conference call.
- Delays by the Service do not accelerate Amec Foster Wheeler deliverables.

4.0 Project Team

The Amec Foster Wheeler Team consists of a PM and four peer reviewers. The PM has overseen and facilitated many expert panels for Department of Interior agencies, as well as for Department of Defense agencies. The PM and all peer reviewers have a PhD in biology, with expertise in ecology and evolution.

Four of the peer reviewers are associated with universities, while one is associated with a state agency. The peer reviewers all have experience with bears and other carnivores, primarily relating to population ecology, but also management, demography, conservation, and population genetics.

All peer reviewers have more than 20 years of experience since their undergraduate degree with numerous publications and experience with peer reviews. None of the peer reviewers have a conflict of interest relating to the grizzly bear or the Service. This was ensured by selecting reviewers based in Canada or east of the Mississippi River. None are known for any advocacy positions regarding grizzly bears or wolves. The following table provides a brief synopsis of their experience and general areas of expertise.

Name & Project Role	Relevant Experience
Dawn L. Johnson, PhD Project Manager Amec Foster Wheeler	► 21 years of experience, as a biologist (ecology and evolution) ► Experience facilitating peer reviews and expert panels for Department of Interior agencies
Reviewer 1 Carnivore Biologist State Agency	► 30 years of experience with wildlife management and ecology ► Position as the state carnivore biologist and heads active research program on carnivores and other wildlife ► Working with bears since 2002
Reviewer 2 Bear Biologist University (Canada)	► 33 years of experience with bear biology and populations, including grizzly bears ► Emphasis on bear behavior, habitat use, reproduction, population structure, and management, primarily in polar bears but also grizzly bears and other carnivores
Reviewer 3 Carnivore Biologist University (Canada)	► 44 years of experience with wildlife ecology, primarily carnivores and large ungulates in western Canada and US ► Extensive experience with grizzly bears ► Prior experience with Yellowstone wildlife, but has not worked on grizzly bears in Yellowstone ► Emphasis on habitat use, human impacts, and modeling of populations and movements.
Reviewer 4 Wildlife Ecologist University (Kentucky)	► 21 years of experience with wildlife ecology, including bears and other carnivores ► Emphasis on wildlife population management, including demographics, disease, and habitat management
Reviewer 5 Carnivore Biologist University (Mississippi)	► 31 years of experience with wildlife ecology, primarily with carnivores and their prey ► Emphasis on wildlife population management, including demographics, habitat use, and conservation

The following is a small sample of articles from each reviewer.

Reviewer 1

2016 (in press). Detecting black bear source-sink dynamics using individual-based genetic graphs.

2011. Abundance trends of American martens in Michigan based on statistical population reconstruction.

2011. Improving large scale mark-recapture population estimates for American black bears.

2008. Demographics of non-hunted white-tailed deer populations for modeling management strategies.

Reviewer 2

2016. Population structure and dispersal of wolves in the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

2015. Mating-related behavior of grizzly bears inhabiting marginal habitat at the periphery of their North American range.

2013. Large carnivore management in North America.

2008. Using subpopulation structure for barren-ground grizzly bear management.

Reviewer 3

2016 (in press). Grizzly bears without borders: spatially explicit capture recapture in southwestern Alberta.

2015. Grizzly bear connectivity mapping in the Canada-US trans-border region.

2012. Population fragmentation and inter-ecosystem movements of grizzly bears in western Canada and the northern USA.

2009. Comparison of grizzly bear demographics in wilderness mountains versus a plateau with resource development.

Reviewer 4

2015. Demographic and genetic characteristics of a reintroduced black bear population in the Central Appalachians.

2013. A brief history and current status of the black bear in Kentucky.

2012. Black bears, palms, and giant palm weevils: an intraguild mutualism.

2005. Large carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores in South Florida: An evolutionary approach to conserving landscapes and biodiversity.

Reviewer 5

2015. Demography, prey abundance, and management affect number of cougar mortalities associated with livestock conflicts.

2015. American black bear population abundance and genetic structure on an island archipelago.

2014. The influence of a bottleneck followed by admixture on population structure of American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) in the Central Interior Highlands, USA.

2012. History and status of the American black bear in Mississippi.