Guidelines and Assignments

Population Management Sub-Group

Conservation Strategy Update Steering Committee

Purpose: The intent of this document is to provide the Population Management Sub-Group with guidance and direction regarding the charge and expectations of the team. This team was established by the Conservation Strategy Update Steering Committee to help in achieving its' commitments and assignments by the YES committee.

Background: During the April 2016 YES meeting, the committee identified several major themes offered for consideration in their update of the 2016 Conservation Strategy. The YES committee decided to establish a steering committee to: `1) categorize the major themes 2) develop the conservation strategy approval process 3) develop the timeline 4) determine whether major themes could be addressed in the conservation strategy. The Steering Committee decided to establish three sub-groups to help them in evaluating the major themes. Those teams were identified as the population management, habitat and agency coordination/conflict management sub-groups. Each group is assigned a particular set of major themes to address with the goal of providing recommendations on each theme to the steering committee. Your group themes are contained in the table at the end of this document.

Guidance and Expectations:

1) Your state agency representative will plan and facilitate the first meeting until a chair person is selected.
2) Identify a chair person-this person will be responsible for planning and facilitating meetings and communicating with the steering committee.
3) Maintain focus on the Conservation Strategy. Do not get side tracked by other processes and documents currently being worked like the delisting rule.
4) Review each theme and report back to the steering committee by May 25th with a recommendation on whether each theme is appropriate for the conservation strategy and the approximate amount of time it may take to address the issue. Your evaluation criteria should focus on:
    a. Is this item necessary to update the conservation strategy based on changes that have occurred in the science or delisting framework or to improve the strategy?

b. Is this item relevant to the Conservation Strategy or should it be addressed somewhere else?
c. Should this issue be addressed at all?

5) The steering committee will report back to your group with a modified list of issues that your group will be charged with addressing. The deliverable will be a recommended edit to the Conservation Strategy. The timeline for this portion of the process is yet to be determined but will be in the near future.
6) Attempt to come to consensus amongst the team on sub-group recommendations. If there are issues where this isn't possible, report them to the steering committee with appropriate background information.
7) There may be additional themes your group is asked to address as this process moves forward.

Timeline: The steering committee is working towards an ambitious goal of completing final YES approval of the document on or before the November meeting. Your first due date is May 25th. Others will be established and disseminated as the steering committee continues its work.

Please contact any of the steering committee members if you have questions or concerns.

Population Management

Theme	Originator	Sub-group
Harvest focused away from park boundaries in areas where human bear conflicts are prevalent.	NPS	PM
Hunting will not be permitted in the John D Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway	NPS	PM
If a new estimator other than Chao 2 is used in the future, the states will recalibrate the population thresholds and proportions of allocated hunter harvest based on the estimates provided by the new model in comparison to Chao 2	NPS	PM
Harvest will be based on the number of grizzly bears available to be hunted outside of NPS units rather than the entire population. - 21% of DMA are NPS managed units - 39% of PCA are NPS managed units, and stated as "secure habitat" in the conservation strategy. What does "secure habitat" mean?	NPS	PM
Appendix C needs significant work	States	PM
Concern about FCOY being set at 48 – need flexibility	County Commission	PM
If new method is used to estimate population, does FCOY change? Needs to be clear what happens to all of the metrics if we move to a new methodology	County Commission	PM