Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Population Proposed Delisting Rule
Peer Review Talking Points
July 14, 2016

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received five independent peer reviews on the Yellowstone grizzly bear population proposed delisting rule.
- An outside, third-party contractor selected the peer reviewers based on specific scientific expertise that the Service identified as being important for reviewing the analyses in our proposed rule.
- The peer reviewers include scientific experts in large carnivore ecology and management with expertise in one or more of the following categories: population ecology, management, demographics, conservation, and population genetics.
- The peer reviewers are: Dr. Jerrold Belant, PhD, Mississippi State University; Dr. Mark Boyce, PhD, University of Alberta; Dr. John Cox, PhD, University of Kentucky; Dr. Andrew Derocher, PhD, University of Alberta; and Dr. Dwayne Etter, PhD, Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
- The peer reviews were submitted anonymously and cannot be accredited to any one reviewer.
- Once the Service receives the post-delisting management plans from the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, we plan to reopen the comment period so the public has an opportunity to comment on both the peer reviews and the state plans.
- The peer reviews have been posted on www.regulations.gov, http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/grizzlybear.php, and https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/science/peerReview.php
- The peer reviewers all agree that the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bear population is biologically recovered and they are largely supportive of the Service's proposed rule to delist the Yellowstone population.
- The peer reviewers all agree that the 2016 Conservation Strategy, which is the post-delisting management plan, is sufficient to maintain a recovered population.
- The Service is in the process of evaluating a few specific issues in greater depth. These issues include: evaluations of habitat; population monitoring and response rates; food monitoring; population objectives; and connectivity. We are just beginning our evaluation of these issues.

- Once the Service receives the post-delisting management plans from the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, we plan to reopen the comment period so the public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule in light of both the peer reviews and the state plans.

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