



Servheen, Chris <chris_servheen@fws.gov>

comment period extension

1 message

Servheen, Chris <chris_servheen@fws.gov>

Wed, May 8, 2013 at 10:15 AM

To: kcarden@earthjustice.org

The USFWS has extended the comment period for the proposed revised demographic recovery criteria for the Yellowstone Ecosystem. The comment period has been extended to June 20, 2013. A Federal Register notice describing this extension will be published the week of May 13, 2013.

—
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"If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went." Will Rogers.



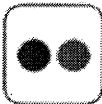
Michael
Thabault/R6/FWS/DOI
05/22/2012 01:47 PM

To Chris Servheen/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS
cc Henry Maddux/R6/FWS/DOI
bcc
Subject Fw: Outcome of today's meeting on Yellowstone strategy

History: This message has been replied to.

Chris, well done as usual.

Michael Thabault
Assistant Regional Director - Ecological Services
Mountain Prairie Region
303-236-4252



----- Forwarded by Michael Thabault/R6/FWS/DOI on 05/22/2012 01:46 PM -----



"Guertin, Stephen"
<Stephen_Guertin@fws.gov>

05/22/2012 01:45 PM

To "Walsh, Noreen" <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>
cc "Thabault, Michael" <michael_thabault@fws.gov>
Subject Outcome of today's meeting on Yellowstone strategy

Dan concurred with option 2 moving forward to address legal, program management and scientific issues (and put to rest the whitebark issue).

While this work gets underway we will proceed with NCDE strategy development.

From: Guertin, Stephen
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 11:05 AM
To: Ashe, D M; Gould, R W; Siekaniec, Gregory; Frazer, Gary D
Cc: Sellars, Roslyn; Irwin, Thomas; Walsh, Noreen; 'Michael_Thabault@fws.gov'; Trollan, Marla L
Subject: Grizzly Bear Briefing Paper as background for today's conference call



BP Synthesis-FINAL.doc

BUREAU: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

ISSUE: Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Yellowstone Ecosystem

Key Points:

- On November 15, 2011, the 9th Circuit Court Appeals ruled that the population of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Area should remain federally protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- The Service will address the issue raised by the court concerning the potential long-term effects of declining white-bark pine as a food source on grizzly populations.
- In doing so, we will evaluate new scientific information concerning the relationship between grizzly bears and whitebark pine (WBP) that has been developed since our 2007 delisting rule, and move forward with a revised proposed determination concerning the grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Current Status:

- The Service and state and Federal partners have discussed 3 options on how to move forward given the 9th circuit decision on WBP:
- 1) Move forward now to write a new proposed rule with the information we have declines in WBP and the stabilization of the grizzly population 2002-2011.
 - **Pros:** Positive partner response with lower probability for state push back due to continued delisting delays. We could maintain the Conservation Strategy commitment by the partner agencies while waiting for the process to proceed with hopes of legal success.
 - **Cons:** Low probability of legal success. Loosing again on delisting would doom the interagency partnership.
- 2) Preferred option of Region 6 and partners. Wait 18-24 months to write a new proposed rule and in the interim time period develop a comprehensive synthesis of all the existing data on the relationship between Yellowstone grizzly bear dynamics and health and changes in WBP and other foods). Use this synthesis to inform the decision on a new rule and the quality and scientific depth of a new proposed rule.
 - **Pros:** This approach would improve the new proposed rule and the probability of legal success. We could maintain the Conservation Strategy commitment by the partner agencies while waiting for the process to proceed with hopes of legal success.
 - **Cons:** Increased fragility of the patience of the partner agencies with a delay. There is a possibility that the results would indicate grizzly population decline which would make a new proposed rule unlikely.
- 3) Abandon any hope of delisting due to the uncertainty of the legal system. Manage the population as listed with maximum management flexibility. There would be little concern about maintaining mortality limits since there was no chance of delisting anyway.
 - **Pros:** No investment in the process of a new proposed rule and the resulting legal complications. Emphasis would shift to the NCDE delisting process.
 - **Cons:** The interagency partnership implementing the Conservation Strategy would dissolve. States would likely all leave the partnership and perhaps (very likely) the IGBC. The Conservation Strategy would be abandoned by the USFS and NPS as it specifically says that its implementation is tiered to delisted status.
- After discussion, all agencies were united in recommending alternative #2. USGS agreed to lead production of this synthesis document in #2.
- Timeline: WBP synthesis report to be completed fall of 2013. During that time we will update the sections not related to WBP. Once WBP report is complete incorporate results into a new proposed rule, during late 2013 and early 2014.

Prepared by: Steve Guertin, 303-236-7920

Date: May 22, 2012

Chris Servheen

From: Chris Servheen
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:50 AM
To: Mark Haroldson; 'T van Manen, Frank'
Cc: 'Tyers, Dan -FS'
Subject: whitebark synthesis task list
Attachments: Grizzly Bear WBP Straw Man (2).doc

Mark and Frank,

I realize I have Frank's old address as the only address in my address book so if someone has a better address please let me know.

As you arrive and get into the saddle, Frank, one of the main tasks I see in your future is the refinement of the whitebark synthesis task list. I had a conference call last week with my director and other luminaries on this issue. Previously the IGBC had a long conference call on this issue. The result of these calls is there is unanimity of opinion and direction to proceed with this synthesis on the issue of WBP and grizzly vital rates over the next 18 or so months and to also include any other major foods that we need to include in this synthesis.

Mark drafted the attached task list for this effort. I would hope that you and Mark and Dan could go over this list and refine it and build timelines for each item and a lead(s) for each item so we can get this train moving out of the station. The effort will be of major importance for informing development of a new delisting rule. We really need hard leader assignments and due dates for each item, the possible additional costs for each item, and the data needs for each item and who has/will be collecting these data. There is some potential funding to get these tasks completed but we need to know any necessary costs ASAP as the fiscal year is running out.

What I suggest is that you 3 work on refining these items and the leads/due dates and cost for each item. Once you have this well in hand, I will come over and we can meet to go over these items and pursue funding as necessary.

The agencies are all counting on IGBST to lead this process and to do complete it by the fall (October) of 2013.

Thanks,
Chris

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Components of the Grizzly Bear-WBP Synthesis document for FWS

Straw man 18 April 2012

1) WBP

- a. WBP current condition on the Landscape and Trend 2007-2011, 2012 (Kristin Legg and Kathy Irvine)
- b. WBP recruitment (Master project, in progress, Erin Shanahan)
- c. WBP genetics, Rust Resistance (Mary M.)
- d. Future WBP under climate change (?)

2) Grizzly Bear and WBP

- a. Brown bear diets world wide and Stone Pines (?)
- b. Contrast NCDE and GYE, loss of WBP in NCDE (?)
- c. Grizzly bear vital rates and WBP effects, Trend through time (Study Team, in progress)
- d. Density dependence and WBP (?)
- e. Ungulate numbers in the ecosystem (?)
- f. Grizzly bear body condition (% fat) trend through time and WBP effects (Study Team, in progress)
- g. Grizzly food habitats using Isotopes, Meat verses Vegetation (Chuck, in progress)
- h. Grizzly bear use of large ungulates from GPS, trend in use through time (Study team, in progress)
- i. Predictors of fall mortalities, indices of population verses WBP (Study Team, in progress)
- j. Landscape analysis of fall (or hunting) mortalities in multiple use lands (Study Team, in progress)
- k. Mechanistic models relating condition to denning and reproduction??
- l. Home range size trend through time, before and after WBP loss (Study Team, not started)

3) Concluding section, bringing it all together