

Chris Servheen

From: Chris Servheen
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2012 3:17 PM
To: Mark Haroldson
Subject: RE: Decision for Yes members

Mark,

I just got off the IGBC conference call on the 3 options we suggested for moving forward, Here are some important results:

- All agencies wanted to try and shorten the 18-24 month time period for the synthesis as much as possible. 18 months from this call would be October of 2014.
- Jeff was not on the call and was conspicuous by his absence given that option 2 depends on USGS agreeing to lead the synthesis and committing the resources to complete it. Scott Talbot and Harv Forsgren were going to try and "track Jeff down".
- All agencies on the call voted for option 2 (the synthesis option) except Montana (Ken MacDonald) who wanted option #1. Scott Talbot stated that he did think it prudent to just "take another shot at the target again". Idaho noted that they voted for option #2 in hopes that it can be completed as soon as possible.

Next Tuesday we are meeting at 1 PM at the conference hotel location, or where? You don't say in your message.

c

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

From: Mark A Haroldson [<mailto:mharoldson@usgs.gov>]
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2012 3:03 PM
To: Steve Cain; Kerry Gunther; mark.bruscino@wyo.gov; Dan Bjornlie; KFrey@mt.gov; Dan Tyers; Chris Servheen; pat_hnilicka@fws.gov; bryan.aber@idgf.idaho.gov
Cc: vanmanen@utk.edu; Rich Harris
Subject: Decision for Yes members

Study team members,

Recall that we will be presenting 3 items at the YES meeting next week that the GYE managers need to make decisions on.

The items are:

1. Changing the line within which we will count mortalities and females with COY to the USFWS suitable habitat line with 2 modifications, 1) smoothed to included possible sink areas, and 2) includes all portions of the USFWS Recovery Zone within the boundaries of the smoothed line.
2. Changing the vital rates and sex ratios derived from the rates to the parameter estimates indicated by our recent demographic analysis using data from 2002-2011. The updated rates represent the best available knowledge for the state of GYE bears and are used to estimate population size by segment (independent females, independent males, and dependent young), from which we evaluate sustainable mortality.
3. Transition from the Chao2 estimate for number of females with COY, to the Mark-Resight estimator that Higgs and White have put forth. Recall that this estimator does not use the distance based Knight (1995) rule set to differentiate unique females, and thus should not have the inherent bias at higher population densities.

If you have not already, please brief your YES representative before the meeting so that they will be informed and prepared to vote on the study team's recommendations. If you have any questions give me a call. We will also be reviewing this next Tuesday afternoon during the IGBST meeting.

Sincerely,

Mark

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