

Duration of the Conservation Strategy

Section 4(g) of the Act explicitly requires the Service to implement a post-delisting monitoring plan, in cooperation with the States, to monitor for no fewer than 5 years the status of all species that have recovered and removed from the List of the Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Plants (50 CFR 17.11, 17.12). The purpose of the Conservation Strategy, the post-delisting monitoring plan, is to verify that the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear remains secure from risk of extinction after it has been removed from the protections of the Act. We intend to monitor the status of the GYE grizzly bear, in cooperation with the States, the NPS, the FS, and USGS-NRSC, through annual reports for a period of 28 years. At the end of the monitoring period, we will assess if monitoring should be continued for any reason and the Conservation Strategy be modified as appropriate.

The post-delisting monitoring period of 28 years was selected to represent two generation intervals (the time it takes a female grizzly bear to replace herself in the population) based on the most recent estimate for generation length of 14 years in the 2000s (Kamath et al. 2015).