

**From:** [Robert Aland](#)  
**To:** [Bean, Michael](#)  
**Cc:** [dan\\_ashe@fws.gov](#); [Matt\\_Hogan@fws.gov](#); [Michael\\_Thabault@fws.gov](#); [Noreen\\_Walsh@fws.gov](#); [Bridget\\_Fahey@fws.gov](#); [Seth Willey](#)  
**Subject:** GRIZZLY BEARS - GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM POPULATION  
**Date:** Sunday, August 28, 2016 4:00:04 PM

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Dear Mr. Bean:

I have just read the recently released “Annual Report of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team” for 2015, which states (page 2) that “the overall population estimate [of GYE grizzly bears] changed from 757 in 2014 to 717 in 2015. . . . [P]opulation oscillations around a long-term mean are to be expected. Given that population estimates peaked in 2013 and 2014, we may be seeing the first manifestations of this.”

One of the authors of the new IGBST report, Frank van Manen of the USGS, stated, as reported in a November 5, 2015, article that I sent to you (and the others above) on November 8, 2015, that “there’s no evidence of a major change in the long-term trend of the population, and the long-term trend is still flat to slightly increasing.” The quoted language from the IGBST report in the preceding paragraph might show that Mr. van Manen finally is sick and tired of the FWS’s numbers game to support “recovery” and is willing, albeit reluctantly, to at least take a small step to provide the public with accurate information with regard to the peril that the future holds for the bears. Maybe Mr. van Manen, together with the other two authors of the IGBST report, are even by Director Ashe’s license to Idaho, Montana and Wyoming to divvy up “discretionary mortalities” of the “troublesome” (Director Ashe’s word in an early 2015 email) bears when and if delisting becomes final; the “Memorandum of Agreement” currently is being finalized by the three states.

This takes us back to my May 8, 2015, email to you (and the others above) transmitting an article in which Chris Servheen, the former Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, is reported to have stated that “the most accurate population estimate shows between 1,000 and 1,200 grizzly bears in the [GYE]” and that “the point is that the [GYE] population has recovered at this time. It is very healthy and robust.” Those numbers were false.

If you have not done so already, I believe that you are obligated to investigate internally how Mr. Servheen was allowed to provide these false numbers to the public, including whether there were internal FWS controls in place to prevent such false information from being disseminated and whether any of Mr. Servheen’s superiors knew in advance that he would provide these false numbers to the public and allowed him to proceed.

Most important, it is inconceivable that the FWS could determine, in light of the paltry numbers in the IGBST report and other adverse factors mentioned in the report (e.g., uncertainties with regard to food sources such as cutthroat trout and whitebark pine nuts), that the GYE bears have recovered and issue a final delisting rule allowing the slaughter of the bears to resume for fun and profit.

You must take 3 minutes to watch the video at the link below. The great and world-famous environmentalist Dr. Jane Goodall, known for her work over many years with chimpanzees in Africa and other pro-wildlife causes, eloquently makes the case for continuing the GYE grizzly bears' ESA protection.

<http://www.earthprotect.com/index.php/media-gallery/mediaitem/3608-jane-goodall-on-the-delisting-of-grizzly-bears>

What do you – and Secretary Jewell, Director Ashe, the former Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, the Acting Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, those whose names appear above and others within Interior and the FWS – know about removal of the great bears' ESA protection that Dr. Goodall does not know?

President Obama is taking steps to enhance his environmental legacy by expanding national monuments, including, most recently, 87,500 acres in Maine's north woods and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, to protect lands, oceans and wildlife, while Interior and the FWS simultaneously are taking steps to renew the slaughter of grizzly bears. Are Secretary Jewell and you counting on grizzly bears being under Obama's radar?

Sincerely,

Robert H. Aland  
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