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Subject: Upcoming paper on Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Population Genetics - Close Hold
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[Grizzly Bear Genetics Draft Press Release.docx](#)

Gary, Paul, and Ray,

USGS is preparing to release findings of a genetic study on Yellowstone grizzly bears. A press release will accompany the journal article. Please keep this information close hold until the paper and press release are issued.

The paper, expected to be in the journal *Molecular Ecology*, will present genetic evidence that supports the growth of the grizzly bear population in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem since the 1980s, with no loss in genetic diversity, noting that:

- Multiple techniques indicate that the effective population size of Yellowstone grizzly bears (the number of individuals that contribute offspring to the next generation) has increased 4-fold over a 25-year period
- Yellowstone grizzly bears are approaching effective population size criteria for long-term genetic viability established by geneticists in previous studies
- Although an isolated population, genetic diversity of Yellowstone grizzly bears remained stable and inbreeding was relatively low (0.2 percent) over the 25-year period
- The study demonstrates how genetic monitoring can complement traditional demographic-based monitoring, providing valuable tools for wildlife managers for current and future studies, and underscores the effectiveness of long-term research on trust species

The draft press release and a briefing paper are enclosed for your information. We do not know the article's release date yet, but expect it in a matter of weeks.

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