

From: [Hagener, Jeff](#)
To: [Moore, Virgil](#); [Dan Ashe](#)
Cc: [Scott Talbott](#); [Noreen Walsh](#); [Robyn Thorson](#); [Matt Hogan](#); [Richard Hannan](#); [Gary Frazer](#); [Betsy Hildebrandt](#); [Stephen Guertin](#); [Emily Porcari](#)
Subject: RE: Grizzly Bears
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 8:12:15 AM

I echo Virgil's comments - we look forward to delisting in the near future of both ecosystems.

Jeff

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-----Original Message-----

From: Moore, Virgil [<mailto:virgil.moore@idfg.idaho.gov>]
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 9:14 AM
To: Dan Ashe
Cc: Hagener, Jeff; Scott Talbott; Moore, Virgil; Noreen Walsh; Robyn Thorson; Matt Hogan; Richard Hannan; Gary Frazer; Betsy Hildebrandt; Stephen Guertin; Emily Porcari
Subject: Re: Grizzly Bears

Thanks Dan. I appreciate the update and look forward to moving the delisting forward in the near future. Hope we can get the schedule for that at the NA

Virgil Moore
Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

Hello Jeff, Virgil and Scott:

I hope this note finds you well. I want to give you an update on what the Service is thinking regarding the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bear population. As you know, the IGBC in their meeting, last month, urged the Service to move forward with a proposed delisting of the GYE. The individual members of the IGBC have been largely responsible for recovering this species. Accordingly, we take that recommendation very seriously and are thoroughly reviewing all the pertinent information to ensure any action we take is scientifically sound and legally defensible. As I have done in the past, I intend to sit down with the state directors from the grizzly bear range states to discuss the recommendation of the IGBC and next steps. We will be looking for a time that works for all of you, perhaps at the North American Conference.

There is a great potential for controversy surrounding delisting of both GYE as well as the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) populations of grizzly bears and we fully expect that any action will result in litigation. Our primary focus is to ensure that the scientific underpinnings of our actions are sound and our judgment wise. In proposing any delisting, it would be helpful to ensure better understanding, and hopefully, garner support from

environmental organizations. If we can achieve this, we can reduce the likelihood of polarizing and protracted litigation on any proposed actions we might take.

Accordingly, next month I intend to meet with select leaders from some of the key environmental organizations to explain the progress that has been made toward recovering both populations, ascertain if they support the science behind any proposed delisting action we are contemplating and to try and gain a better understanding of where they are on this issue. My hope is that this meeting will help lay the groundwork for further discussions with you, and for any potential future actions we might take.

As mentioned above, I want to follow the same model of open and transparent communication with our state partners we have used with the wolf delisting and with conservation of the Greater Sage Grouse.

Accordingly, I wanted you to be aware of this meeting, directly from me, to ensure you are not surprised by it, and there was no misunderstanding about its intent. I look forward to our discussions on this issue. In the meantime, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks.

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service