



Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

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May 4, 2016

Public Comments Processing
ATTN: Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2016-0042
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803

RE: Idaho Farm Bureau Federation support for Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2016-0042

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) strongly supports Grizzly bear delisting in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) under Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2016-0042. IFBF represents more than 73,400 member families throughout Idaho and is the largest general agriculture organization in our state. Many Farm Bureau members live in the western portion of the GYE and are directly impacted by Grizzly bears and the regulations surrounding them.

We agree with the Federal Register announcement of March 11, 2016; Grizzly bears in the GYE have reached great enough population numbers to no longer meet the definition of an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (Act). Per the announcement, occupied range has more than tripled in size. State game officials say the range is fully occupied and young or transient bears encounter difficulty establishing their own home ranges.

The states of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana requested delisting of the GYE Grizzly bear population and are working on post-delisting management plans. IFBF supports these efforts as well as the delisting of the GYE Grizzly bear population.

Thank you for the opportunity to express Idaho Farm Bureau's support for Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2016-042.

Sincerely,

Bryan Searle, President
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation