

NOTE TO REVIEWERS

Item to Review: Reopening the Comment Period on the Proposed Rule Delisting of Greater Yellowstone Population of Grizzly Bears
SOL Review: Ongoing
Due Date: ???

Issue:

- On March 11, 2016, we proposed to remove the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) population of grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. In the proposal to delist this population of grizzly bears, we explained that state regulations surrounding human-caused grizzly bear mortality in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho must include five elements; these five elements are reiterated in the Federal Register notice. In the proposed rule, we stated that regulatory mechanisms containing these provisions must be in place in each state for delisting to occur.
- Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho recently finalized such regulatory mechanisms governing potential hunting seasons. These three states also approved a Memorandum of Agreement (Tri-State MOA), which outlines their plans for grizzly bear management and allocates discretionary mortality of grizzly bears in the GYE.
- We intend to reopen the public comment period on our March 11, 2016 proposed grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) delisting in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in light the peer review and the state regulations in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, which clarify their approach to grizzly bear management after delisting. This Federal Register notice provides a brief summary of (1) the major highlights of the recently finalized state regulations; (2) a Service assessment; and (3) a brief discussion of the peer review.
- This notice must be sent to the Federal Register by August 22 if we are to stay on schedule. The states are expecting our final rule to publish by the end of the calendar year.